

Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations

Construction and Renovation in Healthcare Facilities

When any construction is being performed, all occupants of the building must be safeguarded. (NFPA 241 *Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Activities*, 2009 edition).

Non-flammable smoke-tight partitions and non-flammable plastic sheeting is no longer permitted in health care occupancies for temporary construction barriers.

Temporary separation walls must be erected to separate an occupied portion of the building undergoing alterations, construction or demolition when operations are considered as having a higher level of hazard than the occupied portion of the building.

NFPA has defined a hazardous area as one that poses a degree of hazard greater than that normal to the general occupancy of the building. According to this office, construction areas qualify as hazardous areas. Other requirements involving the temporary construction barriers:

- The walls must have a 1-hour fire resistive rating, and the door assemblies (if provided) must have a $\frac{3}{4}$ hour fire rating.
- Non-rated walls and opening protectives are permitted when an automatic sprinkler system is installed and operational during construction.

Tarps of any kind are not considered appropriate barriers or opening protectives

Occupancy of the renovated area shall not be occupied until the sprinkler installation has been entirely completed and tested so that the protection is not susceptible to frequent impairment caused by testing and correction