Orange County Fire Authority
Community Risk Reduction
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 04-03

Subject: Self-Storage Facility Storage Height Limit Requirements

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide details and descriptions of acceptable methods of limiting storage height within self-storage facilities. Special methods are required because the use of the facility prevents OCFA from inspecting individual self-storage units on a regular basis. The requirements for storage height limits contained herein shall be enforced in all self-storage facilities.

The storage height limit within self-storage facilities may not exceed 12 feet above finished floor. Additionally, in sprinklered buildings storage height must be limited to at least 18 inches below the sprinkler deflector throughout each sprinkler's coverage area. In non-sprinklered buildings storage height must be limited to at least 24 inches below the ceiling. An acknowledgement of this limit must be included in every lease agreement.

The following methods of limiting storage height are acceptable:

1. A physical barrier covering the entire storage unit that does not create an obstruction to the sprinkler spray pattern as described in NFPA 13.

2. A red line at least three inches wide painted on all walls within each storage unit with white stenciled letters at least two inches in height that read, "NO STORAGE ABOVE THIS LINE". The storage height limit will be measured to the bottom of the line.

3. A permanent red sign or sticker, on every wall inside each storage unit, at least 18 inches wide and 3-1/2 inches in height with the following information provided:
    - 3/4-inch white letters with a 1/8-inch stroke that read, "NO STORAGE PERMITTED ABOVE THIS LINE BY ORDER OF FIRE DEPT."
    - 1/4-inch horizontal white line shall be across the bottom of the sign that will be placed at the storage height limit.

Questions regarding specific applications should be addressed to OCFA plan review staff.