Codewords are used to clarify provisions of the Harris County Fire Code. The sole intent is to provide information regarding acceptable practice.

Issue Date: May 12, 2009
Subject: Sprinkler Riser/Fire Alarm Panel Rooms

Question: Does Harris County regulate the size and location of Sprinkler Riser/Fire Alarm Panel rooms?

Answer: Sprinkler riser/Fire alarm panel rooms and or closets, in buildings where a Fire Command Center is not required by code, shall meet the following requirements:

- Shall have exterior access when required by the Building Official.
- Shall be separated from the remainder of the building by not less than a 1-hour fire/smoke barrier, and equipped to maintain temperature and humidity requirements of NFPA 72, 4.4.4.
- Shall have a minimum of three feet of clear open space (measured from the front of equipment to the opposing wall or door) in front of any fire protection equipment. Inward opening doors shall not encroach upon open space.
- Fire alarm cabinets shall be located so that the LED readout is located approximately sixty five inches from finished floor. Fire alarm cabinet doors must open a minimum of 90 degrees from the closed position without obstruction.
- Sprinkler valves and gauges shall be easily accessible for viewing and operation.

Closets are allowed but shall provide sufficient door width and height to afford clear and unobstructed access to all fire protection equipment as described above. A layout of the sprinkler riser room and all features required to be contained therein shall be submitted for approval by the Fire Code section prior to installation.

Building Official,  
Harris County, Texas

Fire Marshal,  
Harris County, Texas