



MARGIE R IBARRA
COUNTY CLERK
FILED

2023 APR -5 PM 2:47

WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

BY *KC* DEPUTY

WEBB COUNTY FIRE CODE

ADOPTED: March 27, 2023
EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2023

WEBB COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF WEBB §

ORDER NO. 03-27-2023-21
WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

ADOPTING
THE WEBB COUNTY FIRE CODE

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 233 as amended, authorizes counties to adopt a fire code and the regulations necessary to administer and enforce it, including requiring building permits; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Webb County finds that fires have occurred in the past within its jurisdiction and are likely to occur in the future, and that damage to property and loss of life occurs for many reasons, including fire that could have been prevented or minimized by providing additional safeguards to provide adequate egress time and protections for people exposed to fire; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Fire Code is to provide minimum requirement, with due regard to function, for the design and construction or substantial improvement of public buildings, commercial establishments, and multi-family residential dwellings consisting of four or more units to reduce the risk to life and property from fire; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Webb County finds that adopting a fire code and requiring permits for construction of commercial establishments, public buildings, and multi-family dwelling with four or more units in the unincorporated areas of Webb County, Texas, allows the County to impose standards to protect the health, safety, welfare and property of the general public;

WHEREAS, the Webb County Fire Marshall has reviewed several model fire codes and has recommended the Commissioners Court adopt the International Fire Code 2021, with certain changes to its wording as provided in Addendum 1 to the Webb County Fire Code; and

WHEREAS, upon adoption of the County Fire Code by the Commissioners Court, the Webb County Fire Marshall Office shall inspect a building subject to section 233.064(a) of the Texas Local Government Code to determine whether the building complies with the County Fire Code; and

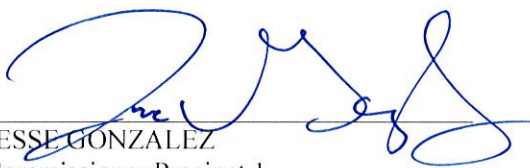
WHEREAS, the Webb County Fire Marshall's office shall issue permits for such inspections and collect fees according to the fee schedule adopted in the Fire Code.

ACCORDINGLY, THE WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, by ORDER, adopts the following Fire Code for Webb County.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 27th DAY OF March, 2023




TANO E. TIJERINA
County Judge



JESSE GONZALEZ
Commissioner Precinct 1

ROSAURA "WAWI" TIJERINA
Commissioners Precinct 2



JOHN GALO
Commissioners Precinct 3



RICARDO A. JAIME
Commissioner Precinct 4

WEBB COUNTY FIRE CODE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS 4

Section 1.01. Title 4

Section 1.02. Authority 4

Section 1.03. Application and Purpose of Fire Code 4

Section 1.04. Definitions..... 5

CHAPTER 2. FIRE CODE REGULATION AND REFERENCED CODES & STANDARDS 8

Section 2.01. Code Regulation..... 8

Section 2.02. Referenced Codes and Standards..... 8

CHAPTER 3. WEBB COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL..... 9

Section 3.01 Duties of Fire Marshall..... 9

CHAPTER 4. PERMITS AND APPLICATION FOR, CONSTRUCTION PROVISIONS, AND INSPECTIONS OF NEW BUILDINGS OR SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO EXISTING BUILDINGS..... 10

Section 4.01. Building Permits Required 10

Section 4.02. Application for Building Permit for Construction or Substantial Improvement..... 10

Section 4.03. Determination of Building Permit Eligibility 12

Section 4.04. Term of Permits..... 12

Section 4.05. Construction Provisions 13

Section 4.06. Construction Permit Holder Responsibilities..... 13

Section 4.07. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE 13

CHAPTER 6 FIRE SUPPRESSION OR DETECTION SYSTEM PERMITS..... 18

Section 6.01 Fire Protection System Permits	18
Chapter 7. FIREWORKS.....	21
Section 7.01 Fireworks Activity.....	21
CHAPTER 8 FEES	23
Section 8.1 Fees for Permits and Inspections.....	23
CHAPTER 9. VARIANCES.....	23
Section 9.01 Variances.....	23
CHAPTER 10. REVIEW BY COMMISSIONERS COURT	24
Section 10.1. APPEAL TO COMMISSIONERS COURT.....	24
CHAPTER 11. ENFORCEMENT.....	25
Section 11.01 Violations.....	25
Section 11.03 Criminal Remedies	25
CHAPTER 12 FORMS AND RECORDS.....	26
Section 12.01 Forms.....	26
Section 12.02 Maintenance of Records.....	26
CHAPTER 13 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY	26
CHAPTER 14. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS	26
ADDENDUM 1	29
Webb County Fire Code Amendments to 2021 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE®	29
CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION.....	29
CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS.....	30
CHAPTER 3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.....	32
CHAPTER 4 EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS SECTION 403 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REQUIREMENTS	36

CHAPTER 5 FIRE SERVICE FEATURES.....37

CHAPTER 6 BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS SECTION 41

CHAPTER 8 INTERIOR FINISH, DECORATIVE MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS 42

CHAPTER 9 FIRE PROTECTION AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS.....43

CHAPTER 10 MEANS OF EGRESS..... 56

CHAPTER 11 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS..... 58

CHAPTER 23 MOTOR FUEL-DISPENSING FACILITIES AND REPAIR GARAGES 58

CHAPTER 24 FLAMMABLE FINISHES 59

CHAPTER 56 EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS..... 59

**CHAPTER 57 FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS SECTION 5703 GENERAL
REQUIREMENTS..... 60**

CHAPTER 61 LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GASES 61

ADDENDUM 2 Inspection and Permit Fee Schedule..... 64

WEBB COUNTY FIRE CODE

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.01. Title

These regulations adopted by the Webb County Commissioners Court will be known as the “Webb County Fire Code”, hereafter referred to as the “Fire Code” or “this Code”.

