

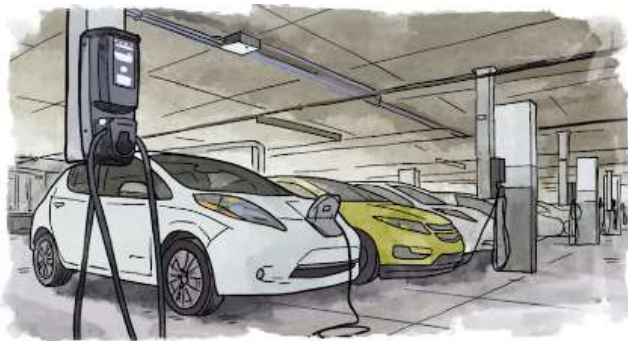
LAYOUT: AMBULANCE BAY, PART II

UNDERSTANDING SPRINKLER LAYOUT SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | MARCH 2023

SUMMARY

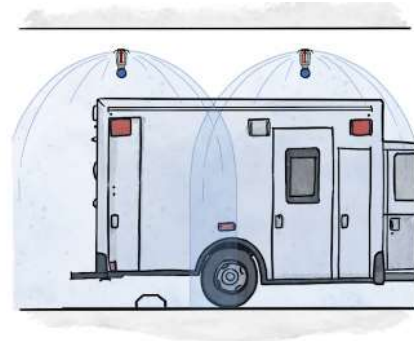
This presentation discusses the **hazard classification required** for a real-world example of an ambulance bay. Main points:

- **Edition of NFPA 13:** To determine the hazard classification, we first refer to the adopted edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13. In this example, the adopted edition was NFPA 13-2016. The adopted standard which is referenced by the IBC can be found in Chapter 35 of the IBC.
- **Hazard Classification.** We look for the closest match in NFPA 13. Annex A.5.3 has examples of hazard classifications. In the 2016 Edition, the nearest match for ambulance parking appears to be *Ordinary Hazard Group 1*, as “Parking areas” are listed there.
- **Check Latest Standards:** Before we move on with Ordinary Hazard Group 1, we should check the latest-adopted standard to see if there are any changes that might affect our situation. There is in this case.
- **NFPA 13-2022 Update:** The 2022 Edition includes changes to hazard classification for parking areas, making them now **Ordinary Hazard Group 2**.
- **Standard of Care:** Engineers are not judged based on “code minimum requirements.”
 - There is a term called **Standard of Care**, which refers to the level of care, skill, and diligence that a reasonably prudent person in similar circumstances would exercise.
 - In other words, it is the level of care and skill that someone with a certain level of expertise or training is expected to provide in a given situation. If the current (latest) industry experts now recognize increased hazards of parking areas and have changed to Ordinary Hazard Group 2, it would be prudent for an engineer to consider adhering to the latest industry understanding in this case.
 - For that reason, we select **Ordinary Hazard Group 2** for this situation.



Ordinary Hazard Group 2

(Due to increased use of plastics and batteries in vehicles, NFPA 13 and the committee members have increased the hazard classification for parking areas to OH2)



Importance of an Ambulance Bay

(This parking is right at the ER, at a critical area of a hospital)

CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES



IBC – 2018: Chapter 35 Referenced Standards

NFPA 13 – 2016 Edition: Section A.5.3 for Ordinary Hazard Group 1

NFPA 13 – 2022 Edition: Section A.4.3 for Ordinary Hazard Group 1 and 2

VIDEO LINK

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