



# City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

## Seattle Fire Department

Gregory M. Dean, Fire Chief

June 2007

### Letter to Nightclub Owners and Operators

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about changes to Washington State Law requiring the retroactive installation of fire sprinklers in existing nightclubs. The 2007 Washington State Legislature approved Second Substitute House Bill 1811 which changed the definition of nightclubs requiring retroactive installation of fire sprinklers. The bill also extended the deadline for compliance with that law to December 1, 2009. The bill was signed into law on Friday, May 11, 2007 after passing both the House and Senate unanimously.

The Seattle Fire Department will begin re-inspecting Seattle clubs this summer to determine whether fire sprinklers will be required as a result of changes to the law. Because of the change in the state law, a prior determination by the Seattle Fire Department as to whether your place of business would be required to install fire sprinklers is no longer valid.

Under the revised law, clubs, bars and restaurants that have an aggregate greater than 350 square feet of concentrated use space specifically designated for dancing or viewing performers (excluding adjacent lobby areas) meet the definition of a nightclub and will require fire sprinklers. Concentrated use space is a dance floor area or open floor area without tables and chairs.

Prior requirements that pertained to the primary source of revenue for the nightclub, the type of performers and/entertainment, and the total occupant load were repealed and are no longer applicable.

A Seattle Fire Department Lieutenant will meet with you to determine if your business will be required to install fire sprinklers as a result of this revised law. If you have questions, please contact our Special Events/Compliance Section at 206-386-1333. A blue-print or scaled drawing of your place of business will be helpful in expediting the process to determine if you will be required to install fire sprinklers.

The Seattle Fire Department web page, [www.seattle.gov/fire](http://www.seattle.gov/fire) contains links to the actual House Bill. From the above web page, select Fire Prevention, then Seattle Fire Code, then Nightclub Sprinklers Law

We understand that the provisions of this law may have significant financial and operational impacts on your business. We will make every effort to help you understand the requirements of the law and whether it will apply to your business.

Very truly yours,

Chief Kenneth L. Tipler  
Fire Marshal



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