Section 1.02. Authority

- a) Under Chapter 233, Subchapter C, Texas Local Government Code, the Commissioners Court is authorized to adopt a Fire Code and the rules necessary to enforce the Fire Code.
- b) The Fire Code applies to Webb County and the jurisdiction for its enforcement shall be the unincorporated areas of Webb County, Texas, after its effective date of adoption.
- c) As part of the Fire Code and as provided under Chapter 352, Subchapter B, Texas Local Government Code, the Webb County Commissioners Court hereby establishes the “Office of County Fire Marshal” which is constituted as a department of Webb County under the direction of the Webb County Fire Marshal.
- d) As also provided under Chapter 352, Subchapter B, Texas Local Government Code, the Webb County Commissioners Court establishes the term of office of the Fire Marshal to be a term not to exceed two (2) years.
- e) Unless otherwise provided herein, the Webb County Commissioners Court, appoints and delegates the powers and duties to direct and enforce the Fire Code to the Webb County Fire Marshal (also known as “*County Fire Marshal*” or “*Fire Code Official*”) who is responsible for the administration of the Fire Code, issuance of permits, and certificates of compliance required by the Fire Code.
- f) The Commissioners Court of Webb County authorizes the county Fire Marshal to establish Amendments, with Commissioners Court approval, to the Fire Code as necessary for its enforcement.

Section 1.03. Application and Purpose of Fire Code

- a) The Fire Code is intended to provide minimum requirements for fire safety, with due regard to function, for the Design and Construction or Substantial Improvements to any Public Buildings, Commercial Establishments, and Multi-Family Dwellings with four or more units, as determined by the current property designation identified by the Webb County Appraisal District in order to reduce the risk to life and property from fire and other

hazards.

- b) The Fire Code is not intended to be a building code as described in the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 214 and does not evaluate structural, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical suitability, unless it is directly related to fire safety.
- c) The Fire Code recognizes fire safety in regards to operation and use of buildings and structures after construction, whether or not their construction was subject to the Fire Code, shall be enforced independent of the Fire Code by the Webb County Fire Marshal in accordance with applicable law, including but not limited to the Fire Marshal's authority to inspect for the presence of fire and life safety hazards and order their correction under Chapter 352 of the Texas Local Government Code.
- d) The Fire Code is not intended in any way to limit the statutory authority of the Fire Marshal, and it is intended that such authority be retained to the fullest extent that the law would authorize.
- e) The Fire Code is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing laws, regulations, easements, covenants or deed restrictions. If provisions of the Fire Code where the Fire Code and other legal requirements conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restriction shall prevail.
- f) A person may not construct or substantially improve a Building in the unincorporated areas of Webb County unless a building permit is issued in accordance with the Fire Code.
- g) A building permit issued under the Fire Code will specify the required fire protection system(s); required work authorization(s) that the building must have, and the building permit holder or their designee must obtain a permit for each required system or regulated work authorization.
- h) This Fire Code does not apply to an industrial facility that the Webb County Fire Marshal determines qualifies for the exception specified in Texas Local Government Code Section 233.062(b). The Webb County Fire Marshal shall have the authority to seek the assistance of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration in making a determination regarding an industrial facility.
- i) The requirements of this Code do not apply to an agricultural building used specifically to produce or process food products, or shelter livestock, or shelter tools and equipment essential to farm or ranch operations or activity.

Section 1.04 Definitions

- a) **"Building,"** unless otherwise noted, refers to a commercial establishment, a public

building, or a multifamily dwelling consisting of four or more units.

- 1). "Commercial Establishment": a place where goods and commodities or services are provided, displayed, exchanged, sold or bought.
 - 2). "Public Building": a place in which the possession and/or use, as well as the property in it, gives members of the public free access or use and includes buildings in which the public may enter, including where an entry fee is charged, or otherwise classified as an "occupiable space".
 - 3). "Multi-Family Dwelling": any residential structure consisting of four (4) or more residential dwelling units. A dwelling unit is any single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions of living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.
- b) "**Certificate of Compliance**" means a certificate issued by the Fire Code Official indicating Construction or Substantial Improvement on a building or premises has been completed or in compliance with the Fire Code as of a specific date and allowing use of the building or premises for a specific occupancy. A Certificate of Compliance can also mean a certificate issued by the county Fire Marshal indicating a building or premises after inspection has been found in compliance with this Code after there has been a change of use, change of ownership, or change of assumed business name from a prior Certificate of Compliance for the building or premises. A Certificate of Compliance shall not be construed as authorizing the owner or operator of any Building to afterward operate or maintain such Building in such a way as to create, cause or allow the existence of a fire or life safety condition, which condition shall be subject to the independent enforcement authority of the County Fire Marshal.
- c) "**Certificate of Non-Compliance**" means a certificate issued by the Fire Code Official indicating construction or substantial improvement on a building is not in compliance with the Fire Code as of a specific date. This certificate may be filed with Real Property Records as outlined in Chapter 11 ("Enforcement") of this Code.
- d) For purposes of this code, "**Construction**" begins on the date that ground is broken for a Building, or if no ground is broken, on the date that:
- the first materials are added to the original property;
 - foundation pilings are installed on the original property; or
 - a manufactured building or relocated structure is placed on a foundation on the original property.
- e) "**Fire Code Official**" means the Webb County Fire Marshal or a designee of such individual; however, only the duly appointed Webb County Fire Marshal has the authority

to overrule his or her subordinates or grant variances before applicants for permits or variances may make written objections (appeals) to the Webb County Commissioners Court.

- f) **"Permit"** An official document or certificate issued by the County Fire Marshal that authorizes performance of a specified activity or use of a specified installation or equipment. Any such permission shall not be construed as authority to violate, cancel, or set aside any other provisions of the Fire Code or other applicable regulations or laws.
- g) **"Person"** means any individual or group of individuals, corporation, partnership, association, limited liability company, or any other organized group of persons. "Person" does not include a State Agency that is authorized to prevent and extinguish forest and grass fires.
- h) **"Substantial Improvement"** means:
 - 1) the repair, restoration, reconstruction, improvement, or remodeling of a Building for which the cost exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the Building's value according to the certified tax appraisal roll for the county for the year preceding the year in which the work was begun; or
 - 2) the repair, restoration, reconstruction, improvement, or remodeling of a Building that involves thirty percent (30%) or more of the total square footage of the original building; as a measured, prior to the work proceeding; or
 - 3) a change in occupancy classification involving a change in the purpose or level of activity in a Building; or
 - 4) Any alteration of a structure that modifies any component of the means of egress (exit, exit access or exit discharge) or required fire protection system(s).

