

# Part II—General Safety Provisions

## CHAPTER 3

# GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

### SECTION 301 GENERAL

**301.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the occupancy and maintenance of all structures and premises for precautions against fire and the spread of fire and general requirements of fire safety.

**301.2 Permits.** Permits shall be required as set forth in Section 107.2 for the activities or uses regulated by Sections 306, 307, 308, 315, and 319.

**301.3 Occupancy.** The occupancy of a structure shall be continued as originally permitted under and in full compliance with the codes in force at the time of construction or alteration. The occupancy of a structure shall not change to another occupancy that will subject the structure to any special provisions of this code or the *applicable building code* without the approval of the building official. Where a certificate of occupancy is not available for a *building*, the owner or owner's agent may request that one be issued by the building official and retained on site for reference.

### SECTION 302 DEFINITIONS

**302.1 Definitions.** The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:

**3D PRINTER.**

**ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING.**

**BONFIRE.**

**EXPLOSIVE MANUFACTURING.**

**HI-BOY.**

**HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE.**

**MOBILE FOOD PREPARATION VEHICLES.**

**OPEN BURNING.**

**PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACE.**

**POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCK.**

**REACTIVE TARGETS.**

**RECREATIONAL FIRE.**

**RESTRICTED EXPLOSIVES MANUFACTURING.**

**SKY LANTERN.**

**UNRESTRICTED EXPLOSIVES MANUFACTURING.**

### SECTION 303 ASPHALT KETTLES

**303.1 Transporting.** Asphalt (tar) kettles shall not be transported over any highway, road or street when the heat source for the kettle is operating.

**Exception:** Asphalt (tar) kettles in the process of patching road surfaces.

**303.2 Location.** Asphalt (tar) kettles shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of any combustible material, combustible building surface or any building opening and within a controlled area identified by the use of traffic cones, barriers or other *approved* means. Asphalt (tar) kettles and pots shall not be utilized inside or on the roof of a building or structure. Roofing kettles and operating asphalt (tar) kettles shall not block *means of egress*, gates, roadways or entrances.

**303.3 Location of fuel containers.** Fuel containers shall be located not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from the burner.

**Exception:** Containers properly insulated from heat or flame are allowed to be within 2 feet (610 mm) of the burner.

**303.4 Attendant.** An operating kettle shall be attended by not less than one employee knowledgeable of the operations and hazards. The employee shall be within 100 feet (30 480 mm) of the kettle and have the kettle within sight. Ladders or similar obstacles shall not form a part of the route between the attendant and the kettle.

**303.5 Fire extinguishers.** There shall be a portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 and with a minimum 40-B:C rating within 25 feet (7620 mm) of each asphalt (tar) kettle during the period such kettle is being utilized. Additionally, there shall be one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 3-A:40-B:C rating on the roof being covered.

**303.6 Lids.** Asphalt (tar) kettles shall be equipped with tight-fitting lids.

**303.7 Hi-boys.** Hi-boys shall be constructed of noncombustible materials. Hi-boys shall be limited to a capacity of 55 gallons (208 L). Fuel sources or heating elements shall not be allowed as part of a hi-boy.

**303.8 Roofing kettles.** Roofing kettles shall be constructed of noncombustible materials.

**303.9 Fuel containers under air pressure.** Fuel containers that operate under air pressure shall not exceed 20 gallons (76 L) in capacity and shall be *approved*.

## SECTION 304 COMBUSTIBLE WASTE MATERIAL

**304.1 Waste accumulation prohibited.** Combustible waste material creating a fire hazard shall not be allowed to accumulate in buildings or structures or upon premises.

**304.1.1 Waste material.** Accumulations of wastepaper, wood, hay, straw, weeds, litter or combustible or flammable waste or rubbish of any type shall not be permitted to remain on a roof or in any *court*, yard, vacant lot, alley, parking lot, open space, or beneath a grandstand, *bleacher*, pier, wharf, manufactured home, recreational vehicle or other similar structure.

