

# Pandemic Task Force

Fire sub-committee, June 2021

## Current codes

- Tents (180 days), IFC Chapter 31
- Roof occupancies, IBC, IFC
- Propane heating and other heating sources as activities moved outside, IFC, IFGC, NFPA 54 & 58
- Hand sanitizer (Alcohol-based hand rubs) IFC 5705.5
- Annual inspections, IFC 901.6
  - Fire Sprinklers systems
  - Fire alarm systems
  - Kitchen hood systems
  - Other fire protection systems
  - Other required inspections
- Maintenance of fire protection systems, IFC 901.6
- Blocked access (Temporary structures), IFC 503.1
- Blocked FDC and PIV (Temporary structures) IFC 901.6 & 912
- Blocked exits, IFC 1031
- Changing to identified ingress and egress (occupant flow) IFC & IBC Ch. 10
- Temporary change of occupancy for medical purposes, IFC 102.3 & IBC 101.4.7
- Added combustibles in classrooms and other spaces, IFC Ch. 3,7, & 8
- Vacant Premises, IFC 311

## Proposed code changes

- Areas in existing occupancies located on the level of exit discharge, with an approved fire sprinkler system and fire alarm system may be used as an “I” occupancy during an emergency when approved by the fire code official.
- The use of tents and other temporary structures may be extended beyond 180 days in an emergency when approved by the fire code official.
- The quantities of alcohol-based hand rubs in any given location may be increased for both use and storage in an emergency when approved by the fire code official.
- Required inspections of fire protection systems may be suspended in an emergency when approved by the fire code official.
- The use of approved barriers may be used in an emergency between desks and similar areas when approved by the fire code official.

## Non-code related issues

- Life in the fire station
  - Physical separation
  - Eating and cooking
  - Sanitation and decontamination
  - Mental health
  - Sleeping room sanitation

- Transport
- Response

### **Review of existing guides and other information**

- [usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/](https://usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/)
- <https://www.firehouse.com/stations/article/21212853/the-pandemic-fire-stations-and-the-safety-officer>
- [https://ehs.psu.edu/sites/ehs/files/nfpa\\_covid\\_pandemic\\_home\\_fire\\_safety.pdf](https://ehs.psu.edu/sites/ehs/files/nfpa_covid_pandemic_home_fire_safety.pdf)
- USFA
- NFPA
- Firehouse
- FEMA

### **Best practices**

- Continue to comply with applicable codes.
- Make decisions based on fact.
- Provide facts to the public.
- Capitalize on the inspection of occupancies with reduced occupancy. Inspect businesses, industrial facilities, schools, and government buildings that may be difficult to inspect with full occupancy.
- Keep your employees safe and healthy.

### **A comprehensive package of public information materials**

- [usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/](https://usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/)
- <https://www.firehouse.com/stations/article/21212853/the-pandemic-fire-stations-and-the-safety-officer>
- [https://ehs.psu.edu/sites/ehs/files/nfpa\\_covid\\_pandemic\\_home\\_fire\\_safety.pdf](https://ehs.psu.edu/sites/ehs/files/nfpa_covid_pandemic_home_fire_safety.pdf)
- USFA
- NFPA
- Firehouse
- FEMA
- ICC