



THE TOWN OF *INDIAN RIVER SHORES*

Preparing for the 9th Edition Florida Fire Prevention Code

The **9th Edition (2026) of the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC)** will take effect on **December 31, 2026**.

The 9th Edition represents the next statewide update to Florida's fire prevention and life-safety requirements. The transition will affect the codes and standards used for **fire protection systems, fire alarm systems, emergency planning, means of egress, hazardous materials, fire-resistance requirements, inspections, testing and maintenance, and other fire and life-safety provisions**.

Permit and Project Transition

Design professionals, contractors, owners, and fire-protection contractors should carefully identify which edition of the FFPC applies to each project.

Projects submitted during the transition period should be reviewed against the applicable statutory requirements and the edition of the FFPC in effect for the project. **The date of permit application/submittal may be controlling; however, specific transition provisions and Florida law should be consulted rather than assuming that the project start date determines the applicable code edition.**

To minimize plan-review comments, inspection delays, redesign, and potential conflicts between design documents and field installations, all project teams are encouraged to begin reviewing the 9th Edition requirements.

Critical 9th Edition Fire Prevention Code Updates to Review

Fire Alarm Systems

Fire alarm system designers and contractors should verify that new installations, alterations, additions, and modifications comply with the applicable **9th Edition FFPC requirements and the adopted edition of NFPA 72**.

Attention should be given to:

- Initiating devices and notification appliances
- Occupant notification requirements
- Emergency voice/alarm communication systems
- Monitoring and supervising station requirements
- Fire alarm system survivability

- Pathways and wiring methods
- Smoke detection and notification requirements
- Interface with other building fire-protection systems
- Testing, inspection, and maintenance requirements

Automatic Sprinkler Systems

Plans for new sprinkler systems and modifications to existing systems should be reviewed against the applicable **9th Edition FFPC requirements and adopted NFPA 13 provisions**.

Designers and contractors should verify:

- Hazard classifications
- Required design densities and design areas
- Storage arrangements and commodity classifications
- Obstruction requirements
- Sprinkler spacing and location
- Hydraulic calculations
- Water-supply requirements
- Standpipe and combined-system requirements
- Seismic protection where applicable
- Existing-system modifications and available water supply

Means of Egress and Life Safety

The 9th Edition transition should include a review of applicable **NFPA 101 Life Safety Code** requirements.

Projects should be evaluated for changes affecting:

- Occupant load
- Number and arrangement of exits
- Exit access
- Exit enclosures
- Travel distance
- Common path of travel

- Dead-end corridors
- Door assemblies
- Exit discharge
- Emergency lighting
- Exit signage
- Accessible means of egress
- Assembly and occupant-use requirements

Fire-Resistance and Firestopping

Construction projects should verify that fire-resistance-rated assemblies and penetrations comply with the applicable requirements of the adopted fire and life-safety codes.

Special attention should be given to:

- Fire barriers
- Fire partitions
- Fire walls
- Horizontal assemblies
- Shaft enclosures
- Penetrations
- Membrane penetrations
- Fire-rated joint systems
- Through-penetration firestop systems
- Listed and approved firestop assemblies

Firestop systems should be installed in accordance with their applicable tested/listed assemblies and manufacturer's installation requirements.

Commercial Cooking and Special Hazards

Facilities containing commercial cooking equipment, hazardous processes, or special fire hazards should verify compliance with the applicable provisions of the 9th Edition FFPC and the adopted by referenced NFPA standards.

This may include requirements associated with:

- Commercial cooking operations

- Kitchen exhaust and suppression systems
- Flammable and combustible liquids
- Compressed gases
- Hazardous materials
- Industrial processes
- High-piled storage
- Spray application operations
- Battery and energy-storage systems
- Fuel-fired equipment
- Special extinguishing systems

Emergency Planning and Fire Safety

Building owners and responsible parties should review applicable requirements for:

- Fire safety plans
- Emergency action plans
- Evacuation procedures
- Fire drills
- Emergency procedures
- Required fire department access
- Fire department operational considerations
- Required inspections, testing, and maintenance

Fire Department Access

Site plans and construction documents should verify that required **fire department access roads, apparatus access, aerial access where applicable, fire lanes, turning areas, and required access to buildings and fire-protection equipment** are maintained in accordance with the applicable adopted requirements.

Water Supply and Fire Protection Features

Projects involving new construction or significant alterations should verify the requirements for:

- Fire hydrants
- Fire department connections

- Automatic sprinkler systems
- Standpipe systems
- Water-storage systems
- Fire pumps
- Fire-service mains
- Access to fire-protection equipment

Designers should coordinate civil, architectural, mechanical, electrical, and fire-protection plans so that required fire-protection features are properly located and accessible.

Coordinate the 9th Edition FFPC With the 9th Edition Florida Building Code

The **Florida Fire Prevention Code** and **Florida Building Code** are related but separate code systems and should not be treated as interchangeable.

Projects may need to comply simultaneously with requirements contained in:

- **9th Edition Florida Fire Prevention Code**
- **9th Edition Florida Building Code**
- Applicable adopted **NFPA standards**
- Florida statutes and administrative requirements
- Applicable local amendments and ordinances
- Florida product-approval requirements where applicable

Structural requirements such as **wind design, structural loads, roofing requirements, impact protection, energy-efficiency requirements, glazing performance, and building-envelope provisions** should be evaluated under the applicable Florida Building Code provisions rather than represented as FFPC requirements.

Product Approvals and Listed Equipment

Fire-protection equipment, fire alarm components, fire doors, firestop systems, suppression systems, and other regulated products should be verified for compliance with the applicable listing, approval, installation, and testing requirements.

Contractors should ensure that submittal packages contain current:

- Manufacturer information
- Product identification
- Listing information

- Testing information
- Installation instructions
- Florida product approval information, when applicable
- Applicable certifications and approvals

Transition Preparation

Before the **December 31, 2026** effective date, design professionals, contractors, fire-protection contractors, property owners, and other project stakeholders should:

1. Identify the applicable FFPC edition for each project.
2. Review plans currently in design or awaiting submission.
3. Verify applicable NFPA editions and referenced standards.
4. Review fire alarm and sprinkler designs for compliance with the applicable requirements.
5. Review life-safety and means-of-egress provisions.
6. Verify fire-resistance and firestop assemblies.
7. Review hazardous-material and special-hazard provisions where applicable.
8. Coordinate architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire-protection documents.
9. Update standard specifications and construction details.
10. Confirm that fire-protection contractors are working from the correct code edition.
11. Review projects already submitted for any applicable transition provisions.
12. Coordinate questions concerning code applicability with the appropriate Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

Official Resources

Professionals should obtain the **official 9th Edition Florida Fire Prevention Code**, adopted NFPA standards, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation/Florida Building Commission information, and applicable State Fire Marshal resources directly from the appropriate official sources.

For code-adoption questions, always rely on the **adopted code text and applicable Florida statutes/rules**, rather than unofficial summaries or draft documents.

Important Notice

This information is intended as a **transition-planning and awareness notice** and is not a substitute for review of the adopted 9th Edition Florida Fire Prevention Code, referenced NFPA standards, Florida statutes, administrative rules, or applicable local requirements.

Design professionals and contractors are responsible for verifying the requirements applicable to their specific project. The AHJ will determine compliance during plan review and inspection in accordance with the codes and regulations applicable to the project.