**304.1.2 Vegetation.** Weeds, grass, vines, or other growth that is capable of being ignited and endangering property shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant of the premises.

**304.1.3 Space underneath seats.** Spaces underneath grandstand and bleacher seats shall be kept free from combustible and flammable materials.

**Exception:** Where enclosed by fire-resistance-rated construction or otherwise *approved* in accordance with the *applicable building code*.

**304.1.3.1 Spaces underneath grandstands and bleachers.** Spaces underneath grandstands and bleachers shall not be occupied or utilized for purposes other than *means of egress* except where equipped with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with the *applicable building code*, or separated with fire barriers and *horizontal assemblies* in accordance with Section 1030.1.1.1.

**304.2 Storage.** Storage of combustible rubbish shall not produce conditions that will create a nuisance or a hazard to the public health, safety or welfare.

**304.3 Containers.** Combustible rubbish and waste material kept within or near a structure shall be stored in accordance with Sections 304.3.1 through 304.3.4.

**304.3.1 Spontaneous ignition.** Materials susceptible to spontaneous ignition, such as oily rags, shall be stored in a *listed* disposal container. Contents of such containers shall be removed and disposed of daily.

**304.3.2 Capacity exceeding 5.88 cubic feet.** Containers with a capacity exceeding 5.88 cubic feet (44 gallons) (0.17 m<sup>3</sup>) shall be provided with lids. Containers and lids shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of combustible materials with a peak rate of heat release not exceeding 300 kW/m<sup>2</sup>w where tested in accordance with ASTM E1354 at an incident heat flux of 50 kW/m<sup>2</sup>w in the horizontal orientation.

**Exception:** Wastebaskets complying with Section 808.

**304.3.3 Capacity exceeding 1.5 cubic yards.** Dumpsters and containers with an individual capacity of 1.5 cubic yards [40.5 cubic feet (1.15 m<sup>3</sup>)] or more shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet (1524 mm) of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines.

### Exceptions:

1. Dumpsters or containers in areas protected by an *approved* automatic sprinkler system installed throughout in accordance with the applicable NFPA 13 standard.
2. Storage in a structure shall not be prohibited where the structure is of Type I or IIA construction, located not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from other buildings and used exclusively for dumpster or container storage.
3. Dumpsters or containers that are located adjacent to buildings where the exterior area is protected by an *approved automatic sprinkler system*.

**304.3.4 Capacity of 1 cubic yard or more.** Dumpsters with an individual capacity of 1.0 cubic yard [200 gallons (0.76 m<sup>3</sup>)] or more shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet (1524 mm) of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines unless the dumpsters are constructed of noncombustible materials or of combustible materials with a peak rate of heat release not exceeding 300 kW/m<sup>2</sup> where tested in accordance with ASTM E1354 at an incident heat flux of 50 kW/m<sup>2</sup> in the horizontal orientation.

### Exceptions:

1. Dumpsters in areas protected by an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed throughout in accordance with the *applicable building code*.
2. Storage in a structure shall not be prohibited where the structure is of Type I or IIA construction, located not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from other buildings and used exclusively for dumpster or container storage.

## SECTION 305 IGNITION SOURCES

**305.1 Clearance from ignition sources.** Clearance between ignition sources, such as luminaires, heaters, flame-producing devices and combustible materials, shall be maintained in an *approved* manner.

**305.2 Hot ashes and spontaneous ignition sources.** Hot ashes, cinders, smoldering coals or greasy or oily materials subject to spontaneous ignition shall not be deposited in a combustible receptacle, within 10 feet (3048 mm) of other combustible material including combustible walls and partitions or within 2 feet (610 mm) of openings to buildings.

**Exception:** The minimum required separation distance to other combustible materials shall be 2 feet (610 mm) where the material is deposited in a covered, noncombustible receptacle placed on a noncombustible floor, ground surface or stand.

