

Department of Veterans Affairs State Veterans Home Survey Report

This survey report and the information contained herein, resulted from the State Veterans Home (SVH) Survey as a Summary Statement of Deficiencies. (Each Deficiency Must be Preceded by Full Regulatory or applicable Life Safety Code Identifying Information.) Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations Part 51 is applied for SVHs applicable by level of care.

General Information:

Facility Name: Minnesota Veterans Home – Hastings

Location: 1200 18th Street East, Hastings, MN 55033

Onsite / Virtual: Onsite

Dates of Survey: 1/14/25 – 1/16/25

NH / DOM / ADHC: DOM

Survey Class: Annual

Total Available Beds: 200

Census on First Day of Survey: 114

VA Regulation Deficiency	Findings
	<p>Initial Comments:</p> <p>A VA Annual Survey was conducted from January 14, 2025, through January 16, 2025, at the Minnesota Veterans Home - Hastings. The survey revealed the facility was not in compliance with Title 38 CFR Part 51 Federal Requirements for State Veterans Homes.</p>
<p>§ 51.350 (c) Life safety from fire. The facility must meet the applicable requirements of the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, as incorporated by reference in § 51.200.</p> <p>Level of Harm – No Actual Harm, with potential for more than minimal harm Residents Affected – Some</p>	<p><u>Smoke Barriers and Sprinklers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Based on observation and interview, the facility failed to install a sprinkler system in all areas, in accordance with the code. The deficient practice affected zero (0) of 10 smoke compartments in [LOCATION], one (1) of six (6) smoke compartments in [LOCATION], staff, and two (2) residents. The facility had a capacity for 200 residents with a census of 114 on the first day of the survey. <p>The findings include:</p> <p>Observation during the building tour, on 1/14/25, at 12:55 p.m., revealed that automatic fire sprinkler protection was not installed within the [LOCATION] located in the [LOCATION], as required by section 8.15.5 of NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.</p>

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	<p>An interview, on 1/14/25, at 12:55 p.m., with Maintenance Staff A revealed the facility was aware that there was not a sprinkler in the [LOCATION]. There was a sprinkler in the room before the elevator system was upgraded. The state officials required the sprinkler removed from the room.</p> <p>The census of 114 was verified by Administrative Staff A on 1/14/25, at 9:32 a.m. The findings were acknowledged by Administrative Staff A and verified by Maintenance Staff A at the LSC exit interview on 1/14/25, at 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2012)</p> <p>33.3.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements.</p> <p>33.3.3.5.1 * General.</p> <p>Where an automatic sprinkler system is installed, for either total or partial building coverage, the system shall be installed in accordance with Section 9.7, as modified by 33.3.3.5.1.1, 33.3.3.5.1.2, and 33.3.3.5.1.3.</p> <p>33.3.3.5.1.1 In buildings four or fewer stories above grade plane, systems in accordance with NFPA 13R, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height, shall be permitted.</p> <p>33.3.3.5.1.2 In facilities having prompt or slow evacuation capability, automatic sprinklers shall not be required in closets not exceeding 24 ft² (2.2 m²) and in bathrooms not exceeding 55 ft² (5.1 m²), provided that such spaces are finished with noncombustible or limited-combustible materials.</p> <p>33.3.3.5.1.3 Initiation of the fire alarm system shall not be required for existing installations in accordance with 33.3.3.5.6.</p> <p>33.3.3.5.2 Impractical Evacuation Capability.</p> <p>All facilities having impractical evacuation capability shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1).</p> <p>33.3.3.5.3 High-Rise Buildings.</p> <p>All high-rise buildings shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 33.3.3.5. Such systems shall initiate the fire alarm system in accordance with Section 9.6.</p> <p>33.3.3.5.4 Attics shall be protected in accordance with 33.3.3.5.4.1 or 33.3.3.5.4.2.</p> <p>33.3.3.5.4.1 Where an automatic sprinkler system is installed, attics used for living purposes, storage, or fuel-fired equipment shall be protected with automatic sprinklers that are part of the required, approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1.</p> <p>33.3.3.5.4.2 Where an automatic sprinkler system is installed, attics not used for living purposes, storage, or fuel-fired equipment shall meet one of the following criteria:</p> <p>(1) Attics shall be protected throughout by a heat detection system arranged to activate the building fire alarm system in accordance with Section 9.6.</p>
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(2) Attics shall be protected with automatic sprinklers that are part of the required, approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1.

(3) Attics shall be of noncombustible or limited-combustible construction.

(4) Attics shall be constructed of fire-retardant-treated wood in accordance with NFPA 703, Standard for Fire Retardant-Treated Wood and Fire-Retardant Coatings for Building Materials.

