

**MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY # 9-6
EXTENT of SPRINKLER PROTECTION**

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ISSUE:

Define the extent of coverage that is required for partial sprinkler systems.

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

The code indicates when sprinklers are required but is sometimes vague as to the extent of that coverage.

PROBLEM:

Partial sprinkler systems may be ineffective when fires start in unprotected areas and then spread into the area protected by sprinklers. An area that is only partially protected with sprinklers may give an appearance of protection while not providing the expected level of protection.

ACCEPTABLE MEANS of COMPLIANCE:

Sprinkler systems required by the fire code, MFD policy or that are provided as an alternative means of protection for a fire code required system or assembly, are to cover the area required to have the protection and are to extend to walls of at least 1 hour fire rated construction. The required fire rated construction does not apply to floor/ceiling assemblies.

(Note: Concealed spaces may be required to have sprinkler protection as required in NFPA #13).

Portions of existing buildings which are required to have sprinkler protection to meet requirements of the Minnesota State Building Code section #1311, Minnesota Conservation Code for Existing Buildings (aka "GREB"), are not required to comply with this policy. The extent of protection of those systems is to be determined by the Minneapolis Building Inspection Division.