



## TECHNICAL POLICY

### 13 – 15 Sprinkler Protection of Cooling Towers

Original Issue: September 1985  
**Revised: April 2006**

**This policy applies to cooling towers that are of combustible construction or contain combustible fill and exceed 2,000 cubic feet in volume (14' x 14' x 10' = 1,960 cu.ft.).**

**When cooling towers are located in the following locations, they are to be protected by a complete automatic sprinkler system designed to meet NFPA standards 214 and 13.**

1. Cooling towers located on building roofs that are higher than 75 feet above the lowest level of fire vehicle access.
2. Cooling towers with combustible exterior surfaces located within 100 feet of chimneys, incinerators, or areas or buildings that handle or store combustible or flammable liquids.
3. Cooling towers with non-combustible exterior surfaces and combustible interior fill when located within 40 feet of chimneys, incinerators, or areas or buildings that handle or store combustible or flammable liquids.
4. Cooling towers with combustible exterior surfaces or combustible fill that pose an exposure problem to an adjacent building or property. The Minneapolis Fire Department will make the final determination as to when it is an exposure problem on a case-by-case basis.