INTRO TO UNOBSTRUCTED CONSTRUCTION

UNDERSTANDING UNOBSTRUCTED CONSTRUCTION BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | JULY 2022

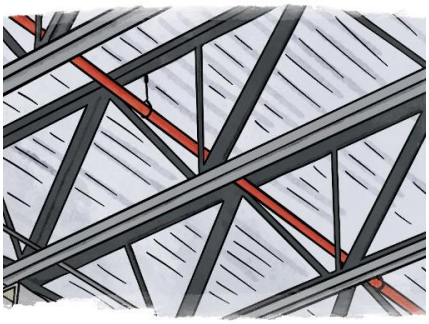
SUMMARY

Unobstructed Construction is a way to describe how a roof or ceiling is arranged. In general, heat flow from a fire and water distribution from a sprinkler are not majorly affected by construction that is considered **Unobstructed Construction**. NFPA 13 lists five examples of **Unobstructed Construction:**

- Bar Joist Construction
- Open-Grid Ceilings
- Smooth Ceiling Construction
- Standard Mill Construction, and
- Truss Construction

Unobstructed verses Obstructed matters because it affects how sprinklers are to be located. It impacts spacing and height of the sprinkler.

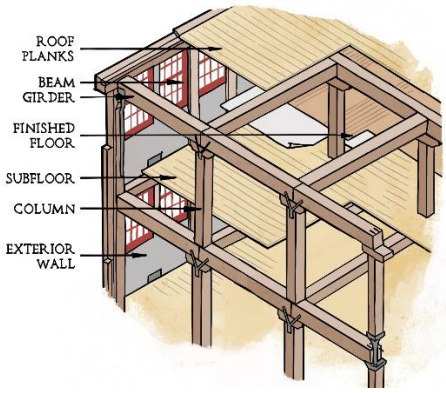
- For a flowchart on sprinkler spacing, see the video link below.



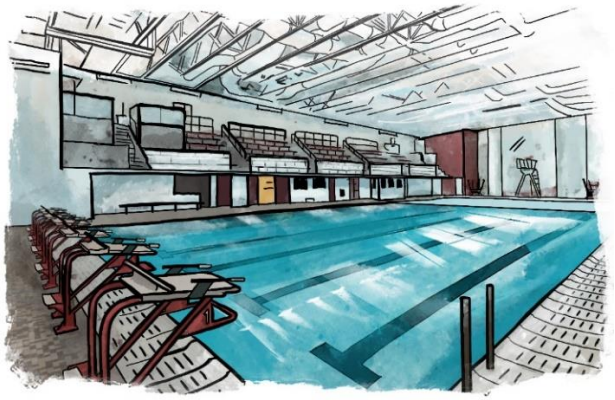
Bar Joist Construction
(shallow chords and openness)

Open-Grid Ceilings
(shallow ceilings with mostly open area)

Smooth Ceilings
(such as acoustical ceiling tile)



Standard Mill Construction
(beams that lead directly to columns with larger pockets)



Truss Construction
(trusses with shallow chords and wide spacing)

CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES

NFPA 13 – 2022: A.3.3.43.2 Examples of Unobstructed Construction
NFPA 13 – 2022: 3.3.43.2 Definition of Unobstructed Construction
NFPA 220 – Standard on Types of Building Construction

VIDEO LINK

www.meyerfire.com/university/introduction-to-unobstructed-construction

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