

Fire Sprinklers in Nightclubs

Moving forward
to keep Portland safe

For the purpose of Section 903.7, Nightclub means:

- "...an A-2 occupancy use under the 2009 International Building Code which (a) has areas for dancing or viewing performers; and (b) serves food or drink.

"Nightclub" does not include houses of worship, theaters with fixed seating, banquet halls, or lodge halls."

Current Code

- The occupant load of 100 or more;
- The fire area exceeds 5,000 sf; or
- The fire area is located on a floor other than the level of exiting.

Deadliest nightclub fire in history

- Fire at Cocoanut Grove Nightclub Boston, 1942.
- 492 people lost their lives.

No Way Out

Fifty years ago,
Boston was stunned by one
of the worst disasters in the
nation's history: the fire
at the Cocoanut Grove, where for
492 men and women a night
of merrymaking ended in death.

BY JUDY BASS



Station Nightclub Fire



- Warwick, Rhode Island 2003: 100 people lost their lives.

Just this year...

- 233 killed at the Santa Maria Nightclub, Brazil

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Fire rips through crowded Brazil nightclub, killing 233

By **Shasta Darlington**, **Marilia Brocchetto** and **Dana Ford**, CNN
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Relatives and friends of Paraguayan student Guido Brites, 21, who died in a fire at the Kiss nightclub in Brazil, carry his coffin during the funeral in Asuncion on Tuesday, January 29. More than 230 people died and more than 120 were injured early Sunday when a fire tore through the nightclub packed with university students in southern Brazil, police said.

Hundreds dead in Brazil nightclub fire HIDE CAPTION

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STORY HIGHLIGHTS *Are you there? Share your story.*

- Cell phones left in the club ring, go unanswered amid the ruins
- The club's license had expired in August and had not been renewed.

Santa Maria, Brazil (CNN) -- Workers combing through the charred wreckage of Kiss nightclub in southern Brazil on Sunday encountered the eerie sound of ringing cell phones.

Fatalities

- 2003-current 757
- 1973-2013 1,985
- 20 nightclub fires caused 2,477 deaths
 - 7 out of 20 of those fires were in U.S.
 - 986 US fatalities = 40%

The National Institute of Standards and Technology recreated The Station fire



And with automatic fire sprinklers



Fire Sprinklers Make a Difference

- 100% fewer deaths per thousand reported fires
 - No record of a fire killing more than two people in a building completely protected with an automatic fire sprinkler system
- 75% less property damage

Who will be impacted by this regulation?

- All existing businesses that meet the definition of a nightclub and have an occupant load greater than 100.
- “Nightclub” does not include houses of worship, theaters with fixed seating, banquet halls, or lodge halls.

- We estimate 15 businesses will be impacted by this ordinance.

Timetable

- Nightclubs with an occupant load 200 or greater have until December 31, 2014 to comply with this ordinance. (15 months)
- Nightclubs with an occupant load of 101 and a maximum of 199 have until June 30, 2015 to comply. (21 months)