

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-647-0000**

**Limited Area Sprinklers**

**Code:** 2018 Fire Prevention Code  
**Section:** 903.3.8

**Date:** January 1, 2019

**Question:**

Does the code provide for an inexpensive option to protect one or two rooms with a sprinkler system?

**Answer:**

Yes, Section 903.3.8 provides criteria for a Limited Area Sprinkler System which is viewed as a partial system containing less than 6 sprinklers in a fire area in a light or ordinary hazard group 1 occupancy. Water is supplied by either an automatic wet standpipe system if installed or if no automatic wet standpipe system is installed, the domestic water supply. The cost benefits of a Limited Area Sprinkler System include the following:

- The elimination of monitoring and alarms (i.e. water motor gong) in accordance with Exception #2 of Section 903.4 of the fire code,
- The elimination of the supervisory service (i.e. central station monitoring) in accordance with Exception #2 of Section 903.4 of the fire code.
- The need for a specific backflow preventer for a partial sprinkler system installed as part of the domestic water system, and
- If part of the domestic water system, a Fire Department Connection is not required.