For purpose of the Fire Code, a Substantial Improvement begins on the date that the repair, restoration, reconstruction, improvement, remodeling, alteration, or the change in occupancy classification begins or on the date materials are first delivered for that purpose. For purposes of determining if an improvement is a Substantial Improvement, the applicant for a permit must submit data reflecting cost of the restoration, reconstruction, improvement or remodeling. Costs shall include the value of all labor and materials.

- i) **"System"** means fire alarm, fire extinguishing, smoke control system or other fire control and protection system.
- j) **"Unincorporated Area"** means any real property in Webb County which is not within

an incorporated area of a city, town, or village.

- k) **"Webb County Fire Marshal"** means the holder of the statutory office of County Fire Marshal for Webb County, Texas, or employee(s) designated by the Webb County Fire Marshal to perform a task required by this Code.

CHAPTER 2. FIRE CODE REGULATION AND REFERENCED CODES & STANDARDS

Section 2.01. Code Regulation

- a) Except for the deletions and changes identified in Addendum I to the Webb County Fire Code, the Webb County Fire Code ("*Fire Code*") shall conform to the fire code as published by the International Code Council® (ICC) as the code exists on the date of adoption of this Code by the Commissioners Court; and establish protective measures that exceed the standards of the Fire Code described herein. The current publication from the International Code Council (ICC) is the *International Fire Code*®, 2021 Edition and as revisions are released from time to time. A complete copy of the *International Fire Code*®, 2021 Edition is on file in the Webb County Fire Marshal's Office.

Section 2.02. Referenced Codes and Standards

- a) The design and construction of new structures shall comply with this Fire Code, and other codes as applicable when referenced in this Fire Code. Any alterations, additions, changes in use, or changes in structures, new or existing structures are required to comply with this Code which is within the scope of this and other referenced codes and shall be made in accordance therewith.
- b) The Webb County Fire Code ("*Fire Code*") is comprised of the provisions contained in:
 - 1) this Fire Code meaning the "Webb County Fire Code as adopted by the Webb County Commissioners Court and any subsequent amendments to this document that may be made from time-to-time by the Webb County Commissioners Court; and
 - 2) the codes and standards in the referenced document known as the *International Fire Code*®, 2021 Edition, including Chapter 80 "Referenced Standards", and Appendices B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J as published by the International Code Council, except for the portions that have been made as additions, insertions, deletions or changes in the Amendments to the *International Fire Code*®, 2021 Edition by this Code and any other referenced

codes and standards that apply to the unincorporated areas of Webb County;
and

- 3) this Fire Code recognizes the *International Building Code*®, 2015 Edition, as the standard for establishing the minimum requirements on design and construction through structural strength, means of egress facilities and stability of new buildings to safeguard for fire and life safety and other hazards attributed to the built environment and provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations, therefore the *International Building Code*®, 2015 Edition is made part of this Code in full volume and reference including Chapter 35 “Referenced Standards” and Appendices C,E,F,G,H,J, and K; and
 - 4) this Fire Code recognizes the International Code Council® Model Codes; *International Mechanical Code*® (IMC), *International Plumbing Code*® (IPC), *International Fuel Gas Code*® (IFGC), and the *International Existing Building Code*® (IEBC), 2015 Editions, as adopted by the State of Texas when referenced by this Fire Code and recognized as also part of this Fire Code; and
 - 5) this Fire Code may refer to the standards specified in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) *NFPA 70 National Electric Code*® as the standard work with the model codes. The State of Texas has adopted the NFPA 70 as the State’s Electrical Code. The *NFPA 70 National Electric Code*® is recognized as a part of this Fire Code; and
 - 6) this Fire Code may refer to the standard specified in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code*®. The current publication recognized by the State is the 2015 Edition, and this Fire Code recognizes the current edition as part of this Code and any subsequent editions published by the National Fire Protection Association that may be released and recognized by the State of Texas after the adoption of this Fire Code.
- c) this Fire Code may refer to standards from any publications in this section for an alternative method of obtaining the desired level of fire protection to ensure life safety and property conservation on new construction, or the regulation of buildings constructed prior to the effective date of the Fire Code. If conditions exist where full fire protection cannot meet code requirements alternative methods of life safety and fire protection may be presented to the fire code official for review. Life safety features will not be compromised or reduced by the use of alternative methods of fire protection.

CHAPTER 3. WEBB COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL

Section 3.01 Duties of Fire Marshall

- a) The Fire Marshal's Office shall enforce the Fire Code and,
 - 1) The Fire Marshal shall be known as the Chief of the Webb County Fire Marshal's Office and is responsible not only for enforcement of the Fire Code but also for the administration of this Fire Code, issuance of permits and certificates required by this Fire Code, granting of variances, and maintenance of proper records.
 - 2) The Chief and his/her designees shall have the authority of and function as the Fire Code Officials for the unincorporated areas of Webb County.

CHAPTER 4. PERMITS AND APPLICATION FOR, CONSTRUCTION PROVISIONS, AND INSPECTIONS OF NEW BUILDINGS OR SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO EXISTING BUILDINGS

Section 4.01. Building Permits Required

No person shall perform or authorize Construction or make Substantial Improvements to a Building, as defined in Section 1.04 of this Fire Code, in the unincorporated areas of Webb County without first securing a Building permit issued in accordance with this Fire Code. The review for Fire Code compliance to obtain a construction permit does not include any plan review that may be required by the Webb County Engineering Department or other County Departments.

