

[F] 903.2.9.1 Repair garages. An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided throughout all buildings used as repair garages in accordance with Section 406, as shown:

1. Buildings having two or more stories above grade plane, including basements, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding 10,000 square feet.
2. Buildings no more than one story above grade plane, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding ~~12,000~~ 40,000 square feet, **provided the building meets all of the following:**
 - a. The building is surrounded by yards or public ways not less than sixty feet..
 - b. The building is provided a minimum of four exits.
 - c. The travel distance to any exit does not exceed seventy-five feet.
 - d. The building is a minimum of Type B construction.
3. Buildings with repair garages servicing vehicles parked in basements.
4. A Group S-1 fire area used for the repair of commercial trucks or buses where the fire area exceeds ~~5,000~~ 40,000 square feet, **provided the building meets all of the following:**
 - a. The building is surrounded by yards or public ways not less than sixty feet..
 - b. The building is provided a minimum of four exits.
 - c. The travel distance to any exit does not exceed seventy-five feet.
 - d. The building is a minimum of Type B construction.

Reason:

The intent of Item 4. is the fact repair garages servicing trucks and buses are usually associated with an A-3 Occupancy as is found in bus depots and truck stops such as waiting areas or dining areas which have a greater occupant load but not large enough to warrant an automatic fire suppression system.

Given the oil exploration in Montana many of the repair garages for oil field equipment are remotely located, have no dining or large waiting areas and are situated on parcels of land which allow for greater distances from property lines. Along with this exploration and development of rural and farm lands, many in the agricultural business can afford new equipment, which requires repair and maintenance. Given the physical size of this equipment coupled with the fact many machinery parts are not on hand and must be ordered, this equipment may sit idle in the shop taking up valuable space prohibiting other equipment from being repaired.