

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER HANDBOOK OF OPERATING PROCEDURES

Chapter 8	Health and Safety	Effective:	November 2003
Section 8.5	Environmental Health and Safety Office	Revised:	September 2005
Policy 8.5.6	Installation of Fire Suppression Systems	Responsibility:	Vice President for Research

INSTALLATION OF FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS

Policy

The campus standard for fire suppression systems is quick response ordinary rated automatic water-based fire sprinkler systems. Alternative fire suppression systems are currently permitted only in the following areas:

- Pre-action systems in main electrical vaults.
- Gaseous agent systems in the main telecommunications and networking primary switch rooms.
- Gaseous agent systems in Computing Resources main computer rooms.

Any design alternatives differing from the campus standard installations, must be submitted through the alternative approval process described below. The campus standard does not apply to previously approved or existing installations.

Alternative Approval Process

The State Fire Marshal requires the installation of an automatic fire suppression system in all areas of a building for the building to be considered fire sprinkler compliant.

If an individual occupant, clinician, or researcher has concerns about the installation of a water-based suppression system, the following approval procedure must be followed:

1. Contact your departmental Director or Chair in writing including the nature of concern and the affected Health Science Center rooms.
2. Your departmental Director or Chair must contact their respective Executive Committee member indicating the nature of the concern.

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3. A source of funding must be identified by the individual, department Chair, or Executive Committee member sufficient to commission an engineering alternative study, remodeling costs, installation costs, commissioning costs, and semi-annual testing/maintenance costs.

 4. If the Executive Committee member approves the above expenditures, Environmental Health and Safety and Facilities Management will commission an engineering study to evaluate the potential installation of an alternative suppression system. The University of Texas System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction maintains a checklist that will be used to evaluate the installation of the alternative suppression system. The results will be shared with the Executive Committee member for final approval.
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