



Mercer Island Fire Marshal's Office  
3030 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
(206) 275-7966

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# FIRE CODE ALTERNATE REQUEST

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*This document is intended to provide guidance on the approval process for a code alternate request.*

The unique and challenging geography, water system, and design desires often make it difficult to meet the Fire Code requirements for a project on Mercer Island. The fire code allows applicants to propose alternate fire protection or design methods to be used to overcome these deficiencies.

**2012 IFC - [A] 104.9 Alternative materials and methods.**

*The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved. The fire code official is authorized to approve an alternative material or method of construction where the fire code official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.*

**Draft Submittal and Review Process:**

Before you propose an alternative to mitigate a fire service deficiency, you will be provided with a "Fire Plan Review" sheet with the specific deficiencies for your project. You will need to address each fire deficiency noted. Checked items marked on this review sheet are areas where the required code is not met. You will draft your request letter, stating the scope of work for the project, citing the deficiencies that were identified from the review sheet, proposing your specific items that you propose as alternative(s) to meeting the code, and finally a summary statement which states "We believe the proposed is equal to or better than the code requirement." Your proposal or "code alternate" will be reviewed to determine if your proposal meets this final summary statement.

Below is a list of items that will be considered as alternative fire protections.

- An "NFPA 13D - Standard" sprinkler system
- An upgrade to an "NFPA 13D – Plus" sprinkler system
- An upgrade to an "NFPA 13R – Plus" sprinkler system
- Installation of a "Household Fire Alarm System" per NFPA 72 Chapter 29
- Provide fire retardant coating treatment in the attic and crawl space
- Install 1-hr rated gypsum in all areas.
- Provide solid core or fire rated doors
- Any other items that you would like to propose

All fire code alternate proposals are required to be submitted for review to our Mercer Island Development Services Group. Either in person or submitted to our FTP site. Please contact the Mercer Island Fire Marshal's office for additional information.