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STATE FIRE MARSHAL OPINION 23-01

Subject of Opinion: NAC 477.281(2)(q) adopting NFPA 25-2017 edition
NAC 477.281(1)(a) adopting IFC 2018

Background. Fire Protection Systems are required to be maintained in accordance with the requirements of the adopted NFPA standards applicable to the system. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) section 477.281(1)(q) adopts NFPA 25-2017, Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems which designates the owner or his or her designated representative the responsibility for properly maintaining a water-based fire protection system.

Question to the State Fire Marshal Division. Whether a general improvement district (GID) has an affirmative duty under the 2018 version of the International Fire Code – and Nevada law – to remove snow that obscures, blocks, covers, or similarly hinders access to fire hydrants located on the property of the GID.

Opinion. As stated in International Fire Code (2018) section 507.5.5, “A 3-foot (914mm) clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants, except as otherwise required or approved.” Furthermore, NFPA 25 section 7.4.2.2 states: “hydrants shall be kept free of snow, ice or other materials and protected against mechanical damage so that free access is ensured.” NFPA 25 section 4.1.1 assigns the responsibility for maintenance of water-based fire protection systems to the “property owner or designated representative.” If a GID is the owner of fire hydrants, it is the opinion of the Nevada State Fire Marshal that the GID or its designated representative has an affirmative duty to remove snow that hinders or deters immediate access to a fire hydrant.

By:

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