



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7199



Date June 23, 2013

Edition 2010

Section 403.3.2

Question:

Is it the intent of Section 403.3.2 to require separate mains for a one pump fire sprinkler system?

Answer

NO. 403.3.2 States that "Required fire pumps shall be supplied by connections to a minimum of two water mains." That statement, however, is subordinate to 403.3 where it states, "Buildings and structures shall be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and a secondary water supply where required by Section 903.3.5.2." This is all new ICC verbiage for 2009. In turn, IBC 903.3.5.2 has been revised (in Florida) to read, "Reserved." In FBC Building 2010 903.3.5.2 there is clearly no Florida intent to require dual water supplies. Since the mandate for dual water supplies in 403.3 is contingent on such a requirement existing in 903.3.5.2, 403.3 does not mandate dual supplies either. Since 403.3.2 is subordinate to 403.3, no such requirement exists or is intended in 403.3.2.

Commentary:

The answer to the comment is also NO. 403.3.1 talks about two risers (most likely AKA standpipes) but says nothing about two pumps.

903.3.5.2 requires the secondary water supply for seismic concerns. [F] 903.3.5.2 Secondary water supply. A secondary on-site water supply equal to the hydraulically calculated sprinkler demand, including the hose stream requirement, shall be provided for high-rise buildings

assigned to Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F as determined by this code. The secondary water supply shall have a duration of not less than 30 minutes as determined by the occupancy hazard classification in accordance with NFPA 13. Exception: Existing buildings.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.