Section 4.02. Application for Building Permit for Construction or Substantial Improvement

- a) The Fire Code Official or their designees, is authorized to receive applications, review construction documents and site plans and issue permits for construction regulated by this Fire Code, issue permits for operations regulated by this Fire Code, inspect the premises for which such permits have been issued and enforce compliance with the provisions of this Fire Code.
- b) A person may not construct or substantially improve a building in the unincorporated areas of Webb County unless the person obtains a building permit issued in accordance with this Fire Code.
- c) To obtain a building permit for the Construction or Substantial Improvement of a Building in the unincorporated area of Webb County the applicant must:
 - 1) complete an application for a permit on a form prescribed by the Fire Code Official;

- 2) provide the Fire Code Official with one complete set of construction documents and/or plans drawn to scale for the proposed Building or Substantial Improvement containing all specifications, including the following:
 - (i) the types of construction materials and class of interior finish, including fire rated construction;
 - (ii) the location of all exits with distances between exits called out-exit width, type and any special requirement shall be stated;
 - (iii) the location of any fire alarm equipment, automatic sprinklers, emergency lighting, and any other necessary safety measures required to meet this Fire Code;
 - (iv) the location of fire lanes, if applicable;
 - (v) the location of fire hydrants, fire protection systems, and the hydraulic calculations for fire hydrant systems and fire protection systems; and
 - (vi) identification of fire hazards and the means of egress;

- d) Pay a nonrefundable permit application fee in the amount set by the Fee Schedule as set out in this Fire Code, "Webb County Permit Fee Schedule", which is attached as Addendum 2, and may include:
 - 1) a Construction Permit fee which shall include the Fire Marshal's initial review of submitted building plans to ensure compliance with the adopted Fire Code, and which shall include issuance of a Construction Permit and the Fire Marshal's stated number of planned construction site visits or inspections. This fee only includes the plan review for Fire Code compliance and does not include any plan review that the County Engineering Department or other County departments may require;
 - 2) a Re-Submittal of Plans fee if an applicant re-submits plans for review after the Fire Marshal has already conducted a plan review and issued a Construction Permit. No additional fee shall be charged if an applicant makes changes to a submitted building plan before the Fire Marshal's issuance of a Construction Permit;
 - 3) a Site Plan Submittal fee which includes the Fire Marshal's review of the site plans for a property for compliance with the adopted Fire Code;
 - 4) a Work Done Without Permit fee is charged when an applicant requires a construction building plan review or site/civil plan review without first obtaining a Construction Permit; and
 - 5) in limited circumstances, an applicant may make a request to the Fire Marshal for an expedited review. If approved, an Expedited Plan Review fee will be due to complete a plan review within five (5) business days of submittal of all Permit application materials, pending approval by the County Fire Marshal. Additional requirements for plan submittal may be applicable as determined by the Fire Marshal. The Fire Marshal reserves the right at any time to require

more than five (5) days to complete the expedited review request and will notify an applicant in advance of any changes. The Fire Marshal reserves the right to deny an expedited review request for any reason.

Section 4.03. Determination of Building Permit Eligibility

- a) **Within thirty (30) days after the date the Fire Code Official receives an application, construction documents and/or site plans, and the application fee in accordance with this Chapter, the Fire Code Official must:**
- 1) issue the building permit if the application and required attachments comply with the Fire Code; or
 - 2) Deny the building permit because of noncompliance with this Fire Code. All fees paid are non-refundable.
- b) If the Fire Code Official receives the required application, documents and fee in accordance with section 4.02(c)&(d)(1), and the Fire Code Official does not issue the building permit or denies the application within thirty (30) days after receiving the required items, the Construction or Substantial Improvement of the Building that is the subject of the application is approved for the purposes of this Code.
- c) The applicant may submit the construction documents and/or plans to a third party for review that is licensed in the State of Texas, specializing in fire protection plan review services that are not associated with the applicant or the applicant's designer, architect or contractor. One (1) copy that has been reviewed by a third party must be submitted to the Fire Code Official for final review and approval prior to Construction. This part does not waive or exempt any fees or charges that are associated with the Fee Schedule of this Code.
- d) The provisions of this Code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this Fire Code, provided that any such alteration has been approved by the Fire Code Official. The Fire Code Official is authorized to approve an alternative material or method of construction where the Fire Code Official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this Fire Code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this Fire Code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety. *See Section 104.9 of the International Fire Code®*, 2021.

Section 4.04 Term of Permits

Construction of a Building or a Substantial Improvement must be started within 180 days of the date the Building permit is issued or approved in accordance with Section 4.03(b) otherwise, the

Building permit shall be null and void and a new Building permit is required.

Section 4.05. Construction Provisions

- a) The submitted construction documents standard will be 24" x 36" on suitable material and include design standards as recommended by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), National Institute of Building Science (NIBS), or equivalent, and indicate conformance to this Fire Code and all relevant laws, rules, and regulations. The construction documents submitted will be accompanied by a site plan, to scale, showing the lot lines, size and location of new construction, and any existing structures on the site. An electronic media copy of the plan set standard will be accepted with one paper set. The construction documents and site plan shall be signed and sealed by a Texas Licensed Professional Engineer, a Texas Licensed Architect, or a Design Professional Registered with the Texas Board of Architects.
- b) Based on the complexity of the development project additional details to the construction documents may be required by the fire code official. A detailed list of requirements may be provided upon request.

Section 4.06. Construction Permit Holder Responsibilities

- a) **Display of Construction Permit.** All Construction Permit holders must post a copy of the permit on the jobsite in a place clearly visible from the nearest road or street and in a manner meeting the requirements of the standards for permanent numbers set forth in *International Fire Code*®, 2021 Edition.
- b) **Changes to Proposed Buildings and Substantial Improvements.** Any permit holder that wishes to make a change to a proposed building or substantial improvement, or to construct any building or substantial improvement in a manner other than that specified in the Construction Permit, must submit supplemental drawings and/or specifications to the Webb County Fire Marshal for review and approval. Any changes must comply with this Fire Code, and if approved, a copy of the supplemental drawings and/or specifications shall be added to the Permit Holder's file, and the Webb County Fire Marshal shall amend the Permit accordingly. Additional fees may apply.

Section 4.07. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

- a) **Certificate of Compliance Required.** A building may not be used or occupied until a final, conditional, or partial certificate of compliance for the building is issued by the County Fire Marshal. Permit holder must apply to the County Fire Marshall for a Certificate of Compliance and pay the applicable fees. The County Fire Marshal shall notify the applicant for a Certificate of Compliance in writing

of any limitations or restrictions necessary to keep the permit area safe. Thus, after construction or a substantial improvement is completed for a building or premises, the County Fire Marshal shall inspect the building or premises to issue a Certificate of Compliance before the building or premises may be occupied or put into intended use.

