



**OSSC: Emergency Responder Radio Coverage**

**Purpose of the rules:**

This rule provides predictable uniform standards regarding the installation of construction components for emergency responder radio coverage.

**Citation:**

Adopt: OAR 918-460-0015

This rule becomes effective June 7, 2019.

**History:**

The division received complaints from industry regarding the predictability and application of the emergency responder radio coverage provisions in the state building code. After examining the issues, the division determined that the best course of action was to remove the sections of the code that were creating the unpredictable environment and causing confusion. Accordingly, the division repealed sections 403.4.5 and 915.1 from the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC). This information was presented to the Building Code Structures Board (board) on February 24, 2016. At the board meeting it was determined the Office of State Fire Marshal would create a workgroup to develop a checklist to resolve industry complaints. During the board meeting, the division was informed that the workgroup would be able to develop the checklist in a relatively short period of time. The workgroup presented their checklist to the division in May 2016, but the division was unable to confirm the proposal had stakeholder support. The proposal was therefore presented again to the board on August 3, 2016, where the board approved the proposal with division recommended amendments.

During the August 3, 2016, meeting, questions regarding the legal authority to print the required code provisions were raised. The division then sought and received legal advice that all construction provisions would need to be printed in the OSSC. The division then proceeded to reformat the August 3 rule and moved all proposed construction provisions related to emergency responder radio coverage into the OSSC. The new format was presented to the board on November 2, 2016, for additional stakeholder feedback. The division informed the board that adopting this rule was critically important to emergency personnel, and to prevent a further delay, the checklist and rules were going to be adopted as a temporary rule on November 3, 2016. The division also requested board approval for the rules to be sent to public hearing. The board suggested additional technical changes and recommended that the proposal be adopted as a temporary rule and approved the proposal for a public hearing, with the understanding that the board would have an additional opportunity for review before the rules became effective as permanent rules. The division adopted temporary rules on November 3, 2016.

The division had planned on adopting a permanent rule to replace the November 3, 2016, temporary rule. The division did not adopt a permanent rule at that time because the authority of the division to adopt rules in this area was challenged by the Office of State Fire Marshal and the Department of Administrative Services through the Strategic Interoperability Extension Council. This development was communicated to the board at its February 1, 2017, meeting. Subsequent to the February 1, 2017, meeting, the division received confirmation and clarification from the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding the division's ability to adopt rules for construction requirements for emergency responder radio coverage. The division filed temporary rules which contained the changes in accordance with the guidance provided by DOJ which became effective on May 2, 2017.



The May 2, 2017, temporary rules were intended to maintain the requirements for construction components for emergency responder radio coverage while allowing time for remaining jurisdictional issues to be resolved and for the division to go forward with permanent rulemaking. During that temporary rule period the division filed a notice for permanent rulemaking and held a public hearing on September 19, 2017. The public comment period for the rulemaking closed on September 22, 2017.

The division continued to work with the fire service and other industry stakeholders to refine the requirements and applicability of the relevant OSSC sections and the associated form for ERRC construction components. Previously, at the November 2, 2016, meeting, the board also requested an additional review before the division adopted a permanent rule. Resolution of the outstanding issues and the additional requested board review were not able to be completed before the May 2, 2017, temporary rule expired, and the division adopted a temporary rule on October 29, 2017.

To maintain consistent and predictable requirements for ERRC, the division adopted the ERRC construction component requirements as a temporary rule, effective April 27, 2018. This ensured that the previous requirements did not lapse and would provide additional time for the board to review the final permanent rule. As a result of the ongoing discussions on this issue, the code changes adopted by the April 27, 2018, temporary rule differed from the previous temporary rule in several ways. These code and form changes included:

- General clarification of terms and removal of redundant language.
- Added language to address battery systems.
- Added requirement for protection of pathways within a single floor level.
- Removed FCC license holder verification.

The specific code section changes are as follows:

- Reinstate OSSC Sections 403.4.5 and amended 915.1.
- Adopt OSSC Sections 915.1.1, 915.2, and 915.3.
- Amend OSSC Section 907.2.13.2.
- Adopt form OSSC 915.

The division presented and received final approval from the board for the April 27, 2018, temporary rules to be adopted as permanent rules at the board's August 1, 2018, meeting. Following the August 1 board meeting the division held an additional public information meeting on September 25, 2018, to collect additional public testimony, and ensure that the proposed permanent rules met the fire and life safety needs of the fire service. The division did not receive a final approval from the fire service, and adopted a temporary rule on October 1, 2018.

The division received final approval from the fire service on May 28, 2019, for the code changes approved by the board. The division is now adopting emergency responder radio coverage as a permanent rule.

### **Effect of the rules:**

This rule updates the Oregon Structural Specialty Code for emergency responder radio coverage construction provisions.

### **Contact:**

If you have questions or need further information, contact Richard Rogers, Chief Building Official, at 503.378.4472, or [richard.rogers@oregon.gov](mailto:richard.rogers@oregon.gov).