**305.3 Open-flame warning devices.** Open-flame warning devices shall not be used along an excavation, road, or any place where the dislodgment of such device might permit the

device to roll, fall or slide on to any area or land containing combustible material.

**305.4 Deliberate or negligent burning.** It shall be unlawful to deliberately or through negligence set fire to or cause the burning of combustible material in such a manner as to endanger the safety of persons or property.

**305.5 Unwanted fire ignitions.** Acts or processes that have caused repeated ignition of unwanted fires shall be modified to prevent future ignition.

### SECTION 306 MOTION PICTURE PROJECTION ROOMS AND FILM

**306.1 Motion picture projection rooms.** Electric arc, xenon, or other light source projection equipment that develops hazardous gases, dust, or radiation and the projection of ribbon-type cellulose nitrate film, regardless of the light source used in projection, shall be operated within a motion picture projection room complying with the *applicable building code*.

**306.2 Cellulose nitrate film storage.** Storage of cellulose nitrate film shall be in accordance with NFPA 40.

### SECTION 307 OPEN BURNING, RECREATIONAL FIRES AND PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

**307.1 General.** A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any *open burning* unless conducted and *approved* in accordance with Sections 307.1.1 through 307.5.

**Exception:** *Approved* outdoor live fire training using equipment or appliances accessible or available to the general public, and that complies with Section 307.4.

**307.1.1 Prohibited open burning.** *Open burning* shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.

**Exception:** Prescribed burning for the purpose of reducing the impact of wildland fire when authorized by the *fire code official*.

**307.2 Permit required.** A permit shall be obtained from the *fire code official* in accordance with Section 107.2 prior to kindling a fire for recognized silvicultural or range or wildlife management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests, or a bonfire. Application for such approval shall only be presented by and permits issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

**307.2.1 Authorization.** Where required by state or local law or regulations, *open burning* shall only be permitted with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed.

**307.3 Extinguishment authority.** Where *open burning* creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for *open burning* has not been obtained, the *fire code official*

is authorized to order the extinguishment of the *open burning* operation.

**307.4 Location.** The location for *open burning* shall be not less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of any structure.

#### Exceptions:

1. Fires in *approved* containers that are not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) from a structure.
2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet (7620 mm) where the pile size is 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height.

**307.4.1 Bonfires.** A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

**307.4.2 Recreational fires.** *Recreational fires* shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

**307.4.3 Portable outdoor fireplaces.** Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet (3048 mm) of a structure or combustible material.

**Exception:** Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one- and two-family *dwelling*s.

**307.5 Attendance.** *Open burning*, bonfires, *recreational fires* and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Not fewer than one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other *approved* on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

### SECTION 308 OPEN FLAMES

**308.1 General.** Open flame, fire and burning on all premises shall be in accordance with Sections 308.1.1 through 308.4.1 and with other applicable sections of this code.

**308.1.1 Where prohibited.** A person shall not take or utilize an open flame or light in a structure, vessel, boat or other place where highly flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored. Lighting appliances shall be well-secured in a glass globe and wire mesh cage or a similar *approved* device.

**308.1.2 Throwing or placing sources of ignition.** A person shall not throw or place, or cause to be thrown or placed, a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, matches, or other flaming or glowing substance or object on any surface or article where it can cause an unwanted fire.

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**308.1.3 Torches for removing paint.** A person utilizing a torch or other flame-producing device for removing paint from a structure shall provide not less than one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 and with a minimum 4-A rating, two portable fire extinguishers, each with a minimum 2-A rating, or a water hose connected to the water supply on the premises where such burning is done. The person doing the burning shall remain on the premises 1 hour after the torch or flame-producing device is utilized.

**308.1.4 Open-flame cooking devices.** Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

### Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family *dwelling*s.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an *automatic sprinkler system*.
3. LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2½ pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity].