- b) **Changes Requiring New Certificate of Compliance.** An inspection and new Certificate of Compliance is required if there is any change from a previously issued certificate of compliance for (1) a property's use, (2) ownership, or (3) change of assumed business name for a property.
- c) **Conditional Certificate of Compliance (CCC):** In limited circumstances, the Fire Marshal may allow for a Conditional Certificate of Compliance for limited use of a structure or portion of a building under a valid building permit issued by the Fire Marshal's Office provided the area has been inspected and found to comply with the adopted Fire Code. This CCC is valid for up to 30 days. A final Certificate of Compliance must be obtained within this 30-day period. This request must be made in writing to the Fire Marshal's Office.
- d) The holder of a Conditional or partial Certificate of Compliance shall proceed only to the point for which approval has been given, at the permit holder's own risk and without assurance that approval for the occupancy or the utilization of the entire premises, equipment, or operation will be granted.
- e) A Certificate of Compliance issued under this Fire Code shall not be construed as to authorize the owner or operator of any building to afterward operate or maintain such building in such a way as to create, cause or allow the existence of a fire or life safety condition, which condition shall be subject to the independent enforcement authority of the County Fire Marshal.
- f) **Application for Certificate of Compliance.** An application for a certificate of compliance as described in this Section 4.07 will be on a form and in a manner of delivery determined by the Webb County Fire Marshal. A fee for Working Without a Permit may be assessed if the applicant has engaged in activity or used an installation or equipment without obtaining the proper permit from the Fire Marshal.
- g) **Determination of Certificate Eligibility:** After the application is filed, the Webb County Fire Marshal shall determine if the building or premises meets the requirements of the Webb County Fire Code for a Certificate.
 - (1) If it is determined that the proposed building or substantial improvement meets the Fire Code requirements, then a Certificate of Compliance will be issued after the collection of the appropriate fees as set out in this Fire Code,

“Webb County Permit Fee Schedule”, which is attached as Addendum 2, and is incorporated and made part of the Fire Code.

- (2) If it is determined that the proposed building or substantial improvement does not comply with the requirements of this Fire Code, then a Certificate of Non-Compliance will be issued and the application package shall be returned to the applicant with an explanation for why it was not approved. All fees paid for the certificate application and inspections are non-refundable.

Section 4.08. Right to Inspect

- a) The Fire Code Official is authorized to inspect a Building subject to this Fire Code to determine whether the Building complies with the Fire Code. The Fire Code Official may appoint a designee to perform the inspection of a building.
- b) The Fire Code Official may enter and perform the inspection of a Building at a reasonable time at any stage of the Building's Construction or Substantial Improvement and after completion of the Building. On or before the date that Construction or Substantial Improvement of a Building subject to this Code is completed, the owner of the Building shall request in writing that the Fire Code Official inspect the Building for compliance with the Fire Code.
- c) The Fire Code Official shall begin the inspection of the Building within (5) five business days after the date of the receipt of the written inspection request. If the Fire Code Official is properly requested and the Fire Code Official does not begin the inspection within the time permitted by this subsection, the Building that is the subject of the request is considered approved for the purposes of this subchapter.
- d) The Fire Code Official shall issue a final Certificate of Compliance to the owner of a Building inspected under this section if the inspector determines, after an inspection of the completed Building, that the Building complies with the Fire Code.
- e) If the Fire Code Official determines, after an inspection of the completed Building, that the Building does not comply with the Fire Code, the Fire Code Official may:
 - 1) deny the Certificate of Compliance and issue a Certificate of Non-Compliance; or
 - 2) issue a Conditional Certificate of Compliance and allow the Building to be occupied.
- f) Both a Building constructed prior to the effective date of this Code and a Building constructed after the effective date of this Code may be inspected by the Fire Code Official for fire and life safety hazards. The inspection of the structure will be for any conditions that endangers the safety of the structure or its occupants and promote or cause fire or

combustion, which shall include:

- 1) the presence of a flammable substance;
- 2) a dangerous or dilapidated wall, ceiling, or other structural element;
- 3) improper electrical components, heating or other building services or facilities;
- 4) the presence of a dangerous chimney, flue, pipe, main, or stove, or of dangerous wiring;
- 5) dangerous storage, including storage or use of hazardous substances or;
- 6) inappropriate means of egress, fire protection, or other fire-related safeguards.

The inspection of a Building will be subject to a fee as prescribed by the fee schedule that is a part of this Fire Code.

- g) Any building constructed prior to the effective date of this Code for which Substantial Improvements will be made after the effective date of this Code will be subject to the requirements of the International Fire Code®, 2021 Edition and any adopted amendments of this Fire Code when:
 - 1) there is a change in the occupancy status;
 - 2) there is a change in the design or construction of the structure due to restoration, reconstruction, improvements, or remodeling for which the cost exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the Building's value according to the certified tax appraisal roll for the county for the year preceding the year in which the work was begun;
 - 3) the structure undergoes any alteration, movement or enlargement due to construction or renovation, horizontal or vertical, that increases the size of the structure by thirty (30%) or more of the total square footage from the original construction of the structure; or
 - 4) there is a condition that constitutes a hazard to life safety or danger to property.
- h) If Fire Code Official issues a Conditional Certificate of Compliance under Subsection section 4.08(e)(2) of this Code, the Fire Code Official shall notify the owner of the Building of the violations of the Fire Code and establish a reasonable time for the owner to remedy the violations. The Fire Code Official may revoke a Conditional Certificate of Compliance if the owner does not remedy the violations within the time specified on the Conditional Certificate of Compliance.
- i) A Building may not be occupied until the County Fire Marshal issues a final, conditional or partial Certificate of Compliance for the Building.

- j) The issuance of a building permit or Certificate of Compliance does not imply that the Building can be insured for fire coverage.

CHAPTER 5 SUPPLEMENTAL PERMITS

Section 5.01 Supplemental Permits.

