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**STUDENT HANDOUT**  
**2021 I-Codes NFPA 13R Attic Protection**

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**IBC §903.3.1.2.3 Attics.** *Attic* protection shall be provided as follows:

1. *Attics* that are used or intended for living purposes or storage shall be protected by an *automatic sprinkler system*.
2. Where fuel-fired equipment is installed in an unsprinklered *attic*, not fewer than one quick-response intermediate temperature sprinkler shall be installed above the equipment.
3. Where located in a building of Type III, Type IV or Type V construction designed in accordance with IBC §510.2 or 510.4, attics not required by Item 1 to have sprinklers shall comply with one of the following if the roof assembly is located more than 55 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access needed to meet the provisions in IBC § 503.
  - 3.1. Provide *automatic sprinkler system* protection.
  - 3.2. Construct the *attic* using noncombustible materials.
  - 3.3. Construct the *attic* using *fire retardant-treated wood* complying with IBC §2303.2.
  - 3.4. Fill the *attic* with noncombustible insulation.

The height of the roof assembly shall be determined by measuring the distance from the lowest required fire vehicle access road surface adjacent to the building to the eave of the highest pitched roof, the intersection of the highest roof to the exterior wall, or the top of the highest parapet, whichever yields the greatest distance. For the purpose of this measurement, required fire vehicle access roads shall include only those roads that are necessary for compliance with IFC §503 (NFPA 1 - §18.2)

4. Group R-4, Condition 2 occupancy *attics* not required by Item 1 to have sprinklers shall comply with one of the following:
  - 4.1. Provide *automatic sprinkler system* protection.
  - 4.2. Provide a heat detection system throughout the *attic* that is arranged to activate the building fire alarm system.
  - 4.3. Construct the *attic* using noncombustible materials.
  - 4.4. Construct the *attic* using *fire-retardant-treated wood* complying with IBC § 2303.2.
  - 4.5. Fill the *attic* with noncombustible insulation.