**308.1.5 Location near combustibles.** Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials.

**308.1.6 Open-flame devices.** Torches and other devices, machines, or processes liable to start or cause fire shall not be operated or used in or upon wildfire risk areas, except by a permit in accordance with Section 107.2 secured from the *fire code official*.

**308.1.6.1 Signals and markers.** Flame-employing devices, such as lanterns or kerosene road flares, shall not be operated or used as a signal or marker in or on wildfire risk areas.

**Exception:** The proper use of fusees at the scenes of emergencies or as required by standard railroad operating procedures.

**308.1.6.2 Portable fueled open-flame devices.** Portable open-flame devices fueled by flammable or combustible gases or liquids shall be enclosed or installed in such a manner as to prevent the flame from contacting combustible material.

### Exceptions:

1. LP-gas-fueled devices used for sweating pipe joints or removing paint in accordance with Chapter 61.
2. Cutting and welding operations in accordance with Chapter 35.
3. Torches or flame-producing devices in accordance with Section 308.4.
4. Candles and open-flame decorative devices in accordance with Section 308.3.

**308.1.6.3 Sky lanterns.** A person shall not release or cause to be released an untethered sky lantern.

**308.1.7 Religious ceremonies.** Where, in the opinion of the *fire code official*, adequate safeguards have been taken, participants in religious ceremonies are allowed to carry hand-held candles. Hand-held candles shall not be passed from one person to another while lighted.

**308.1.7.1 Aisles and exits.** Candles shall be prohibited in areas where occupants stand, or in an *aisle* or *exit*.

**308.1.8 Flaming food and beverage preparation.** The preparation of flaming foods or beverages in places of assembly and drinking or dining establishments shall be in accordance with Sections 308.1.8.1 through 308.1.8.5.

**308.1.8.1 Dispensing.** *Flammable* or *combustible liquids* used in the preparation of flaming foods or beverages shall be dispensed from one of the following:

1. A 1-ounce (29.6 ml) container.
2. A container not exceeding 1-quart (946.5 ml) capacity with a controlled pouring device that will limit the flow to a 1-ounce (29.6 ml) serving.

**308.1.8.2 Containers not in use.** Containers shall be secured to prevent spillage when not in use.

**308.1.8.3 Serving of flaming food.** The serving of flaming foods or beverages shall be done in a safe manner and shall not create high flames. The pouring, ladling or spooning of liquids is restricted to a maximum height of 8 inches (203 mm) above the receiving receptacle.

**308.1.8.4 Location.** Flaming foods or beverages shall be prepared only in the immediate vicinity of the table being serviced. They shall not be transported or carried while burning.

**308.1.8.5 Fire protection.** The person preparing the flaming foods or beverages shall have a wet cloth towel immediately available for use in smothering the flames in the event of an emergency.

**308.2 Permits required.** Permits shall be obtained from the *fire code official* in accordance with Section 107.2 prior to engaging in the following activities involving open flame, fire, and burning: Permits shall be obtained from the *fire code official* in accordance with Section 107.2 prior to engaging in the following activities involving open flame, fire, and burning:

1. Use of a torch or flame-producing device to remove paint from a structure.
2. Use of open flame, fire or burning in connection with Group A or E occupancies.
3. Use or operation of torches and other devices, machines or processes liable to start or cause fire in or on wildfire risk areas.

**308.3 Group A occupancies.** Open-flame devices shall not be used in a Group A occupancy.

### Exceptions:

1. Open-flame devices are allowed to be used in the following situations, provided that *approved*

precautions are taken to prevent ignition of a combustible material or injury to occupants:

- 1.1. Where necessary for ceremonial or religious purposes in accordance with Section 308.1.7.
- 1.2. On stages and platforms as a necessary part of a performance in accordance with Section 308.3.2.
- 1.3. Where candles on tables are securely supported on substantial noncombustible bases and the candle flames are protected.
2. Heat-producing equipment complying with Chapter 6 and the *applicable building code*.
3. Gas lights are allowed to be used provided that adequate precautions satisfactory to the *fire code official* are taken to prevent ignition of combustible materials.

