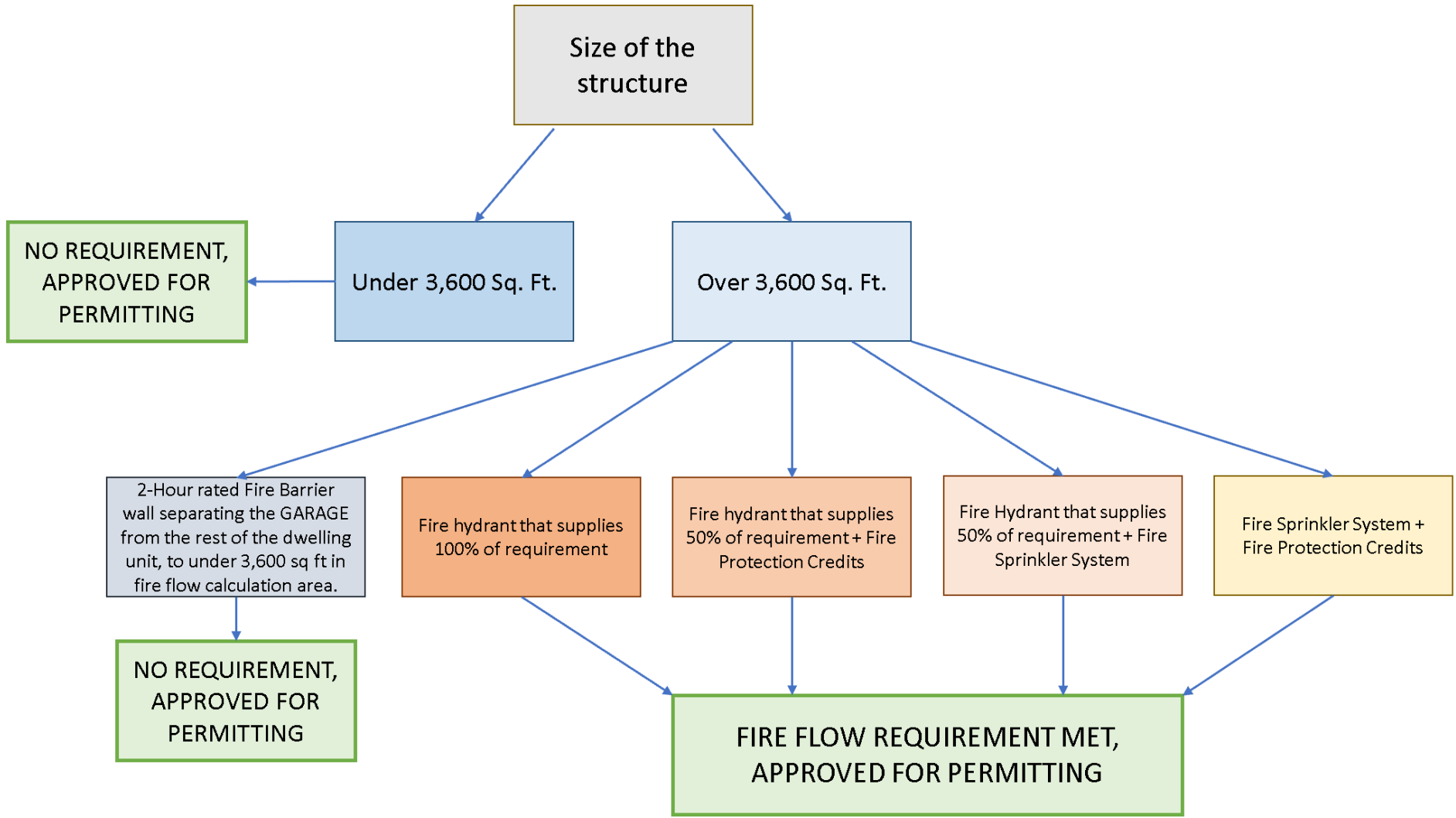




**Fire Prevention and Investigation**  
***CHELAN COUNTY***  
STATE OF WASHINGTON

**FLOW CHART FOR DETERMINING FIRE FLOW FOR A RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE**





## Fire Prevention and Investigation *CHELAN COUNTY* STATE OF WASHINGTON

**The following information is explanatory in nature and does not supersede any code requirements but is meant to act as Frequently Asked Questions guide.**

### **What is Fire Flow?**

Fire Flow is determined specifically for a structure, it is the minimum amount of water the Fire Department needs to use to extinguish if the structure was to catch on fire. This requirement is traditionally met with a Fire Hydrant. When a parcel the structure is being built upon is not located close enough to an adequate Fire Hydrant, then alternatives are offered.

### **What is my Fire-flow calculation area?**

It is the total square footage of the structure to include the garages, decks, porches, carports, overhangs, and anything under a roof (horizontal projection).

### **How else can I reduce my Fire Flow?**

You can reduce your fire flow requirement by reducing your fire flow calculation area, the lower the calculation area of the structure, the lower the fire flow requirement.

Another option to reduce your fire flow area is to separate the garage from the rest of your structure with a 2-hour fire barrier in accordance with the International Building Code. This is a case-by-case basis, the fire barrier can only be utilized vertically as a wall, the barrier cannot be utilized as a ceiling. This is a common method used by applicants to reduce their Fire Flow below 3,600 square ft.

### **Do I need a permit to have a sprinkler system installed?**

Yes, a sprinkler contractor can find applications for a permit that are available on our website at: <https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/fire-prevention-and-investigation/pages/documents-and-forms>

### **Where can I find a certified sprinkler contractor?**

The Washington State Patrol, State Fire Marshal's Office keeps track of sprinkler contractors and their respective level of certification and can be viewed here: <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire-sprinklers/>