

**MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY # 9-8
POST FIRE SMOKE EXHAUST**

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ISSUE:

The Minnesota State Building Code (MSBC) requires that new high-rise buildings have a means of removing smoke from the occupied areas of a building after a fire has been controlled. The MSBC gives design criteria and allows either mechanical or natural ventilation.

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

Performance criteria is given in the MSBC.

PROBLEM:

The MSBC does not give specific requirements or definitions.

ACCEPTABLE COMPLIANCE:

An occupied area is any space that is, or could be used for occupancy, storage, equipment, etc. Unused attics, crawl spaces, concealed spaces, etc. are not considered occupied.

1. Mechanical systems may consist of dedicated equipment and/or HVAC equipment. A fire fighter control panel (refer to Policy #9-10 for the panel requirements) is to be provided in the fire command center. The panel is to have manual switches to turn the systems on and off. Control is to be by smoke zone. Emergency or backup power is not required for the panel or system components. The locations of smoke exhaust ports are to be approved by the MFD and are to be at least 20 feet from air intake ports.
2. Natural ventilation may use exterior windows and doors, elevator shaft vents, etc. The exterior openings are to be located on at least two walls. Manually placed fire department fans may be used to assist the exhausting of the smoke, provided that the bottom of the openings are not more than 5 feet above the floor.