- a) Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Sections 233.061, 233.065, Subchapter B of Chapter 352 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended, and other applicable laws, the County Fire Marshal's Office may implement various supplemental permits as part of its administration and enforcement of the Fire Code. The following Permits are in effect for Webb County:
 - (1) **Electronic Entrance Gate Permit.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of electronic entrance gates for compliance with the Fire Code, and has the authority to review plans, make inspections, and to issue permits for the operation of an electronic entrance gate in compliance with the Fire Code. Electronic entrance gates shall, among other requirements, provide emergency and fire suppression personnel adequate access to a building or premises in the event of a fire or life safety emergency.
 - (2) **Tent Permit.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of temporary or permanent tents and membrane structures for compliance with the Fire Code, and has the authority to review plans, make inspections, and to issue permits for the operation of tents and membrane structures in compliance with the Fire Code. Structures requiring a tent permit include, but may not be limited to, temporary or permanent tents, and air-supported, air-inflated or tensioned membrane structures.
 - (3) **Fire and Life Safety Inspection.** The County Fire Marshal is authorized to conduct fire and life safety inspections on a building or premises and issue orders to the owner or occupant of such building or premises to correct any fire or life safety hazard found on the premises pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 352.016. The fire and life safety inspections may include the review of plans as set forth in Texas Local Government Code Section 352.016(b-1). The County Fire Marshal may establish requirements for when a person may request the County Fire Marshal to conduct a fire and life safety inspection for compliance with the Fire Code pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 233.061.
 - (4) **Emergency Responder Radio Coverage System Permit.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of an Emergency

Responder Radio Coverage System for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal has the authority to review plans; make inspections; conduct or witness the acceptance testing of Emergency Responder Radio Coverage Systems and related equipment; and to issue permits for the operation of Emergency Responder Radio Coverage Systems in compliance with the Fire Code.

- b) Application for Supplemental Permits. The application for a supplemental permit as described in this Chapter 6 will be on a form and in a manner of delivery determined by the Fire Marshal. A fee for Working without a Permit may be assessed if the applicant has engaged in activity or used an installation or equipment without obtaining the proper permit from the Fire Marshal.
- c) Determination of Permit Eligibility: After the application for a supplemental permit is filed pursuant to Chapter 6b the County Fire Marshal, the Fire Marshall shall determine if the application meets the requirements of the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to conduct any necessary and reasonable inspections and seek any necessary and reasonable information when evaluating an application for a supplemental permit.
 - (1) If it is determined that the application meets the Fire Code requirements, then a permit will be issued after the collection of the appropriate fees as outlined in Chapter 8 and as referred to in the Adopted Fee Schedule.
 - (2) If it is determined that the proposed supplemental permit application, equipment, or installation does not comply with the requirements of this Fire Code, then the submitted documents shall be returned to the applicant with a written explanation for denial. All fees paid are non-refundable.
- d) Permit Application Information. For any supplemental permits obtained through the Webb County Fire Marshal, the County Fire Marshal may require the submission of additional information, drawings, specifications, or documents if needed as needed.
- e) Changes to the Subject of the Permit. Any permit holder that wishes to make a change to the specifications of the equipment or installation covered by a supplemental permit must submit supplemental drawings and/or specifications to the Webb County Fire Marshal for review and approval. If a change complies with this Fire Code and is approved, a copy of the supplemental drawings and/or specifications shall be added to the Permit Holder's file, and the Webb County Fire Marshal shall amend the permit accordingly.

CHAPTER 6 FIRE SUPPRESSION OR DETECTION SYSTEM PERMITS

Section 6.01 Fire Protection System Permits

Fire Protection System Permits. To administer and enforce the Fire Code, the Webb County Fire Marshal is authorized to conduct inspections of fire suppression or detection systems, to issue permits to operate fire suppression systems, and to promote effective fire protection practices. The following Permits are in effect for Webb County:

- (1) Fire Sprinkler System Permit. The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of any Fire Sprinkler System for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to review plans, conduct rough-in inspections of the system, conduct or witness the 2-hour hydrostatic testing of the sprinkler/standpipe system and pipe size, and inspect the responsible managing employee (RME) at the location for the hydrostatic and final inspection. Modifications made to existing fire sprinkler systems may also require inspection and a permit from the County Fire Marshal for compliance with the Fire Code.
- (2) **Fire Alarm and Detection System Permit.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of any Fire Alarm and Detection System for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to review plans, conduct rough-in inspections, conduct smoke testing, conduct duct smoke detection, and conduct or witness fire alarm acceptance testing. Modifications made to existing fire alarm and detection systems may also require inspection and a permit from the County Fire Marshal for compliance with the Fire Code.
- (3) **Automatic Fire-Extinguishing Systems (Commercial Cooking) Permit.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of an Automatic Fire-Extinguishing system, including those for commercial cooking, for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to review plans, test, and inspect commercial/restaurant vent hood fire suppression systems for compliance with the Fire Code.
- (4) **Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems Exhaust Duct Test Permit.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of an Automatic Fire Extinguishing System, including an Exhaust Duct Test, for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to inspect exhaust ducts using light or smoke for compliance with the Fire Code.
- (5) **Fire Pumps/Related Equipment.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of Fire Pumps/Related Equipment for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to review plans, conduct inspections, and conduct or witness the acceptance testing of fire pumps and any standpipe system for compliance with the Fire Code.

Code.

- (6) **Underground Fire Main with Backflow Preventers.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of an Underground Fire Main with backflow for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to review plans, conduct rough-in inspections, and conduct or witness the 2-hour hydrostatic testing on upper flammable limits (UFLs) for fire sprinkler systems, fire protection standpipes, and fire hydrants installed on both public and private water systems for compliance with the Fire Code.
- (7) **Spraying or Dipping Booth Permit.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of a Spraying or Dipping Booth for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to review plans, conduct inspections, and conduct or witness the acceptance testing of commercial paint/spray/mixing booths and their associated fire suppression systems for compliance with the Fire Code.
- (8) **Combustible/Flammable Storage Tank Permits.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of Combustible/Flammable Storage Tanks that hold combustible or flammable chemicals for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to review plans, conduct inspections, and conduct or witness acceptance tests for storage tanks for combustible or flammable chemicals for compliance with the Fire Code.
- (9) **Service Station Piping Plan.** The County Fire Marshal may set requirements for the installation, testing, and operation of Service Station Piping for compliance with the Fire Code. The County Fire Marshal is authorized to review plans, test, and inspect piping for service stations which may store or handle combustible or flammable chemicals for Fire Code compliance.

