



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2010-05

To: All Licensed Fire Alarm Companies
All Fire Prevention Bureaus
Alarm Association (LAAFAA)
Felicia Cooper, Deputy Asst Secretary/Plan Review, OSFM
Chief Dan Wallis, Deputy Asst Secretary/Enforcement/Emergency Services, OSFM
Stephen Gogreve, Manager, OSFM
Pat Aronstein, Manager, OSFM
Plan Review Staff, OSFM

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect/Plan Review, OSFM

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal

Date: October 4, 2010

Re: **COMMERCIAL KITCHEN EXHAUST HOODS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT**

NFPA 96 (2008) states:

“10.4.1 Upon activation of any fire-extinguishing system for a cooking operation, all sources of fuel and electric power that produce heat to all **equipment** requiring protection by that system shall automatically shut off.”

This requirement of NFPA 96 does not address a myriad of different circumstances: adjacent electrical wall outlets, electrical control devices on the cooking appliances, etc. Apparently, some K-type extinguishers may contain suppression agents that pose a potential electrical hazard, and the following directive is in their manufacturer’s instructions: “Type K is a ‘wet’ agent extinguisher. If the electrical system is not shunted prior to use of a type K extinguisher, there is a possibility that the person using the fire extinguisher will be electrocuted.”

To be conservative and respect life safety, this office will hereby require all electrical power directly below of the hood be shunted, shut off when the hood suppression system is activated.

This Interpretive Memo shall be referenced when citing this issue.

Some K-type extinguishers may contain chemicals that could be documented as not creating an electrical hazard. We will honor such manufacturer’s documentation.

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