**308.3.1 Open-flame decorative devices.** Open-flame decorative devices shall comply with all of the following restrictions:

1. Class I and Class II liquids and LP-gas shall not be used.
2. Liquid- or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces (237 ml) of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.
3. The device or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
4. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from vertical.

**Exception:** Devices that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.

5. The flame shall be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375-inch (9.5 mm) diameter or where openings are on the top and the distance to the top is such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.
6. Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device.
 

**Exception:** A chimney is not required to be attached to any open-flame device that will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over.
7. Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage.
8. Storage and handling of *combustible liquids* shall be in accordance with Chapter 57.

9. Shades, where used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.
10. Candelabras with flame-lighted candles shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning, and shall be located away from occupants using the area and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles.

**308.3.2 Theatrical performances.** Where *approved*, open-flame devices used in conjunction with theatrical performances are allowed to be used where adequate safety precautions have been taken in accordance with NFPA 160.

**308.4 Group R occupancies.** Open flame, fire and burning in Group R occupancies shall comply with the requirements of Sections 308.1 through 308.1.6.3 and Section 308.4.1.

**308.4.1 Group R-2 dormitories.** Candles, incense and similar open-flame-producing items shall not be allowed in *sleeping units* in Group R-2 dormitory occupancies.

## SECTION 309 POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT

**309.1 General.** Powered industrial trucks and similar equipment including, but not limited to, floor scrubbers and floor buffers, shall be operated and maintained in accordance with Sections 309.2 through 309.7.

**309.2 Use in hazardous (classified) locations.** Powered industrial trucks used in areas designated as hazardous (classified) locations in accordance with NFPA 70 shall be *listed* and *labeled* for use in the environment intended in accordance with NFPA 505.

**309.3 Battery chargers.** Battery chargers shall be of an *approved* type. Combustible storage shall be kept not less than 3 feet (915 mm) from battery chargers. Battery charging shall not be conducted in areas open to the public.

**309.4 Ventilation.** Ventilation shall be provided in an *approved* manner in battery-charging areas to prevent a dangerous accumulation of flammable gases.

**309.5 Fire extinguishers.** Battery-charging areas shall be provided with a fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 having a minimum 4-A:20-B:C rating within 20 feet (6096 mm) of the battery charger.

**309.6 Refueling.** Powered industrial trucks using liquid fuel, LP-gas or hydrogen shall be refueled outside of buildings or in areas specifically *approved* for that purpose. Fixed fuel-dispensing equipment and associated fueling operations shall be in accordance with Chapter 23. Other fuel-dispensing equipment and operations, including cylinder exchange for LP-gas-fueled vehicles, shall be in accordance with Chapter 57 for *flammable* and *combustible liquids* or Chapter 61 for LP-gas.

**309.7 Repairs.** Repairs to fuel systems, electrical systems and repairs utilizing open flame or welding shall be done in

*approved* locations outside of buildings or in areas specifically *approved* for that purpose.

### SECTION 310 SMOKING

**310.1 General.** The smoking or carrying of a lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette or any other type of smoking paraphernalia or material is prohibited in the areas indicated in Sections 310.2 through 310.8.

**310.2 Prohibited areas.** Smoking shall be prohibited where conditions are such as to make smoking a hazard, and in spaces where flammable or combustible materials are stored or handled.

**Exception:** In Group I-2 occupancies, patients shall be permitted to smoke in designated patient care areas based on the clinical needs of the patient.

**310.2.1 Group I-2.** In Group I-2 occupancies, smoking shall be prohibited in patient care areas or where oxygen is used, stored or handled.

**310.3 “No Smoking” signs.** The *fire code official* is authorized to order the posting of “No Smoking” signs or the international symbol for no smoking in a conspicuous location in each structure or location in which smoking is prohibited. The content, lettering, size, color and location of required “No Smoking” signs shall be *approved*.

