

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

# Coffee Break Training

## Topic: Sprinkler Omissions for Exterior Roofs, Canopies, or Porte-Cocheres

**Learning Objective:** The student shall be able to identify when sprinklers may be omitted from exterior roofs, canopies, or porte-cocheres.

A seemingly endless debate among code enforcement officials involves automatic fire protection for drive-through porte-cocheres attached to otherwise sprinklered hotels, motels, apartments, or other occupancies.

NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, requires that unless the following conditions are met, exterior roofs, canopies, or porte-cocheres more than 4 feet (1.2 m) wide must be sprinklered:



There is no fire sprinkler protection in this drive-through porte-cochere.

Condition	Sprinklers may be omitted when the canopy, roof, or porte-cochere is:
1	<b>Noncombustible, limited-combustible, or fire retardant treated wood</b> materials as defined in NFPA 703, <i>Standard for Fire-Retardant Treated Wood and Fire-Retardant Coatings for Building Materials</i> .
2	<b>Combustible</b> and the exposed finish material is noncombustible, limited-combustible, or fire-retardant treated wood, and the roof, canopy, or porte-cochere contains only sprinklered concealed spaces or any of the following unsprinklered combustible concealed spaces: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Combustible concealed spaces filled entirely with noncombustible insulation.</li> <li>(2) Noncombustible or limited-combustible ceilings are directly attached to the bottom of solid wood joists so as to create enclosed joist spaces 160 ft<sup>3</sup> (4.5 m<sup>3</sup>) or less in volume, including space below insulation that is laid directly on top or within the ceiling joists in an otherwise sprinklered attic in light or ordinary hazard occupancies.</li> <li>(3) Concealed spaces over isolated small roofs, canopies, or porte-cocheres not exceeding 55 ft<sup>2</sup> (5.1 m<sup>2</sup>) in area.</li> </ol>
3	A roof covering an entirely noncombustible exterior exit corridor having exterior walls at least 50 percent open.

Sprinklers must be installed under roofs, canopies, or porte-cocheres over areas where combustibles are stored and handled.

For additional information, refer to NFPA 13, Chapter 8.

