



Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal
Code Enforcement and Building Safety

Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2014 - 04

To: OSFM Industry Partners
OSFM Staff

From: Joe Delaune, Chief Architect/Plan Review, OSFM

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal 

Date: October 8, 2014

Re: Sprinkler Placement below Folding and Telescopic Seating

The 2013 Edition of NFPA 13, Section 8.5.5.3.1 requires sprinklers to be installed under fixed obstructions that are over four (4) feet wide. Currently, the industry does not provide a sprinkler that is specifically tested and listed for protection below folding and telescopic seating. In order to allow for protection of these spaces, this office will permit sidewall sprinklers to be installed subject to the applicable provisions of NFPA 13 for sidewall sprinklers and the following:

1. Sprinklers installed beneath folding and telescopic seating in buildings shall be sidewall type heads, extended or standard coverage as required by the specific space requirements.
2. Protection of these areas will be considered light hazard.
3. Sprinkler heads protecting these areas will not be required to be included in the calculations.
4. Identification of these heads is to be included in the overall sprinkler submittal package submitted to this office for review.
5. The side wall sprinkler deflector shall be positioned so that it is parallel with the sloped profile of the seating when in the fully extended position.
6. The sprinkler deflector shall be located between 1 and 2 inches of a sloping line that follows the bottom of the undulated seating profile when in the fully extended position, or as otherwise recommended by the sprinkler manufacturer.

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