

**MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY #7-2
SHAFTWAY PROTECTION (Other Than Exit Stair Enclosures)**

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ISSUE:

Shafts or openings that penetrate two (2) or more floors.

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

Openings that penetrate two (2) or more floors (three (3) or more floor areas open to each other) are to be enclosed with one (1) hour fire resistance rated (FRR) construction and openings protected by one (1) hour fire rated assemblies.

Exceptions:

1. *Atriums that comply with the building code. (MSFC)*
2. *Buildings protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system. (MSFC)*
3. *Interior openings, other than stairways, that are blocked at the floor and ceiling with not less than two (2) inches of solid wood or equivalent construction. (GREB)*
4. *Vertical shafts not exceeding three (3) stories having a 30 minute FRR. (GREB)*
5. *Stairways in multi-dwelling unit residential buildings that are two stories plus basement may remain unprotected per MSFC 299F.011 Subd. 4b.*

PROBLEM:

This policy assembles and outlines the various methods of compliance for shaftways other than exit stair shaft.

ACCEPTABLE MEANS of COMPLIANCE:

1. Shaftways meeting the code requirements listed above (MSFC) with openings protected to an appropriate fire resistance rating in accordance with MFD Policy #7-1. (MSFC)
2. Buildings with the highest floor not more than 4 stories above the lowest level of exit discharge can be in compliance when monitored by a "Certified Fire Alarm System" complying with MFD Policy #9 – 11.