

Automatic Sprinkler System Requirements in F-1 Woodworking Operations

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Code/edition/section: 2022 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)—Section 903.2.4.1

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Subject: Automatic sprinkler system requirements in F-1 woodworking operations

Question:

OSSC Section 903.2.4.1 states that; “An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all Group F-1 occupancy fire areas that contain woodworking operations in excess of 2,500 square feet in area that generate finely divided combustible waste or use finely divided combustible materials.”

Is an automatic sprinkler system required where the woodworking area noted above comprises 2,500 square feet or less of the overall F-1 fire area?

Answer:

No.

Analysis:

The provision is based on the floor area where the sanding, sawing, and similar operations occur, not necessarily the floor area of the entire woodworking operation. As noted in the IBC Commentary for this section; “The extent of the sprinkler coverage is only intended to be for the Group F-1 occupancy involved in the woodworking activity. If the fire area is larger than 2,500 square feet but the woodworking area is less than 2,500 square feet, sprinklers are not required.”

Contact: Visit the division website to [contact a building code specialist](#).