Section 6.02 Application for Fire Protection Permit

The application for a fire protection system permit as described in this Chapter 6 will be on a form and in a manner of delivery determined by the Webb County Fire Marshal. A fee for Working Without a Permit may be assessed if the applicant has engaged in activity or used an installation or equipment without obtaining the proper permit from the Fire Marshal.

Section 6.03 Determination of Permit Eligibility

After the application is filed, the Webb County Fire Marshal shall determine if the fire protection system and application meet the requirements of the Webb County Fire Code.

- (1) If it is determined that the fire protection system and application meet the Fire Code requirements, then a permit will be issued after the collection of the appropriate fees as outlined in Section 8 and as referred to in the Adopted Fee Schedule.
- (2) If it is determined that fire protection system and application do not comply with the requirements of this Fire Code, then the application package shall be returned to the applicant with an explanation for why it was not approved. All fees paid for the permit application and inspections are non-refundable.

Section 6.04 Permit Application Information

For any fire protection system permits obtained through the Webb County Fire Marshal, the County Fire Marshal may require the submission of additional information, drawings, specifications, or documents if needed to determine whether a permit should be issued.

Chapter 7. FIREWORKS

Section 7.01 Fireworks Activity.

The County Fire Marshal is authorized to inspect and provide approval for certain fireworks-related activity, including retail fireworks sites, fireworks display shows, and indoor fireworks stands pursuant to Chapter 2154 of the Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 352 of the Texas Local Government Code, and the Fire Code. The following Permits are in effect for Webb County:

- (1) **Retail Fireworks Permits:** A person selling fireworks directly to the public must annually obtain a nonrenewable retail fireworks permit from the State of Texas for each retail location pursuant to Texas Occupations Code Section 2154.202 and Title 28 Chapter 34 of the Texas Administrative Code Rule 34.815, as amended. Retail fireworks sites, which include retail fireworks stands, must also comply with the requirements in Texas Administrative Code Rules 34.817 and 34.818, and the Fire Code. For a retail fireworks site, the County Fire Marshal shall inspect the retail fireworks site, which include retail fireworks stands, for fire or life safety hazards and assess and collect an inspection fee pursuant to Texas Occupations Code Section 2154.2025, Texas Local Government Code Section 352.016, and Texas Health and Safety Code Section 775.040, as applicable, and the Fire Code. Texas Occupations Code Section 2154.2025 sets the fee amounts for inspections of retail fireworks sites, and Texas Local Government Code Section 352.016 allows for reasonable fees to be charged for fire or life safety hazard inspections. The inspection and permit fee must be obtained for each and every year of operation for each site

and address listed on the retail fireworks permit.

- (2) **Fireworks Display Show.** For any fireworks display show, the County Fire Marshal has the authority to review any proposed pyrotechnics or flame effect displays, inspect any proposed fireworks display site, and verify the Pyrotechnic Operator's or Flame Effect Operator's License under State law and compliance with the Fire Code.
- (3) **Indoor Fireworks Stand.** The County Fire Marshal has the authority to inspect a retail fireworks site, which includes indoor fireworks stands, for fire or life safety hazards and assess and collect a permit inspection fee pursuant to Texas Occupations Code Section 2154.2025 and Texas Local Government Code 352.016, for compliance with State law and the County Fire Code.

Section 7.02 Application for Fireworks Permit

The application for a fireworks permit under this Chapter 7 will be on a form and in a manner of delivery determined by the Webb County Fire Marshal. A fee for Working Without a Permit may be assessed if the applicant has engaged in fireworks activity without obtaining the proper permit from the Fire Marshal.

Section 7.03 Determination of Permit Eligibility

After the appropriate application for fireworks activity is filed, the Webb County Fire Marshal shall determine if the fireworks activity meets the requirements of the Fort Bend County Fire Code.

- (1) If it is determined that the proposed fireworks activity meets the Fire Code requirements, then a permit will be issued after the collection of the appropriate fees as outlined in Section 12.0 and as referred to in the Adopted Fee Schedule.
- (2) If it is determined that the proposed fireworks activity does not comply with the requirements of this Fire Code, then the application package shall be returned to the applicant with an explanation for why it was not approved. All fees paid for the permit application and inspections are non-refundable.

Section 7.04 Permit Application Information

For any permits obtained through the Webb County Fire Marshal, the County Fire Marshal may require the submission of additional information, drawings, specifications, or documents if needed to determine whether a permit should be issued.

CHAPTER 8 FEES

Section 8.1 Fees for Permits and Inspections

Fees for permits, including issuance of Certificates of Compliance or Conditional Compliance and Non-Compliance, and inspections are set by the Webb County Commissioners Court pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Sections 233.065 and 352.016. The Fee Schedule for services performed by the County Fire Marshal under this Code are approved by the Webb County Commissioners Court and is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Addendum 2 and reflect the approximate cost of plan review, issuance of a building permit, the inspections, personnel, materials used, and administrative overhead to enforce this Fire Code.

Section 8.02 Fee Payments

Fees must be paid by exact cash, cashier's check, money order, or personal check. Should payment be made by personal check and the check be returned for insufficient funds, the permit(s) issued becomes null and void. Fees shall be paid at the time plans are submitted for review unless other arrangements have been made and approved by the County Auditor. The County shall deposit all fees received under this section in a special fund in the County treasury, pursuant to section 233.065(c) of the Texas Local Government Code, and money in that fund may only be used for the administration and enforcement of this FireCode.

CHAPTER 9. VARIANCES

Section 9.01 Variances.

- a) In limited circumstances, an applicant may make a request to the Webb County Fire Marshal for a Variance to a Permit or other requirement as stated in this Fire Code.
- b) A Variance may be granted only if the following conditions are met: (a) the applicant has shown good and sufficient cause; (b) it has been determined that failure to grant the Variance would result in an exceptional hardship to the applicant; and (c) the granting of a Variance will not result in an increased risk of fire, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or create nuisances, cause fraud or victimization of the public.
- c) Economic hardship shall not constitute the sole basis for granting a variance.
- d) A request for a Variance from the Webb County Fire Code must be made in writing to the Webb County Fire Marshal.

