



Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association,
"Organization" (§633.026)

Informal Interpretation

Date: 6/08/20

NFPA Document Number: NFPA 303 2011

Paragraph Reference: Chapter 3.3.2

Explain how the Petitioner's substantial interests are being affected by the question below:

My district is reviewing a development for an RV, boat, vehicle storage facility which they do not wish to sprinkler as it is their attorney's belief the facility does not meet the definition of a boatyard. This facility will contain multiple "open" parking structures (metal roofs only), the smallest of which being roughly 7,500 square ft. The attorney states that to be a boatyard by NFPA definition, the facility must be used for ALL of the following purposes: constructing, repairing, servicing, hauling from the water, storing (on land and in water), and launching of boats. His belief is that the word AND indicates all functions must be the purpose of the facility rather than any particular function.

Enter the Petitioner's question concerning an interpretation of the FFPC:

Would the storing alone of even one boat under a roof of any "open" structure over 5,000 sq. ft. meet the definition of a boatyard therefor requiring the installation of a sprinkler system?

Committee's Answer: No

The scope of NFPA 303 applies to the construction and operation of marinas, boatyards, yacht clubs, boat condominiums, docking facilities associated with residential condominiums, multiple-docking facilities at multiple-family residences, and all associated piers, docks, and floats. It also applies to marinas and facilities servicing small recreational and commercial craft, yachts, and other craft of not more than 300 gross tons.

The question asked is two-fold, first does this standard apply and if the answer to that question is yes does the project in question meet the definition of a boatyard as defined in Chapter 3 of NFPA 303 and require sprinkler protection per Chapter 6.3.2 for structures > 5000 square feet.

The project info provided appears to show an outside storage area with multiple structures described as "shade structures" presumably open on all sides for the storage of RV's, cars, and boats with no stated intent of commercial repair operations (see attached page 2).

Rulings herein expressed are not the formal position of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office

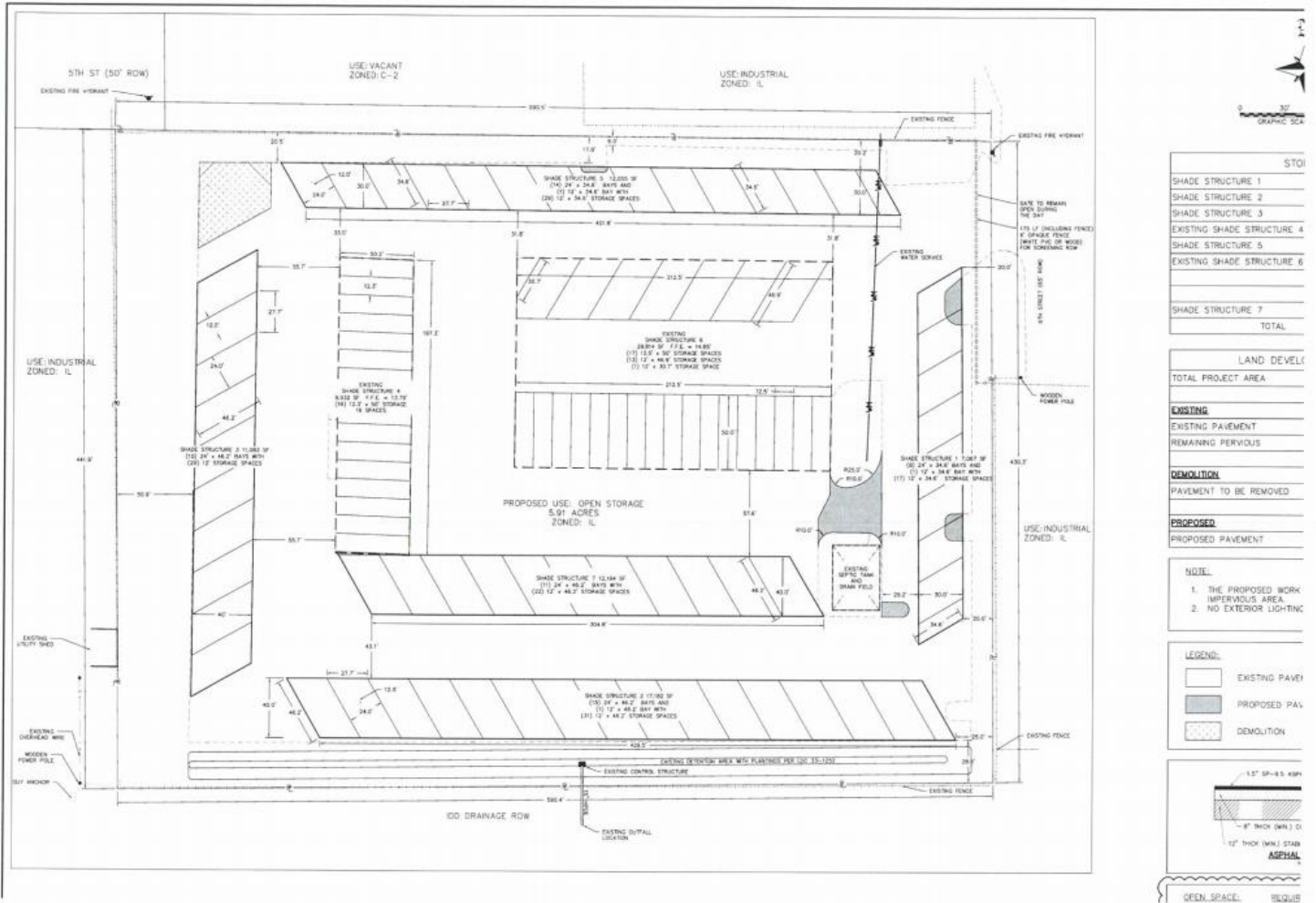
Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association | P. O. Box 325 Hobe Sound, FL 33475 | Tel 772-349-1507 | Fax 772-546-6675

Website: www.FFMIA.org | Email: info@ffmia.org | http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/bfpr/bfpr_index.htm



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With the stated intended use and layout it is the committee's opinion that this does not meet the scope of NFPA 303 nor does it meet the definition of a boatyard as defined within this standard. This does not however preclude the application of other Building and fire standards that may be applicable in regard to fire protection not included in the rendering of this interpretation.

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Committee Answer Submitted by,
James Groff, Chairman
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee

Region 1 - Delegate: Vacant
Alternate: N/A*

Region 2 - Delegate: Vacant
Alternate: N/A*

Region 3 - Delegate: James Groff, Jacksonville Fire Rescue. (Committee Chair) **No**
Alternate: Robert Growick **No**

Region 4 - Delegate: Cheryl Edwards, Lakeland Fire Rescue **No**
Alternate: Scott Finley, Auburndale Fire Department **No**

Region 5 - Delegate: Anthony Apfelbeck, Altamonte Springs Building Department **No**
Alternate: Tim Ippolito, Casselberry F. R. **No**

Region 6 - Delegate: Robert Salvaggio, Cape Corral Fire Rescue **No**
Alternate: Janet Washburn, Bonita Springs **No**

Region 7 - Delegate: Matthew E. Welhaf, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Department **No**
Alternate: Sean Brown, Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue & Emergency Services Department **No**



Committee Region Map

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