



Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association,
"Organization" (§633.026)

Informal Interpretation Request

Date: 6/23/22

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Document No. applied by the LFO: NFPA - 1

Edition of the NFPA Document: 7th Addition

Chapter and Paragraph of the NFPA Document: 18.4.3.1

Explain how the Petitioner's substantial interests are being affected by the LFO's interpretation of the NFPA citation above:

This project is in the City of Coleman in Sumter County. Coleman has small water system and can't supply the 4,250 gpm required by the LFO. The line across the street that we will connect to is an 8" main. A fire hydrant flow test was conducted on the fire hydrant closest to our point of connection of the fire main proposed for our project. A flow rate of 1,563 gpm at 20 psi was obtained.

Enter a statement of the LFO's interpretation of the NFPA citation above and identify the manner in which the statement was rendered:

The LFO's statement in emails and over the phone is that there is a municipal system providing water to the site the reduction in fire flows under Chapter 18.4.3.1 is not permitted..

The LFO provided no documentation to back up her determination that this Section would not apply..

Enter a statement of the interpretation that the Petitioner contends should be given to the NFPA citation above and a statement supporting the Petitioner's interpretation:

Chapter 18.4.3.1 states "Fire flow requirements shall be permitted to be decreased by the AHJ for isolated buildings or a group of buildings in rural or suburban areas where the development of full fire flow requirements is impractical as determined by the AHJ."

Rulings herein expressed are not the formal position of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office

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Website: www.FFMIA.org | Email: info@ffmia.org | http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/bfpr/bfpr_index.htm



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I do not agree that this exception is only available if no water system exist in the area. It is my understanding this "rule" is applied in multiple jurisdictions all the time as I believe was intended. For example Coleman, Florida, where this project is located, and you were building and office building that required 1,500 gpm and you could only get 1,200 gpm out of the hydrant on the street adjacent to your building, it would be impractical to be required to rebuild the water system to be able to supply the required 1,500 gpm fire flow.

In this case the following information was provided by ECO2000 who manages the Coleman Water System:

- **Number of Wells :** 2 Wells
- **GPM of each well:** 175 gpm Each
- **Gallons of water storage:** 200,000 gallons
- **Plant Capacity Gallons per day:** 495,000 gpd (Permitted Capacity)

These numbers, there is no way this system can provide 4,250 gpm of fire flow. To expect a project like this to increase the capacity of this system so it could provide 4,250 gpm is more than impractical, it is totally beyond reason.

Enter the Petitioner's question concerning an interpretation of the FFPC:

Can the reduction in fire flow allowed by NFPA 1: Chapter 18.4.3.1 be applied to a site that is served by a municipal water system if the system is not capable of providing the fire flow required by NFPA 1: Chapter 18?

Committee Majority answer: Yes

At the sole discretion of the AHJ, fire flow reductions may be applied in accordance with Chapter 18. In this particular circumstance, justification could potentially be demonstrated to the AHJ that some fire flow reductions may be justified due to 1. Presence of fire sprinkler protection; 2. Buildings being open; 2. Buildings being constructed entirely of non-combustible construction; 3. Separation/maximum size of buildings. (This information was not presented in the application but are items that could be considered by

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the AHJ based on the specific description of this project provided in concurrently submitted interpretations on this project. For this particular project scope, it appears the AHJ should give some consideration to fire flow reductions if these factors are present).

Region 1 - Delegate: **Byron Bennett**, Fire Chief North Bay Fire Control District
Alternate: **William (Michael) Hall**, Fire Chief, Marianna Fire Rescue

Region 2 - Delegate: **Jason R. Greisl** Division Chief of Fire Prevention/Fire Marshal Tallahassee Fire
Alternate: N/A*

Region 3 - Delegate: **James Groff**, Jacksonville Fire Rescue.
Alternate: **Robert Growick** Division Chief /Fire Marshall City of St. Augustine

Region 4 - Delegate: **Cheryl Edwards**, Lakeland Fire Rescue
Alternate: **Karl Thompson**

Region 5 - Delegate: **Anthony Apfelbeck**, Altamonte Springs Building and Fire Safety Department
Alternate: **Christina Diaz**, Seminole County Fl.

Region 6 - Delegate: **Robert Salvaggio**, Cape Corral Fire Rescue
Alternate: **Janet Washburn**, Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District

Region 7 - Delegate: **Matthew E. Welhaf**, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Department
Alternate: **(Kenneth) Sean Brown**, Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue & Emergency Services Department.

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Committee Region Map



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