

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0073

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	September 15, 2020
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Travel Distance to Fire Extinguishers on Typical Residential Floors
Keywords:	Fire extinguishers, travel distance, dwelling units
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.5.16.(1) of BCBC, 2.1.5.1. of BCFC, 6.2.1.2.2., 6.2.1.4. & A-6.1.1. of NFPA 10

Question:

In a multi-family residential building with public corridors, is the travel distance to the nearest portable fire extinguisher measured from the residential suite entry door?

Interpretation:

Yes

Sentence 3.2.5.16.(1) requires that portable fire extinguishers be provided and installed in accordance with the BC Fire Code.

Sentence 2.1.5.1.(1) of the BCFC says that fire extinguishers must be installed in all buildings except dwelling units.

Sentence 2.1.5.1.(2) of the BCFC says that fire extinguishers must be installed per NFPA 10.

Sentence 6.2.1.2.2. of NFPA 10 says that fire extinguishers must be located so that the maximum travel distance shall not exceed 75 ft, except per Article 6.2.1.4.

Article 6.2.1.4. deals with standpipe hose connections, so it is not relevant to the travel distance to portable fire extinguishers in residential buildings.

A-6.1.1. in the Annex of NFPA 10 states that the intention of the portable extinguishers is to assist in evacuation. As such, in the context of the Fire Code, the portions of the building that form the evacuation route from the dwelling units are the public corridors that lead to the exits.

Therefore, the public corridors are the only portion of the building on typical residential floors that need to be provided with portable fire extinguishers and the 75 ft travel distance to the nearest fire extinguisher can be measured from the residential suite entry door.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.