

CARRBORO FIRE-RESCUE  
DEPARTMENT  
CARRBORO, NORTH CAROLINA



January 31, 2008

The Carrboro Fire-Rescue Department serves the area where the Estates at Old Oxford are proposed to be built. As with all new subdivisions and commercial buildings that are constructed within the South Orange Fire District, water supply has been a major problem and this will continue due to the Urban Services Boundary constraints.

The North Carolina Fire Code, 2006 edition, Section 508.1 Required water supply. "An approved water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to premises upon which facilities, buildings or portions of buildings are hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction."

This is state law requiring an on-site water flow capable of suppressing the largest fire that could occur. In this case, a residential house fire, fully involved.

An exception to this water supply requirement is to provide a fire suppression system to handle a small fire early instead of waiting for it to exceed our capabilities. The North Carolina Administration and Enforcement Code, 2006 edition, Section 205.1 allows for a nationally recognized standard to be implemented and assist in protecting these structures where a suitable water supply is not available. National Fire Protection Association, (NFPA 13-D), Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes is the answer of choice. This standard has been protecting lives and property without any loss of life due to a fire since its inception in 1975.

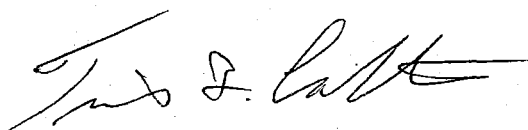
In addition, OWASA has stated that we are currently at 40% capacity in our reservoirs. A home with a sprinkler system will only use approximately one-tenth of the water, compared to a home without sprinklers, during a firefighting operation. When talking conservation with a reduced water supply, this is a major step toward saving one of our major natural resources.

The North Carolina Fire Code, 2006 Edition, Appendix B, Section B105.1 is an example of a nationally recognized standard that could be used for determining the required fire flow. It states that a residential home up to 3,600 square feet must

have at least 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm) available. Homes larger than this will require additional water based upon their square footage (1,500 gpm for 3,601 sq ft).

The closest fire hydrant currently provides 840 gpm according to OWASA's most recent flow test data. If this subdivision is allowed to be built without a residential sprinkler system in each home, the Carrboro Fire-Rescue Department and other local fire departments are being set up for failure of our primary mission "Protecting the People We Serve."

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis L. Crabtree". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Travis L. Crabtree, CFPS  
Town of Carrboro Fire - Rescue Department  
Fire-Rescue Chief