



# LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Dear valued customers,

On June 16, 2023, Governor DeSantis signed amended House Bill 327 which included a simplified permitting process for Fire Sprinkler System Projects (minor fire sprinkler system alterations). This change was added to parallel the simplified permitting process for minor fire alarm modifications. HB 327 allows fire sprinkler contractors to apply for a permit without the need to submit plans or specifications as a condition of obtaining a permit provided that the project meets the conditions as defined in the bill. Plans and specifications will still be required on site for review and at least one inspection will be required to ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards.

A Fire Sprinkler System Project meeting the qualifications for the simplified permit is as follows:

*“Fire Sprinkler System Project” means a fire protection system **alteration** of a total of 20 or fewer fire sprinklers in which the sprinklers are of the same K-factor and located in spaces where there is no change of hazard classification or increased system coverage area, or the installation or replacement of an equivalent fire sprinkler system component in an existing commercial, residential, apartment, cooperative, or condominium building. For purposes of this paragraph, a component is equivalent if the component has the same or better characteristics, including electrical, hydraulic, pressure losses, and required listings and spacing as the component being replaced.*

For fire sprinkler projects not meeting the above criteria, the permitting process is unchanged. There has been confusion regarding whether this permit allows for the addition of sprinkler heads and fire alarm devices, and it has been determined that the definition of “alteration” as used in HB 327 is defined as:

*Any construction or renovation to an existing structure other than repair or addition.*

In other words, if the Fire Sprinkler Project requires the addition of sprinkler heads, the traditional permit process will be used. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Lakeland Fire Department Prevention Division or the City of Lakeland Permitting Department.

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DOUGLAS E. RILEY, FIRE CHIEF

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