## 918-460-0015

### Amendments to the Oregon Structural Specialty Code

(1) The **Oregon Structural Specialty Code** is amended pursuant to OAR chapter 918, division 8. Amendments adopted for inclusion into the **Oregon Structural Specialty Code** are placed in this rule, showing the section reference, a descriptive caption, and a short description of the amendment.

(2) Effective April 1, 2015 the **Oregon Structural Specialty Code** is amended according to the following:

(a) Amend Chapter 2 Definitions to include definitions related to solar photovoltaic installations;

(b) Amend Section 1008.1.10 Panic and Fire Exit Hardware by changing the ampere threshold to 800 to align with the **Oregon Electrical Specialty Code**. Clarifies that the **Oregon Electrical Specialty Code** determines what constitutes a “work space”;

(c) Amend Table 1016.2 Exit Access Travel Distance by adding “Note” (d) specifying exit travel distance;

(d) Amend Section 1018.1 Corridors by adding “Exception” (6) relating to fire-resistance rating;

(e) Amend Sections 1107.5.1 Group I-1 and 1107.6.4 Group R-4 by adding an “Exception” allowing folding seats to be omitted and shower controls to be located on the side wall;

(f) Amend Section 2902.2 Separate Facilities by amending “Exception” (2), and adding “Exception” (3); and

(g) Adopt Section 3111 Solar Photovoltaic Panels/Modules.

(3) Effective February 1, 2016, the **Oregon Structural Specialty Code**, Sections 907.2.11 and 908.7, for low frequency single- and multiple-station smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms is amended. NFPA 72 Section 29.3.8 and NFPA 720 Section 9.4.2.2 are not adopted.

(4) Effective October 1, 2018, amend Section 1015.3 and adopt Section 1015.3.1, for boiler, incinerator, and furnace rooms means of egress.

(5) Effective June 7, 2019, for new construction standards related to emergency responder radio coverage, **Oregon Structural Specialty Code Sections** 403.4.5, 907.2.13.2, 915.1, 915.1.1, 915.2, and 915.3 are adopted and amended. Form OSSC 915, which contains the minimum necessary required information for building departments to consider new construction standards related to emergency responder radio coverage, is adopted. No building official may authorize construction standards that would exclude emergency responder radio coverage unless proper authorization is provided in a complete Form OSSC 915.

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Stat. Auth.: ORS 447.231, 455.030, 455.110 & 455.496

Stats. Implemented: ORS 455.110

Hist.: BCA 18-1993, f. 8-24-93, cert. ef. 8-29-93; BCA 28-1993, f. 10-22-93, cert. ef. 1-1-94; BCD 6-1994, f. 2-25-94, cert. ef. 5-1-94; BCD 22-1994, f. 9-28-94, cert. ef. 1-1-95; BCD 31-1994(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 12-23-94; BCD 32-1994, f. & cert. ef. 12-30-94; BCD 2-1995, f. & cert. ef. 2-9-95; BCD 5-1995, f. & cert. ef. 3-15-95; BCD 2-1996, f. 2-2-96, cert. ef. 4-1-96; BCD 6-1996, f. 3-29-96, cert. ef. 4-1-96; BCD 12-1997, f. 9-10-97, cert. ef. 10-1-97; BCD 19-1998, f. 9-30-98, cert. ef. 10-1-98; BCD 24-1998(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 12-1-98 thru 5-29-99; Temporary Rule repealed by BCD 3-1999, f. 3-12-99, cert. ef. 4-1-99; BCD 5-1999, f. 6-17-99, cert. ef. 10-1-99; BCD 12-1999(Temp), f. 9-23-99, cert. ef. 11-1-99 thru 4-28-00; BCD 2-2000 f. 1-14-00, cert. ef. 4-1-00; BCD 20-2000, f. 9-15-00, cert. ef. 10-1-00; BCD 8-2001, f. 7-17-01, cert. ef. 10-1-01; BCD 18-2001, f. 12-21-01, cert. ef. 1-1-02; BCD 14-2003, f. 8-13-03, cert. ef. 10-1-03; BCD 18-2003(Temp) f. & cert. ef. 11-14-03 thru 5-11-04; BCD 5-2004, f. & cert. ef. 4-1-04; BCD 16-2004, f. 9-24-04, cert. ef. 10-1-04; BCD 21-2004, f. & cert. ef. 10-1-04; BCD 9-2005(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 4-7-05 thru 9-30-05; BCD 14-2005, f. & cert. ef. 7-5-05; BCD 18-2005(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 7-12-05 thru 9-30-05; BCD 22-2005, f. 9-29-05, cert. ef. 10-1-05; BCD 23-2005, f. 9-29-05, cert. ef. 10-1-05; BCD 1-2006, f. & cert. ef. 2-1-06; BCD 9-2006, f. 6-30-2006, cert. ef. 7-1-06; BCD 1-2007, f. 2-15-07, cert. ef. 4-1-07; BCD 9-2008 (Temp), f. & cert. ef. 6-25-08 thru 12-22-08; BCD 20-2008, f. 9-30-08, cert. ef. 10-1-08; BCD 4-2010, f. 5-14-10, cert. ef. 7-1-10; BCD 1-2011, f. 2-15-11, cert. ef. 4-1-11; BCD 14-2011, f. & cert. ef. 5-13-11; BCD 30-2011, f. & cert. ef. 11-1-11; BCD 32-2011, f. 12-30-11, cert. ef. 1-1-12; BCD 1-2012, f. 1-31-12, cert. ef. 2-1-12; BCD 8-2012, f. 8-31-12, cert. ef. 9-1-12; BCD 7-2014, f. 6-20-14, cert. ef. 7-1-14; BCD 3-2015, f. 3-24-15, cert. ef. 4-1-15; BCD 2-2016, f. 1-28-16, cert. ef. 2-1-16; BCD 15-2016(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 11-3-16 thru 5-1-17; BCD 5-2017(Temp), f. 5-1-17, cert. ef. 5-2-17 thru 10-28-17; BCD 14-2017(Temp), f. 10-24-17, cert. ef. 10-29-17 thru 4-26-18; BCD 9-2018(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 4-27-18, thru 10-23-18; BCD 23-2018, f. 9-28-18, cert. ef. 10-1-18

