



West Metro Fire Protection District

Life Safety Division

Technical Bulletin

Subject:	<i>Extinguisher requirements in group R-2 apartments</i>		
Code/Standard:	<i>IFC, all editions</i>	Bulletin No:	2022-005
Bulletin Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Fire Code Interpretation</i>	Effective Date:	<i>9/1/2022</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>West Metro Fire Protection District Policy</i>	Approved By:	<i>K Brooks</i>

Scope/Purpose:

QUESTION: In a Group R-2 apartment building where all dwelling units exit to the exterior, either at ground level or an exterior exit balcony/corridor, are fire extinguishers required?

Requirement(s):

ANSWER:

- Group [R-2] apartment buildings, where all dwelling units exit to the exterior, shall be provided with fire extinguishers in accordance with IFC Sec. 906.1

Reference(s):

IFC Sec. 906.1 Where required. Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in all of the following locations:

1. In new and existing Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-2, R-4 and S occupancies.
- 2.

Exceptions:

In Group R-2 occupancies, portable fire extinguishers shall be required only in locations specified in Items 2 through 6 where each dwelling unit is provided with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum rating of 1-A:10-B:C.

3. Within 30 feet (9144 mm) distance of travel from commercial cooking equipment and from domestic cooking equipment in Group I-1; I-2, Condition 1; and R-2 college dormitory occupancies.
4. In areas where flammable or combustible liquids are stored, used or dispensed.
5. On each floor of structures under construction, except Group R-3 occupancies, in accordance with Section 3315.1.
6. Where required by the sections indicated in Table 906.1.
7. Special-hazard areas, including but not limited to laboratories, computer rooms and generator rooms, where required by the fire code official.

IFC Commentary

NFPA reported that 60% of fires in apartment buildings occur inside the dwelling versus 14% that occurred in common areas covered by items 3 and 6 of Sec. 906.1. It is more logical to place extinguishers inside dwelling units versus common areas because it locates the extinguisher in an area where statistically most fires occur. The exception improves the safety of Group R-2 residents because it does not require them to leave the dwelling involved in a fire to find an extinguisher and then return to the fire-involved dwelling unit to attempt to extinguish the fire.

Attachments:

None