

Regulation of Flora Grow Operations

Fire Code Amendment

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Situation

- Residential marijuana grows highlighted
 - High risk to electrical systems
 - High risk of mold
 - High risk to first responders
 - Confirmed fires due to various risks

- At a store near you



Considerations

- If marijuana can be an issue, what about Green Chile?
- Purpose of a residence/home?
- Purpose of a greenhouse?

Tasks

- Assigned to Division of the Fire Marshal (DFM)
 - Identify risks of flora operations in residences
 - Identify solutions to mitigate unreasonable risks
 - Collaborate with
 - Pikes Peak Regional Building Department
 - Colorado Springs Utilities
 - Colorado Springs Police Department
 - El Paso County Public Health Department

DFM Tasks Continued

- Draft an amendment of the International Fire Code
 - Appendix P – Indoor Flora Grow Operations in Residential Occupancies
 - What this does: Regulates intensive grow operations that should not be in residences
 - What this does NOT do: Prohibit people from growing plants in a home where grow lights, extensive chemicals, and/or supplements are NOT utilized

Restrictions

- Amendment prohibits
 - Excessive plant growth in motels/apartments
 - Construction modifications
 - Extensive chemicals
 - Excessive electrical overload
- Amendment limits the aggregate area containing supplemental lighting for plant growth and consumption to 150 square feet

Public Process

- Internal/External agency vetting of amendment
 - City Attorney's Office
 - Colorado Springs Fire Board of Appeals
 - Flora Task Group
- Very few modifications to draft were made
- Collaborative effort by Flora Task Group
- Unanimous support of amendment!

Flora Task Group

Flora Task Group Representation

The American Institute of Architects (AIA)	Council of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO)
Design engineer	Electrician
General contractor	Horticulture specialist
Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs (HBA)	Medical marijuana caregiver
Medical marijuana patient	

Recommendation

- Adoption of Appendix P - Indoor Flora Grow Operations in Residential Occupancies to the currently adopted 2009 International Fire Code