**Exception:** “No Smoking” signs are not required in interior locations of the facility where signs are displayed at all major entrances into the facility.

**310.4 Removal of signs prohibited.** A posted “No Smoking” sign shall not be obscured, removed, defaced, mutilated or destroyed.

**310.5 Compliance with “No Smoking” signs.** Smoking shall not be permitted nor shall a person smoke, throw or deposit any lighted or smoldering substance in any place where “No Smoking” signs are posted.

**310.6 Ash trays.** Where smoking is permitted, suitable noncombustible ash trays or match receivers shall be provided on each table and at other appropriate locations. In Group I-2 occupancies, noncombustible metal containers with self-closing covers shall be provided in areas where smoking is permitted.

**310.7 Burning objects.** Lighted matches, cigarettes, cigars or other burning object shall not be discarded in such a manner that could cause ignition of other combustible material.

**310.8 Hazardous environmental conditions.** Where the *fire code official* determines that hazardous environmental conditions necessitate controlled use of smoking materials, the ignition or use of such materials in mountainous, brush-covered or forest-covered areas or other designated areas is prohibited except in *approved* designated smoking areas.

### SECTION 311 VACANT PREMISES

**311.1 General.** Temporarily unoccupied buildings, structures, premises or portions thereof, including tenant spaces, shall be safeguarded and maintained in accordance with Sections 311.1.1 through 311.6.

**311.1.1 Abandoned premises.** *Buildings*, structures, and premises for which an owner cannot be identified or located by dispatch of a certificate of mailing to the last known or registered address, which persistently or repeatedly become unprotected or unsecured, which have been occupied by unauthorized persons or for illegal purposes, or which present a danger of structural collapse or fire spread to adjacent properties shall be considered abandoned and unsafe until declared abated in accordance with the Virginia Maintenance Code or the *applicable building code*.

**311.1.2 Tenant spaces.** Storage and lease plans required by this code shall be revised and updated to reflect temporary or partial vacancies.

**311.2 Safeguarding vacant premises.** Temporarily unoccupied buildings, structures, premises or portions thereof shall be secured and protected in accordance with Sections 311.2.1 through 311.2.3.

**311.2.1 Security.** Exterior and interior openings open to other tenants or unauthorized persons shall be boarded, locked, blocked or otherwise protected to prevent entry by unauthorized individuals. The *fire code official* is authorized to placard, post signs, erect barrier tape or take similar measures as necessary to secure public safety.

**311.2.2 Fire protection.** Fire protection systems shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times.

#### Exceptions:

1. Where the premises have been cleared of all combustible materials and debris and, in the opinion of the *fire code official*, the type of construction, *fire separation distance* and security of the premises do not create a fire hazard.
2. Where *approved* by the *fire code official*, buildings that will not be heated and where *fire protection systems* will be exposed to freezing temperatures, fire alarm and *automatic sprinkler systems* are permitted to be placed out of service and standpipes are permitted to be maintained as dry systems (without an automatic water supply), provided that the building does not have contents or storage, and windows, doors and other openings are secured to prohibit entry by unauthorized persons.
3. Where *approved* by the *fire code official*, fire alarm and *automatic sprinkler systems* are permitted to be placed out of service in seasonally occupied buildings: that will not be heated; where fire protection systems will be exposed to freezing temperatures; where *fire areas* do not exceed 12,000 square feet (1115 m<sup>2</sup>); and

that do not store motor vehicles or hazardous materials.

**311.2.3 Fire separation.** Fire-resistance-rated partitions, fire barriers, and fire walls separating vacant tenant spaces from the remainder of the *building* shall be maintained. Protection of openings, joints, and penetrations in fire-resistance-rated assemblies shall be maintained in accordance with Chapter 7.

