



# Elk Creek Fire Protection District Fire Prevention Division

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## SUPPLEMENTAL RULES & REGULATIONS

<b>Number:</b>	20-503.2.2		
<b>Subject:</b>	Fire-Flow Requirements for New Individual One-and-Two Family Dwellings in Rural Areas Without an Adequate and Reliable Firefighting Water Supply		
<b>Code:</b>	2018 International Fire Code	<b>Code Section:</b>	503.2.2
<b>Code:</b>	2018 International Fire Code	<b>Code Section:</b>	507.3
<b>Code:</b>	2018 International Fire Code	<b>Code Section:</b>	B103.3
<b>Effective Date:</b>	April 21, 2020	<b>Issued by:</b>	Fire Marshal Roger Parker <i>Roger Parker</i>
<b>Revision Date:</b>	NA	<b>Issued by:</b>	NA
<b>Supersedes:</b>	NA	<b>Date:</b>	NA

### AUTHORITY:

The 2018 International Fire Code §104.1 authorizes the *fire code official* to render interpretations of the fire code, and to adopt policies, procedures, rules and regulations in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies, procedures, rules and regulations shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of the code. Such policies, procedures, rules and regulations shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in the code.

### PURPOSE:

To establish rules and regulations for alternative fire protection requirements for new individual one-and two-family dwellings in rural areas without an adequate and reliable firefighting water supply.

### SCOPE:

This regulation covers all new individual one-and-two family dwellings within the Elk Creek Fire Protection District after the effective date.

### CODE REFERENCES:

The 2018 International Fire Code §503.2.2, as amended states:

**503.2.2 Authority.** The *fire code official* shall have the authority to require or permit modifications to the required access widths where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations or where necessary to meet the public safety objectives of the jurisdiction. The *fire code official* may approve alternate standards for driveways and private roads in accordance with the *Jefferson County Transportation Manual*, paragraph 3.7.8.3. **In rural and suburban areas where adequate and reliable water supply systems do not exist the *fire code official* is**

authorized to use Appendix D and/or require one or more of the following alternatives: an approved automatic fire sprinkler system, an approved water tank/cistern, an approved standpipe system. A written request and plan shall be submitted to the fire district for approval. All additional requirements shall be approved by the *fire chief*.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL RULE OR REGULATION:**

1. In rural areas more than 1,000 feet from an approved fire protection water supply system, the fire-flow requirements listed in Table B105.1(1) for new individual one-and two-family dwellings is decreased to 30,000 gallons. A minimum 30,000 gallon cistern shall be designed and installed in accordance with fire district policy.
2. In rural areas more than 1,000 feet from an approved fire protection water supply system an *approved* automatic sprinkler system can be installed in new individual one-and two-family dwellings as an alternative to the required water cistern. Fire sprinklers shall be designed and installed in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One-and-Two Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes (NFPA 13D) or the International Residential Code (IRC), Section P2904.

#### **EXPLANATION:**

In rural and suburban areas where adequate and reliable water supply systems do not exist this policy offers property owners two options for providing alternative fire protection to protect new individual one-and-two family dwellings.

Alternative #1 reduces the required fire-flow and for new individual one-and-two family dwellings from 60,000 – 300,000 gallons, depending on house size, to 30,000 gallons. The 30,000 gallon water cistern requirement is the minimum size recognized by the *Insurance Services Office*. It's also consistent with the minimum requirements in the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*.

Alternative #2 provides the option to install an internal fire sprinkler system, which has a proven track record of saving lives and property. In most cases a fire in a sprinklered dwelling is controlled by one sprinkler head, which protects lives and limits fire and water damage in residential dwellings.

We believe this policy provides a two reasonable and cost-effective alternatives in rural and suburban areas where adequate and reliable water supply systems do not exist and is in compliance with the intent and purpose of the *International Fire Code*.