**Pandemic Task Force**

**Fire sub-committee, May 2021**

**Current codes**

* Tents (180 days), IFC Chapter 31
* Roof occupancies, IBC, IFC
* Propane heating and other heating sources as activities moved outside, IFC, IFGC, NFPA 54 & 58
* Hand sanitizer (Alcohol based hand rubs) IFC 5705.5
* Annual inspections, IFC 901.6
  + Fire Sprinklers systems
  + Fire alarm systems
  + Kitchen hood systems
  + Other fire protection systems
  + Other required inspections
* Maintenance of fire protection systems, IFC 901.6
* Blocked access (Temporary structures), IFC 503.1
* Blocked FDC and PIV (Temporary structures) IFC 901.6 & 912
* Blocked exits, IFC 1031
* Changing to identified ingress and egress (occupant flow) IFC & IBC Ch. 10
* Temporary change of occupancy for medical purposes, IFC 102.3 & IBC 101.4.7
* Added combustibles in classrooms and other spaces, IFC Ch. 3,7, & 8

**Proposed code changes**

* Existing occupancies with an approved fire sprinkler system and fire alarm system may be used during an emergency as an “I” occupancy when approved by the fire code official.
* The use of tents and other temporary structures may be extended beyond 180 days in an emergency when approved by the fire code official.
* The quantities of alcohol-based hand rubs in any given location may be increased for both use and storage in an emergency when approved by the fire code official.
* Required inspections of fire protection systems may be suspended in an emergency when approved by the fire code official.
* The use of approved barriers may be used in an emergency between desks and similar areas when approved by the fire code official.

**Non-code related issues**

* Life in the fire station
  + Physical separation
  + Eating and cooking
  + Sanitation and decontamination
  + Mental health
  + Sleeping room sanitation
  + Transport
  + Response

**Review of existing guides and other information**

* usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/
* <https://www.firehouse.com/stations/article/21212853/the-pandemic-fire-stations-and-the-safety-officer>
* <https://ehs.psu.edu/sites/ehs/files/nfpa_covid_pandemic_home_fire_safety.pdf>
* usfa
* NFPA
* Firehouse
* fema

**Best practices**

* Continue to comply with applicable codes.
* Make decisions based on fact.
* Provide facts to the public.
* Capitalize on the inspection of occupancies with reduced occupancy. Inspect businesses, industrial facilities, schools, and government buildings that may be difficult to inspect with full occupancy.
* Keep your employees safe and healthy.

**A comprehensive package of public information materials**

* usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/
* https://www.firehouse.com/stations/article/21212853/the-pandemic-fire-stations-and-the-safety-officer
* https://ehs.psu.edu/sites/ehs/files/nfpa\_covid\_pandemic\_home\_fire\_safety.pdf
* usfa
* NFPA
* Firehouse
* fema
* ICC