**2014 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)  
Emergency Responder Radio Coverage  
Proposed Code Changes**

**Text denotation:**

Underline denotes new text,  
~~strikethrough~~ denotes deletion

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**SECTION 915  
CONSTRUCTION FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDER RADIO COVERAGE**

**915.1 General.** When required by ~~the fire code official~~ this section, construction components for emergency responder radio coverage shall be provided in all new buildings which meet one of the following criteria: in accordance with Section 510 of the Fire Code.

1. Any building with one or more basements or below-grade building levels.
2. Any underground building.
3. Any building more than five stories in height.
4. Any building 50,000 square feet in size or larger.

For information about coverage requirements regulated and enforced by the fire official, see Section 510 of the <i>Fire Code</i> .
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**915.1.1 Exceptions.** A building meeting the criteria listed in Section 915.1 may be exempted from emergency responder radio coverage construction requirements for the following reasons:

1. Where permitted by the fire official and approved by the building official, a wired communication system in accordance with Section 907.2.13.2 shall be permitted to be installed or maintained in lieu of emergency responder radio coverage construction requirements.
2. Where recommended by the fire official and approved by the building official, construction requirements for an emergency responder radio coverage system is not necessary for the specific building based on the fire official's recommendation.
3. Any building listed in Section 915.1 that, through performance testing as approved by the fire official, meets the radio coverage requirements of Oregon Fire Code Section 510.

**915.2 Form OSSC 915.** A completed Form OSSC 915 shall be submitted to the building official at the time of initial permit application.

**Exception:** Where portions of the construction documents demonstrating compliance with Section 915 are being deferred in accordance with Section 107.3.4.2, only Parts I and II of Form OSSC 915 are required to be completed and submitted to the building official at the time of initial permit application.

OSSC Form 915 is available at [oregon.gov/bcd](http://oregon.gov/bcd).

**915.3 Survivability.** The following construction components shall be required as specified for the installation of emergency responder radio coverage systems:

1. All signal booster components shall be contained in a National Electrical Manufacturer's Association (NEMA) 4-type waterproof cabinet.
2. Battery systems used for the emergency power source shall be contained in a NEMA 3R or higher-rated cabinet.
3. All system backbone pathways between signal boosters, donor antennae and secondary power supplies and between head end and remote units for fiber based systems shall be protected by a shaft enclosure in accordance with Section 713.
4. Primary cable riser pathways between floors shall be protected in shaft enclosures constructed in accordance with Section 713.4 or an approved equivalent. Connections between riser and feeder cables shall occur within the shaft enclosure.

## **SECTION 403 HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS**

**403.4.5 Construction for emergency responder radio coverage.** Construction components for emergency responder radio coverage shall be provided in accordance with Section 510 of the ~~Fire Code~~ 915 unless otherwise exempted by this code.

## **SECTION 907 FIRE ALARM AND DETECTION SYSTEMS**

**907.2.13.2 Fire department communication system.** Where a wired communication system is permitted by the fire official and approved by the building official ~~approved~~ in lieu of an emergency responder radio coverage system in accordance with Section 510 of the ~~Fire Code~~ 915, the wired fire department communication system shall be designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 72 and shall operate between a fire command center complying with Section 911, elevators, elevator lobbies, emergency and standby power rooms, fire pump rooms, areas of refuge and inside enclosed exit stairways. The fire department communication ~~device~~ equipment shall be provided at each floor level within the enclosed exit stairway. Approval of a wired communication system must be documented on Form OSSC 915 in accordance with Section 915.