



# City of Phoenix

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

## Explanatory Policy – Shade Structures Over Playground Equipment

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Shade Structures Over Playground Equipment	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> March 25, 2016 July 19, 2019
<b>REFERENCES:</b> The Phoenix Fire Code (2018 Edition) Sections 903.1, 903.3.1.1.5, 1103.5.5	<b>REVIEW DATE:</b> July 2022
<b>APPROVED:</b>	
 John Mertens, Fire Marshal	

**Scope:**  
The exception found in the Bret Tarver Sprinkler Ordinance may be applied to detached shade structures provided over playground equipment, playing surfaces and other similar uses associated with schools, parks and outside recreational facilities.

Shade structures over play areas and associated with parks, are not required to be protected by automatic sprinkler protection, provided:

1. No other Occupancy Classification is assigned to the space by the Building Department.
2. They are constructed from the limited or non-combustible materials noted in exceptions of 903.3.1.1.5.
3. They are less than 5,000 sq. ft. in size, and
4. They are more than 5 feet detached from the nearest structures.
5. Guide wires attached to adjacent structures are acceptable if no structure is within a 5-foot radius.

**Explanation:**  
Play area shade structures are subject to the same requirements as gasoline dispensing canopies are subject to. The protection requirement exceptions for Group U occupancies under 5,000 sq. ft.

Shade structures of any construction material are not required to be protected, provided:

1. They are 30 feet away from any structure
2. No other Occupancy Classification assigned to the space by the Building Department.
3. They are less than 5,000 sq. ft. in size



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This follows fire separation requirements of Table 602 of the Building Code and requirements of not sprinklering parking canopies under 5,000 sq. ft. in area.

Combustible construction within 30' of a building is subject to the separation requirements of Table 602 of the Phoenix Building Code.

Structures over 5,000 sq. ft. which receive an occupancy classification, by the Building Department, are subject to the sprinkler requirements of the Bret Tarver Ordinance.