

# IDLE PALLET STORAGE



*Did you know that using plastic pallets instead of wood pallets can affect how well your sprinkler system operates?*

*If ignited, plastic pallets can quickly overwhelm your sprinkler system if it's not designed to extinguish burning plastic pellets.*

*Contact the Fort Wainwright Fire Prevention Office for further guidance.*

*907-353-9134 or 9133,  
9140, 9141 Fire Inspectors:  
Vockert, Hosier, Chapman,  
Bryant and Hemmings*

*AC of Fire Prevention*

*John Serrato*

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*Fire Prevention Office 1049  
Chena Road Apt. 9/10 Fort  
Wainwright AK., 99703*



Improperly stored or improperly protected pallets can add a significant fuel load to any facility and can also overwhelm the sprinkler system. Stacking idle pallets in piles is the best arrangement of combustibles to promote rapid fire spread and is one of the greatest challenges to sprinklers (NFPA 13).

The safest place for idle pallets is outside and way from the building or in an exterior building or trailer. The least desirable location for idle pallets is an open storage area within a main building. Here in Alaska it is not always practical to store pallets outside, therefore the Fort Wainwright Fire Prevention office has developed this checklist to assist you in safely managing your pallet storage.

# FORT WAINWRIGHT FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

## IDLE PALLET STORAGE

### GENERAL

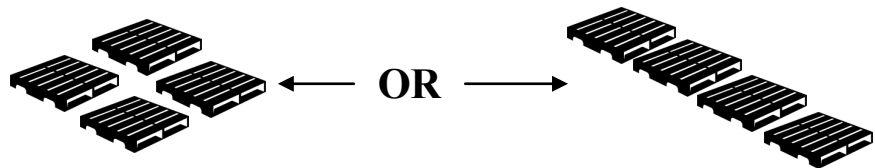
- ◇ Arrange pallets in stable piles and in an orderly fashion
- ◇ Store pallets flat, not on edge
- ◇ Pallet storage must be separated from other storage areas, not blocking a means of egress and located away from building structural supports

### OUTSIDE STORAGE

- ◇ Pallets must be located away from the building and other outside storage with at least 30 feet of clearance for up to 200 pallets and at least 50 feet of clearance for storage of more than 200 pallets

### INSIDE STORAGE - WOOD PALLETS

- ◇ Floor storage limited to 6 feet in height and each area contains no more than four stacks (50 square feet)



- ◇ Contact the Fire Prevention office for stacks over 6 feet to ensure the sprinkler head rating is appropriate for the stack height
- ◇ Must be separated from other pallet pile stacks by at least 8 feet
- ◇ Must be separated from commodity storage by at least 25 feet
- ◇ Rack storage ONLY permitted with Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinkler system
- ◇ Max ceiling height is either 20/30 feet depending on sprinkler type

### INSIDE STORAGE - PLASTIC PALLETS

- ◇ Floor storage limited to 10 feet in height and building must be protected with a sprinkler system specifically designed for them
- ◇ Rack storage ONLY permitted with Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinkler system

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further guidance. 907-353-9134  
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