



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 8804**



**Date** 07/12/2023

**Report** 2021

**Section** 903.2.4.1

**Question:**

FBC Section 903.2.4.1 states that: "An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all Group F-1 occupancy fire areas that contain woodworking operations in excess of 2,500 square feet in areas which generate finely divided combustible waste or use finely divided combustible materials. Is an automatic sprinkler system required where the woodworking area noted above comprises 2,500 square feet or less of the overall F-1 fire area?"

**Answer:**

No. Please see the excerpt from the IBC Commentary

On 07/19/2023 at 11:26 AM

**Commentary:**

IBC Commentary. "The extent of sprinkler coverage is only intended to be for the Group F-1 occupancy involved in the woodworking activity. If the fire area is larger than 2,500 square feet but the woodworking area is 2,500 square feet or less, sprinklers are not required. It is not the intent to require the installation of sprinklers throughout the building but rather in the fire area where the hazard may be present."

With that being said the finely divided combustible waste materials are not restricted to an area of 2,500 square feet or less if the fire area is larger.

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**Notice:**

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.