

**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation Date:	March 27, 2002	File No: 98-0045
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	Fast response sprinklers	
Keywords:	Automatic sprinkler system; fast response sprinklers; and <i>occupancies</i>	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.5.13.(1); 3.2.5.13.(7); and NFPA 13	Page: 1 of 1

Question:

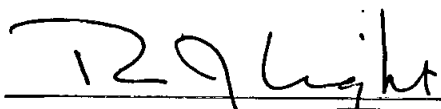
Are fast response sprinklers only required in *residential occupancies* and in *care or detection occupancies* as per Sentence 3.2.5.13.(7)?

Interpretation:

No

Sentence 3.2.5.13.(1) requires an automatic sprinkler system to be installed in conformance with NFPA 13 (except for certain *occupancies* where other standards such as NFPA 13D and NFPA 13R are permitted). Therefore, as a minimum, fast response sprinklers are required to be installed where required by NFPA 13 (which requires fast response sprinklers to be installed in *occupancy* types beyond those defined in the Code). Referring to Sentence 2.7.3.1.(1), it is interpreted that there is no conflict between the Code and the referenced standard (NFPA 13).

Sentence 3.2.5.13.(7) should not be applied in isolation. It clarifies that *residential occupancies* and *care or detection occupancies* require fast response sprinklers even though NFPA 13 may not require them. That is, the requirement in Sentence 3.2.5.13.(7) to install fast response sprinklers in *residential occupancies* and *care or detection occupancies* is in addition to the requirements of NFPA 13. There is no conflict.



R.J. Light, Committee Chair

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