



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Richard Bowers
Fire Chief

FIRE CODE COMPLIANCE SECTION

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERPRETATION 11-01

DISTINCT HAZARDS

CODE REFERENCE: Montgomery County Fire Safety Code (MCFSC) Section 22-3, *Construction and scope of chapter.*

BACKGROUND: MCFSC Section 22-3 refers to a distinct hazard as a threshold for compliance with more stringent regulations without providing definition for the term “distinct hazard”.

INTERPRETATION: A distinct hazard is defined as any existing or newly presented condition, circumstance or situation that: (1) unreasonably diminishes the level of fire safety, life safety, or property protection available in the structure or premises; (2) could reasonably result in a fire, explosion or other dangerous condition; or (3) unreasonably compromises the safety of fire fighters or emergency responders. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, those found in Attachment A.

PREPARED BY: Assistant Chief Michael A. Donahue, Deputy Fire Marshal

DATE June 9, 2011

FIRE MARSHAL

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DL Stechel".

Fire Code Compliance Section

255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland, 20850-2589 240/777-2457, FAX 240/777-2465

Serving with dedication, courage and compassion

Administrative Interpretation 11-01
Attachment A

Distinct Hazard Examples (non-exhaustive)

- Highly flammable interior finishes (all surfaces)
- Fully or partially obstructed paths of travel
- Fully or partially obstructed exitways
- Unauthorized modifications to fire protection and life safety systems
- Non-functional fire protection and life safety systems
- Ineffective fire protection and life safety systems
- Unauthorized alterations or additions to the structure
- Unauthorized change to the building's use and occupancy