

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-661-5880**

**Fire Hydrant Location**

**Code:** 2009 Fire Prevention Code  
**Section:** 508.5

**Date:** July 1, 2009

**Question #1:**

Are fire hydrants required within 400 feet of every portion of the building constructed within North Carolina?

**Answer:**

No, Section 508.5.1 contains provisions that increase the distance from 400 feet to 600 feet between the fire hydrant and all portions of the building. Buildings equipped with a sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13 or 13R and Group R-3 and Group U occupancies are subject to the increase.

Distances between the fire hydrant and all portions of the exterior wall greater than 600-feet are required to be approved by the code official as an alternate design in accordance with Section 105 of the North Carolina Administration and Enforcement Code. Equivalency to the code needs to be based on an acceptable period of time the fire department needs to begin manual suppression after connecting to the fire hydrant.

**Question #2:**

Can the fire hydrants be completely eliminated?

**Answer:**

Yes, subject to the approval of the code official. The last sentence of Section 508.5.1 was written to allow the code official remove fire hydrants for areas serviced by tanker shuttle service such as rural areas without a municipal water service. Water for these fires is brought to the site by the fire department instead of using a fire hydrant.