**311.3 Removal of combustibles.** Persons owning, or in charge or control of, a vacant building or portion thereof, shall remove therefrom all accumulations of combustible materials, flammable or combustible waste or rubbish and shall securely lock or otherwise secure doors, windows and other openings to prevent entry by unauthorized persons. The premises shall be maintained clear of waste or hazardous materials.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Buildings* or portions of *buildings* undergoing additions, alterations, repairs, or *change of occupancy* in accordance with the *applicable building code* where waste is controlled and removed as required by Section 304.
2. Seasonally occupied buildings.

**311.4 Removal of hazardous materials.** Persons owning or having charge or control of a vacant building containing hazardous materials regulated by Chapter 50 shall comply with the facility closure requirements of Section 5001.6.

**311.5 Placards.** Any vacant or abandoned buildings or structures determined to be unsafe pursuant to Section 110.4 relating to structural or interior hazards shall be marked as required by Sections 311.5.1 through 311.5.5.

**311.5.1 Placard location.** Placards shall be applied on the front of the structure and be visible from the street. Additional placards shall be applied to the side of each entrance to the structure and on penthouses.

**311.5.2 Placard size and color.** Placards shall be 24 inches by 24 inches (610 mm by 610 mm) minimum in size with a red background, white reflective stripes and a white reflective border. The stripes and border shall have a 2-inch (51 mm) minimum stroke.

**311.5.3 Placard date.** Placards shall bear the date of their application to the building and the date of the most recent inspection.

**311.5.4 Placard symbols.** The design of the placards shall use the following symbols:

1.  This symbol shall mean that the structure had normal structural conditions at the time of marking.
2.  This symbol shall mean that structural or interior hazards exist and interior fire-fighting or rescue operations should be conducted with extreme caution.
3.  This symbol shall mean that structural or interior hazards exist to a degree that consideration

should be given to limit fire fighting to exterior operations only, with entry only occurring for known life hazards.

4. Vacant marker hazard identification symbols: The following symbols shall be used to designate known hazards on the vacant building marker. They shall be placed directly above the symbol.
  - 4.1. R/O—Roof open.
  - 4.2. S/M—Stairs, steps and landing missing.
  - 4.3. F/E—Avoid fire escapes.
  - 4.4. H/F—Holes in floor.

**311.5.5 Informational use.** The use of these symbols shall be informational only and shall not in any way limit the discretion of the on-scene incident commander.

**311.5.6 Removal.** Removal of placards posted in accordance with this section without the approval of the fire official shall be a violation of this code.

**311.6 Unoccupied tenant spaces in mall buildings.** Unoccupied tenant spaces in covered and open mall buildings shall be:

1. Kept free from the storage of any materials.
2. Where provided, fire-rated separations from the adjoining tenant spaces shall be maintained in accordance with Chapter 7.
3. Without doors or other access openings other than one door that shall be kept key locked in the closed position except during that time when opened for inspection.
4. Kept free from combustible waste and be broomswept clean.

**SECTION 312  
VEHICLE IMPACT PROTECTION**

**312.1 General.** Vehicle impact protection required by this code shall be provided by posts that comply with Section 312.2 or by other *approved* physical barriers that comply with Section 312.3.

**312.2 Posts.** Guard posts shall comply with all of the following requirements:

1. Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter and concrete filled.
2. Spaced not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) between posts on center.
3. Set not less than 3 feet (914 mm) deep in a concrete footing of not less than a 15-inch (381 mm) diameter.
4. Set with the top of the posts not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above ground.
5. Located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from the protected object.

**312.3 Other barriers.** Barriers, other than posts specified in Section 312.2, that are designed to resist, deflect or visually

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

deter vehicular impact commensurate with an anticipated impact scenario shall be permitted where *approved*.

### SECTION 313 FUELED EQUIPMENT

**313.1 General.** Fueled equipment including motorcycles, mopeds, lawn-care equipment, portable generators, and portable cooking equipment shall not be stored, operated, or repaired within a *building*.

