

# OSFM INTERPRETATIONS

**NUMBER:** 95-11

**ADOPTION DATE:** September 14, 1995

**REVISION DATE:** November 29, 1999

**TITLE:** Fire Alarms in "E" Occupancies

**RULE or CODE SECTION:** 1991 Uniform Fire Code, Section 14.104 (d)1, State of Oregon  
1992 Amendments.

**CONCERN or ISSUE:** To provide a fire safe environment for students and reasonable uniformity within Oregon School Districts

**HISTORY or BACKGROUND:** The use and installation of modular classrooms at educational occupancies are on the increase. They have been the subject of much discussion and questions as to when fire alarms are required to be installed or interconnected. Modular classrooms are versatile in their design and offer designers and administrators many options for citing under Oregon codes.

**CONCLUSION:** When modular classrooms are placed at educational occupancies, there may develop an "educational complex" which exceeds 49 persons and is generally classified as a Group E, Division 1 Occupancy. As such, modular classrooms may be placed in such a manner that the structures are either adjacent to or remote from each other or existing primary building(s). This is based upon the required areas of the primary building(s), the modular(s), and the assumed property lines designated by the building code.

Based upon the above criteria, two conditions may occur and the requirements are specified as follows based on those conditions.

**Condition 1:** If the modular(s) are remote from other modular(s) and/or the primary building(s) using assumed property lines, and the occupant load of each modular is less than 49 persons, the modular(s) are classified as a Group E, Division 2 Occupancies and are not required to have a manual fire alarm system. Uniform Fire Code, Section 14.104(d)1.

**Condition 2:** When the modular(s) are placed in such a manner as to be considered as part of an educational complex having an aggregate occupant load which exceeds 49 persons, the required alarm system shall be installed and interconnected within all structures comprising the complex as for one building.

**Approved by:** Robert Panuccio  
State Fire Marshal

**Date:** 11 - 29 - 99