

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: The code now directs the user to the sprinkler design standard to address sprinkler obstructions.

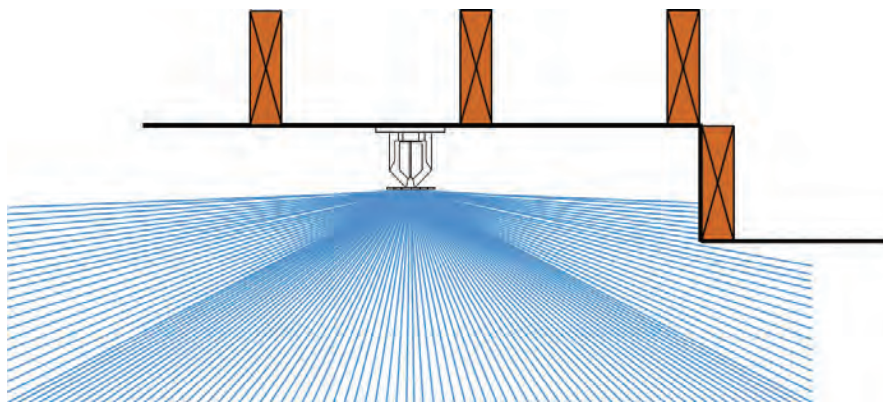
2018 CODE: 903.3.3 Obstructed locations. Automatic sprinklers shall be installed with ~~due~~ regard to obstructions that will delay activation or obstruct the water distribution pattern and shall be in accordance with the applicable *automatic sprinkler system* standard that is being used. Automatic sprinklers shall be installed in or under covered kiosks, displays, booths, concession stands or equipment that exceeds 4 feet (1219 mm) in width. Not less than a 3-foot (914 mm) clearance shall be maintained between automatic sprinklers and the top of piles of *combustible fibers*.

Exception: Kitchen equipment under exhaust hoods protected with a fire-extinguishing system in accordance with Section 904.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: The change provides guidance to refer to the applicable sprinkler standard when dealing with obstructions to sprinkler water discharge. The previous language “installed with due regard to obstructions” was vague and provided no guidance.

This revision sends the code user to the specific design standard regarding sprinkler obstructions. For example, Chapter 8 of NFPA 13, “Standard for Installation of Sprinkler Systems” addresses obstructions to water spray. It specifically addresses obstructions greater than 4 feet wide, open floor grating, distances from beams and soffits, floor mounted obstructions, ceiling mounted obstructions, and many other situations. NFPA 13 Section 8.12 contains additional obstruction provisions specific to early suppression fast-response sprinklers (ESFR) sprinklers.

The intent of Section 903.3.3 has not changed. It is to have the sprinklers installed so that obstructions are minimized and the water spray can adequately protect the hazard.



Fire sprinklers must be installed to either avoid obstructions, or adjusted so that the obstructions do not negatively impact the spray pattern.

903.3.3

Sprinkler Obstructions



This excerpt is taken from ***Significant Changes to the International Fire Code®, 2018 Edition.***

Significant Changes publications take you directly to the most important changes that impact projects. Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application. Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.