9.7 Automatic Sprinkler and Other Extinguishing Equipment.

9.7.1 Automatic Sprinklers.

9.7.1.1* Each automatic sprinkler system required by another section of this Code shall be in accordance with one of the following:

(1) NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems

9.7.5 Maintenance and Testing. All automatic sprinkler and standpipe systems required by this Code shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.

4.5.8 Maintenance. Whenever or wherever any device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, or any other feature is required for compliance with the provisions of this Code, such device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, or other feature shall thereafter be maintained, unless the Code exempts such maintenance.

Actual NFPA Standard NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems (2010):

8.1.1* The requirements for spacing, location, and position of sprinklers shall be based on the following principles:

(1) Sprinklers shall be installed throughout the premises.

8.15.5 Elevator Hoist ways and Machine Rooms.

8.15.5.1* Sidewall spray sprinklers shall be installed at the bottom of each elevator hoist way not more than 2 ft (0.61 m) above the floor of the pit.

8.15.5.2 The sprinkler required at the bottom of the elevator hoist way by 8.15.5.1 shall not be required for enclosed, noncombustible elevator shafts that do not contain combustible hydraulic fluids.

8.15.5.3* Automatic sprinklers in elevator machine rooms or at the tops of hoist ways shall be of ordinary- or intermediate temperature rating.

8.15.5.4* Upright, pendent, or sidewall spray sprinklers shall be installed at the top of elevator hoist ways.

8.15.5.5 The sprinkler required at the top of the elevator hoist way by 8.15.5.4 shall not be required where the hoist way for passenger elevators is noncombustible or limited-combustible

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and the car enclosure materials meet the requirements of ASME A17.1, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators.

8.15.5.6 Sprinklers shall be installed at the top and bottom of elevator hoist ways where elevators utilize polyurethane-coated steel belts or other similar combustible belt material.

2. Based on observation and interview, the facility failed to properly maintain the sprinkler system. The deficient practice affected zero (0) of 10 smoke compartments in [LOCATION], one (1) of six (6) smoke compartments in [LOCATION], staff, and two (2) residents. The facility had a capacity for 200 residents with a census of 114 on the day of the survey.

The findings include:

Observation during the building inspection tour, on 1/14/25, at 12:59 p.m., revealed the fusible links on all four (4) of the sprinklers installed in the [LOCATION] located off the corridor on the [LOCATION] in [LOCATION] were loaded with a sticky, tar-like material that was consistent with nicotine and smoking residue, as prohibited by section 5.2.1.1.2 (5) of NFPA 25 Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.

An interview, on 1/14/25, at 12:59 p.m., with Maintenance Staff A revealed the room was once used as a [LOCATION], and the facility was not aware the sprinklers were loaded with foreign materials.

The census of 114 was verified by Administrative Staff A on 1/14/25, at 9:32 a.m. The findings were acknowledged by Administrative Staff A and verified by Maintenance Staff A at the LSC exit interview on 1/14/25, at 4:00 p.m.

Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2012)

33.3.3.5 Extinguishment Requirements.

33.3.3.5.1 * General.

Where an automatic sprinkler system is installed, for either total or partial building coverage, the system shall be installed in accordance with Section 9.7, as modified by 33.3.3.5.1.1, 33.3.3.5.1.2, and 33.3.3.5.1.3.

9.7 Automatic Sprinkler and Other Extinguishing Equipment.

9.7.1 Automatic Sprinklers.

9.7.1.1* Each automatic sprinkler system required by another section of this Code shall be in accordance with one of the following:

- (1)** NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems

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	<p>9.7.5 Maintenance and Testing. All automatic sprinkler and standpipe systems required by this Code shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.</p> <p>4.5.8 Maintenance. Whenever or wherever any device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, or any other feature is required for compliance with the provisions of this Code, such device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, or other feature shall thereafter be maintained, unless the Code exempts such maintenance.</p> <p>9.7.5 Maintenance and Testing. All automatic sprinkler and standpipe systems required by this Code shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.</p> <p>Actual NFPA Standard: NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (2011)</p> <p>5.2.1 Sprinklers.</p> <p>5.2.1.1* Sprinklers shall be inspected from the floor level annually.</p> <p>5.2.1.1.1* Sprinklers shall not show signs of leakage; shall be free of corrosion, foreign materials, paint, and physical damage; and shall be installed in the correct orientation (e.g., upright, pendent, or sidewall).</p> <p>5.2.1.1.2 Any sprinkler that shows signs of any of the following shall be replaced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Leakage(2) Corrosion(3) Physical damage(4) Loss of fluid in the glass bulb heat responsive element(5)* Loading(6) Painting unless painted by the sprinkler manufacturer
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