

## **Long Term Care Facilities Required Fire Sprinklers by 2013**

CMS published the final rule on requiring all long term care facilities regardless of construction to be sprinklered on August 13, 2008. Under this rule, all facilities must be fully sprinklered by August 13, 2013, or five years from publication of rule.

The entire rule including public comments and responses can be found at our website [www.facilitystandards.idaho.gov](http://www.facilitystandards.idaho.gov) .

This rule will affect several Idaho facilities that are currently not sprinklered and will impact others that are not fully sprinklered.

The rule precludes use of waivers and the Fire Safety Evaluation System (FSES) or performance based design as a means of compliance. The rule can be found in 42 CFR 483, Subpart B 483.70 (2) (a) (8).

“That means that we will no longer be able to utilize FSES for overhangs and carports, all facilities will need to be in 100% compliance” said Mark Grimes, Fire and Life Safety Supervisor of the Bureau of Facility Standards. Historically, those facilities would be granted an annual waiver from CMS based upon passing FSES.

Facilities need to begin planning for installation or modifications to meet the new requirement. According to rule, the systems must be installed in accordance with the 1999 Edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 13, Installation of Sprinkler Systems and thereafter be maintained and tested in accordance with the 1998 Edition of NFPA Standard 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.

For more information contact: Mark Grimes at (208) 334-6626 or visit [www.facilitystandards.idaho.gov](http://www.facilitystandards.idaho.gov)

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