



Grant County

Board of County Commissioners

Press Release

For Immediate Release

July 16, 2009

For more information contact:

**Grant County Fire Marshals Office
Grant County Courthouse
Ephrata, Washington 98823
Phone: (509) 754-2011 ext 344**

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE ENACTS NIGHTCLUB FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Ephrata —Washington State has joined Rhode Island and Massachusetts as one of the first states to enact requirements for retroactive installation of fire sprinklers in nightclubs.

In 2007 the Washington State Legislature unanimously approved House Bill 1811 making changes to a law enacted in 2005. That law required fire sprinklers to be installed in existing nightclubs as a result of the tragic fire and loss of life at The Station Nightclub Fire on February 20, 2003.

The 2007 bill significantly revised the definition of nightclubs requiring retroactive installation of fire sprinklers and extended the deadline for compliance with the law to December 1, 2009. Under the new law, the requirement to install fire sprinklers will apply to existing nightclubs, restaurants and bars in which the area that is specifically designated and primarily used for dancing or viewing performers exceeds 350 square feet. Those businesses that become compliant with the new law may be eligible for a special property tax exemption.

There are businesses that are excluded from the new law; they are banquet halls, theaters with fixed seating, and lodge halls. The Grant County Fire Marshals Office and Building Department want to notify business owners in the unincorporated areas of Grant County that they are available to answer any questions as to whether or not this new law applies to your business. They can also help you with what steps you should take to become compliant with the new law that goes into effect on December 1, 2009.

If you live within the city limits, you should contact your local City Building Department or Fire Department. If you live in the County and you have questions, please contact the Grant County Building and Fire Marshals Office at (509) 754-2011 ext. 344 or 1-800-572-0119 if you have any questions.

End of Notice