#### Exceptions:

1. *Buildings* or rooms constructed for such use in accordance with the *applicable building code*.
2. Where allowed by Section 314.
3. Storage of equipment utilized for maintenance purposes is allowed in *approved* locations where the aggregate fuel capacity of the stored equipment does not exceed 10 gallons (38 L) and the building is protected throughout by an *approved* automatic sprinkler system in accordance with the applicable NFPA 13 standard.

**313.1.1 Removal.** The *fire code official* is authorized to require removal of fueled equipment from locations where the presence of such equipment is determined by the *fire code official* to be hazardous.

**313.2 Group R occupancies.** Vehicles powered by *flammable liquids*, Class II *combustible liquids* or compressed flammable gases shall not be stored within the living space of Group R buildings.

### SECTION 314 INDOOR DISPLAYS

**314.1 General.** Indoor displays constructed within any building or structure shall comply with Sections 314.2 through 314.5.

**314.2 Fixtures and displays.** Fixtures and displays of goods for sale to the public shall be arranged so as to maintain free, immediate and unobstructed access to exits as required by Chapter 10.

**314.3 Highly combustible goods.** The display of highly combustible goods, including but not limited to fireworks, *flammable* or *combustible liquids*, liquefied flammable gases, oxidizing materials, pyroxylin plastics and agricultural goods, in main *exit access aisles*, *corridors*, covered and open malls, or within 5 feet (1524 mm) of entrances to *exits* and exterior exit doors is prohibited where a fire involving such goods would rapidly prevent or obstruct egress.

**314.4 Vehicles.** Liquid-fueled or gaseous-fueled vehicles, aircraft, boats or other motorcraft shall not be located indoors except as follows:

1. The engine starting system is made inoperable or batteries are disconnected except where the *fire code official* requires that the batteries remain connected to maintain safety features.

2. Fuel in fuel tanks does not exceed one-quarter tank or 5 gallons (19 L) (whichever is least).
3. Fuel tanks and fill openings are closed and sealed to prevent tampering.
4. Vehicles, aircraft, boats or other motorcraft equipment are not fueled or defueled within the building.

**314.5 Smokeless powder and small arms primers.** Vendors shall not store, display, or sell smokeless powder or small arms primers during trade shows inside exhibition halls except as follows:

1. The amount of smokeless powder displayed by each vender is limited to the amount established in Section 5606.5.1.1.
2. The amount of smokeless powder each vender may store is limited to the storage arrangements and storage amounts established in Section 5606.5.2.1. Smokeless powder shall remain in the manufacturer's original sealed container, and the container shall remain sealed while inside the *building*. The repackaging of smokeless powder shall not be performed inside the *building*. Damaged containers shall not be repackaged inside the *building* and shall be immediately removed from the *building* in such manner to avoid spilling any powder.
3. There shall be at least 50 feet separation between vendors and 20 feet from any exit.
4. Small arms primers shall be displayed and stored in the manufacturer's original packaging and in accordance with the requirements of Section 5606.5.2.3.

### SECTION 315 GENERAL STORAGE

**315.1 General.** Storage shall be in accordance with Sections 315.2 through 315.6. Outdoor pallet storage shall be in accordance with Sections 315.2 and 315.7.

**Exception:** Wood and wood composite pallets stored outdoors at pallet manufacturing and recycling facilities and complying with Section 2810.

**315.2 Permit required.** A permit for miscellaneous combustible storage shall be required as set forth in Section 107.2.

**315.3 Storage in buildings.** Storage of materials in buildings shall be orderly and stacks shall be stable. Storage of combustible materials shall be separated from heaters or heating devices by distance or shielding so that ignition cannot occur.

**315.3.1 Ceiling clearance.** Storage shall be maintained 2 feet (610 mm) or more below the ceiling in nonsprinklered areas of buildings or not less than 18 inches (457 mm) below sprinkler head deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings.

#### Exceptions:

1. The 2-foot (610 mm) ceiling clearance is not required for storage along walls in nonsprinklered areas of buildings.