

Minneapolis Fire Department

Fire Prevention Bureau Policy #3-2

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Last revision: April 28, 2006

Issue

Where motorized equipment, flammable liquids & flammable gas containers can be stored within multi-unit residential buildings.

Code requirements

The MSFC does not allow the storage of fueled vehicles in dwelling spaces of residential occupancies, fueled vehicles may only be stored in rooms that are separated from the rest of the building by fire rated construction and class 1 flammable liquids are not to be stored in basements. The storage of flammable gas containers are not to be used or stored within residential buildings.

Problem

Residential properties need gasoline powered equipment for lawn maintenance and snow removal, etc. These buildings also need minimal amounts of flammable liquids as fuel for the equipment and for cleaning and maintenance purposes.

Some properties do not have space available outside of the building for an auxiliary storage building to store this equipment and materials (zoning codes and city parking requirements may also limit the use of available outdoor space). Exterior storage may also present security problems for the storage of these types of materials. Most buildings were not built with provisions to add storage rooms on levels above the basement or lower level.

Acceptable compliance

A maximum of two (2) gasoline powered pieces of equipment may be stored in a one-hour fire rated room which may be located in the basement level of the building. The room is to be dedicated only to the storage of this equipment and an accumulative maximum of 10 gallons of flammable liquids. This storage room is not to be located under a stairway. All openings between the room and the interior of the building are to be protected by one hour fire assemblies. The room is to have a window which is openable to the exterior of the building. The room entrance door is to be labeled "Fuel Powered Equipment".

Propane containers no larger than one pound (1 lb) size may be stored within a residential building. A maximum of 5 containers per dwelling unit is allowed.

Note: There shall be no repair or fueling of the equipment done within the building.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact 311 at 612-673-3000. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. Para asistencia, llame al 311. Rau kev pab 311. Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 311.