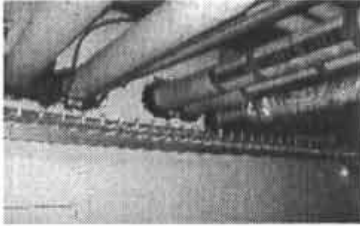


CODE QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

**ANSWER:** The 30 ft. spacing of detectors in the code is a guide for prescriptive designs. The device must be installed as tested and in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**QUESTION?** "What are T and F ratings in fire stopping penetrations?"



**ANSWER:** When pipes, ducts, conduits, wires or other objects penetrate fire resistive barriers such as walls, floors or ceilings, the openings create a path for heat and smoke to spread through a structure. The building codes require these "penetrations" to be firestopped with materials that meet the requirements of *ASTM E 814, Standard Test Method for Through-Penetration Fire Stops* or *UL 1479, Standard for Safety for Through-Penetration Fire Stops*. These documents refer to **T** Ratings and **F** Ratings for the penetration of fire stop materials. What is the difference?

**T Rating.** The time period that the penetration firestop system, including the penetrating item, limits the maximum temperature rise to 325°F above its initial temperature through the penetration on the non-fire side in accordance with the test standards.

**F Rating.** The time period that the through penetration fire stop system limits fire spread through the penetration in accordance with the test standards. Thus, the **T** Rating references temperature limits, and the **F** Rating references fire spread control. For additional information, refer to the *International Building Code®*, Chapter 7.

## CODE UPDATE

**COLORADO** - A BILL signed by the Governor requires that all schools in the state must comply with the *International Fire Code*. It also requires all school inspectors to become certified by ICC.

**FLORIDA** - A FEDERAL study indicates that the State's adoption of the current *I-Codes* before last hurricane season resulted in less damage than expected. Eight hurricanes hit Florida in 15 months and destroyed \$32 billion in property damage.

**MISSISSIPPI** - IN A first towards statewide rules on new construction, the State adopted the *2003 International Building Code* and *2003 International Residential Code*. The action does not require local jurisdictions to adopt the codes, but if they do it must be the *I-Codes*. Mississippi was one of the last states in the nation not to have building guidelines for home construction. **EDITOR'S NOTE** - -Compliance only if convenient will not work.

- **GOT A CODE QUESTION?** Call us @ 1-800-950-2633 for FREE, unlimited telephone code consulting. You can e-mail your question to: [codexperts@aol.com](mailto:codexperts@aol.com)