

## REPAIR HOLES IN REQUIRED FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

Violation #25

### CODE SECTIONS

*International Fire Code 2012 Edition*

**703.1 Maintenance.** The required *fire-resistance rating* of fire-resistance-rated construction (including walls, firestops, shaft enclosures, partitions, *smoke barriers*, floors, fire-resistive coatings and sprayed fire-resistant materials applied to structural members and fire-resistant joint systems) shall be maintained. Such elements shall be visually inspected by the *owner* annually and properly repaired, restored or replaced when damaged, altered, breached or penetrated. Where concealed, such elements shall not be required to be visually inspected by the *owner* unless the concealed space is accessible by the removal or movement of a panel, access door, ceiling tile or similar movable entry to the space. Openings made therein for the passage of pipes, electrical conduit, wires, ducts, air transfer openings and holes made for any reason shall be protected with *approved* methods capable of resisting the passage of smoke and fire. Openings through fire-resistance-rated assemblies shall be protected by self- or automatic-closing doors of *approved* construction meeting the fire protection requirements for the assembly.

**703.1.1 Fire Blocking and draft stopping.** Required *fire-blocking* and draft stopping in combustible concealed spaces shall be maintained to provide continuity and integrity of the construction.

**703.1.2 Smoke barriers.** Required *smoke barriers* and smoke partitions shall be maintained to prevent the passage of smoke. All openings protected with *approved* smoke barrier doors or smoke dampers shall be maintained in accordance with NFPA 105.

**703.1.3 Fire walls, fire barriers and fire partitions.** Required *fire walls*, *fire barriers* and *fire partitions* shall be maintained to prevent the passage of fire. All openings protected with *approved* doors or fire dampers shall be maintained in accordance with NFPA 80.

For permits to repair, replace or restore required fire resistive construction, see Building code.

### EXPLANATION

Whenever fire-resistive walls, draft stops, ceilings, or roof coverings are damaged, repairs must be completed to maintain their integrity and fire-resistiveness. The repair must return the construction to its original fire-rating and shall utilize products listed for such use.

### RATIONALE

The fire-resistive walls and construction in your building were required to be installed to keep fire from spreading throughout your business and/or to other buildings. When damage or alterations, such as holes, penetrations, and additions to these walls, ceilings, and roof coverings occur, the wall or roof can no longer contain a fire. Repairs must be made to the wall, ceiling or roof that will return the fire-resistive nature of the wall to its original rating. Not only will this require quality repairs, but also utilizing materials that are listed for the repair of the fire-resistive construction.