



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE
MARSHAL**

18345 Colonel Henry K. Douglas Drive
Suite 240
Hagerstown MD 21740
301-766-3888
Fax: 301-766-3889
msp.osfmwro@maryland.gov
<http://mdsp.org/firemarshal>



Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III
Secretary

Brian S. Geraci
State Fire Marshal

August 30, 2020

Mr. James Squires
Land Development Services Division Chief
Allegany County Planning and Growth
701 Kelly Road
Cumberland MD 21052

Dear Mr. Squires:

As you may be aware, the Maryland Legislature passed House Bill 823 and Senate Bill 746 requiring the State Fire Marshal to enforce any requirements relating to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings, effective October 1, 2020.

The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation has officially adopted the 2018 edition of the *International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings* (International Code Council), effective March 25, 2019. Section 313.2 of this code requires all new one- and two-family dwellings to be equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system designed and installed in accordance with Section P2904 or the *NFPA 13D Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes* (National Fire Protection Association). The State Fire Prevention Code currently has adopted the 2016 edition of this standard. Public Safety Article § 12-504 (a)(iii) prohibits local amendments that "weaken the automatic fire sprinkler systems provisions for townhouses and one- and two-family dwellings."

In preparation for the upcoming change in law, effective October 1, 2020, all new applications for townhouses and one- and two-family dwellings shall be forwarded to this office and all applicants shall be made aware of the fire sprinkler system requirement. Fire sprinkler systems must be designed and installed by a Maryland licensed fire sprinkler contractor, a list of which may be found at our website:

<https://mdsp.maryland.gov/firemarshal/Documents/Licensed%20Sprinkler%20Contractor%20List.pdf>

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Prior to the installation of any fire sprinkler system, the fire sprinkler contractor must submit plans to our office. This office will witness a rough-in test of the system as well as a final test of the completed installation.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter or recommendations on how to effectively coordinate the upcoming change between your department and our office, please feel free to contact me at Jason.mowbray@maryland.gov.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason M. Mowbray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and "M".

Jason M. Mowbray
Deputy Chief Fire Marshal
Commander, Western Region