- c) The Fire Marshal shall review the request and make a determination to deny or grant the request for a Variance.
- f) The Fire Marshal is authorized to request additional documents or plan submittal for review. Any additional review or inspection may incur additional fees as listed in the Adopted Fee Schedule.
- g) The Fire Marshal's decision on a Variance Request may be appealed as described in Chapter Ten of the Webb County Fire Code.

CHAPTER 10. REVIEW BY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Section 10.1. APPEAL TO COMMISSIONERS COURT

- a) A decision by the Webb County Fire Marshal to deny the issuance of, revoke, or suspend a Permit or Certification shall be final. By submitting an application for a Permit or Certificate of Compliance or Variance, an individual (herein referred to in this Section as "Appellant") waives the right to challenge this Fire Code in a court of law without first timely exhausting the Webb County Fire Code's Appeals Procedure.
- b) Timing of appeal. All requests for an appeal must be delivered to the Commissioners Court Administrator with a copy to the Commissioner of the Precinct in which the affected property lies and a copy to the Fire Marshal no later ten (10) business days after the date when the denial, revocation, or suspension becomes final. The request shall include a statement why the denial of the issuance, or suspension of a Permit or Certification or by the Fire Marshal should be overturned and an address for the Appellant to receive notices related to the Appellant's appeal by certified mail. The Appellant waives the right to an appeal if the request is not timely received by the County Judge.
- c) A DECISION OF THE WEBB COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL IS NOT STAYED DURING THE PENDENCY OF AN APPEAL AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.
- d) The Commissioners Court Administrator will place the matter (appeal) on the Agenda of the Commissioners Court Administrator within thirty (30) days of receiving the written objection (appeal). Notice that the matter (appeal) is on the Agenda will be sent to the appellant by regular U.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested as the appellant's address provided in the appeal request. The Commissioners Court will review the matter. The commissioners may either affirm or reverse the decision of the Webb County Fire Marshal.

CHAPTER 11. ENFORCEMENT

Section 11.01 Violations

- a) **Violation of Conditions of Regulations.** Any person having knowledge of a violation of this Code may file a written, sworn complaint with the County Fire Marshal.
- b) **Revocation or Suspension of a Permit or Certificate.** A violation of these Regulations may result in revocation or suspension of a Permit or Certificate in addition to any penalties that may be imposed.

Section 11.02 Civil Remedies

- a). **Injunctive Relief.** Pursuant to Section 233.066 of the Texas Local Government Code, the County Attorney is authorized to file suit in a court of competent jurisdiction for an injunction to prohibit the violate on or threatened violation of the Fire Code.
- b). **Civil Penalty.** Pursuant to Section 233.067 of the Texas Local Government Code, the County Attorney may file a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover from a person who violates the Fire Code a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$200 for each violation for each day on which the violation exists. If a violation continues, the Fire Code Official may file a Certificate of Non-Compliance in the Real Property Records of Webb County. A fee for this action will be charged in accordance with Chapter 5 for this Code. The County shall deposit amounts collected under this subsection in a fund to be used only for the administration and enforcement of the Fire Code. This civil remedy is cumulative of all other remedies available to Webb County. Where allowed by law, the County Attorney may recover all reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining injunctive relief, civil penalties, or both, including reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, mediation fees and investigatory costs.

Section 11.03 Criminal Remedies

Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 352.022, an owner or occupant who is subject to an order issued by the County Fire Marshal made under Texas Local Government Code Section 352.016 (Inspection or Review of Plan for Fire or Life Safety Hazards) commits an offense if that person fails to comply with the order. Each refusal to comply is a separate offense. The offense is a Class B misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the

offense that the defendant has been previously convicted two or more times for the same offense, in which event the offense is a state jail felony.

CHAPTER 12 FORMS AND RECORDS

Section 12.01 Forms

Forms to be used in the administration of this Fire code shall be promulgated by the Webb County Fire Marshal.

Section 12.02 Maintenance of Records

The Webb County Fire Marshal must maintain all applications for and file copies of permits for a retention period as provided by the County's Records Retention Policy. Drawings and specifications on file with the Webb County Fire Marshal may be destroyed after completion of the structure, unless otherwise required by law.

CHAPTER 13 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

THIS CODE DOES NOT IMPLY THAT ANY BUILDING OR THE USES PERMITTED WITHIN ANY BUILDING WILL BE FREE FROM A FIRE OR OTHER HAZARDS. THIS CODE SHALL NOT CREATE LIABILITY ON THE PART OF WEBB COUNTY, ITS COMMISSIONERS COURT, OR ANY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE THEREOF FOR ANY DAMAGES THAT RESULT FROM RELIANCE ON THIS CODE OR ANY ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION LAWFULLY MADE BASED ON THIS CODE. THE GRANTING OF A PERMIT OR ISSUANCE OF A FIRE FINAL INSPECTION DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE BUILDING CAN BE INSURED FOR FIRE COVERAGE.

IF ANY SECTION, SUBSECTION, SENTENCE, CLAUSE OR PHRASE OF THIS ORDER (FIRE CODE) IS, FOR ANY REASON, HELD TO BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL, SUCH DECISION SHALL NOT AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF THE REMAINING PORTIONS OF THIS ORDER. THE COMMISSIONER'S COURT OF WEBB COUNTY HEREBY DECLARES THAT IT WOULD HAVE PASSED THIS ORDER, AND EACH SECTION, SUBSECTION, CLAUSE OR PHRASE THEREOF, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE FACT THAT ANY ONE OR MORE SECTIONS, SUBSECTIONS, SENTENCES, CLAUSES AND PHRASES BE DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

CHAPTER 14. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- a) Cumulative Effect. Authority under this Fire Code is cumulative of other authority that Webb County has to regulate for fire and life safety hazards and this Fire Code does not limit that authority.

- b) Severability. If a Section or Subsection of this Fire Code, or certain applications of a Section or Subsection, is found invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining Sections or Subsections, or applications of those Sections or Subsections, will continue in force as law.
- c) Conflicts. Webb County Fire Code shall supersede any conflicting fire regulations of the County.
- d) Conflicting provisions. Where there is a conflict in this Fire Code between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall be applicable. Where, in a specific case, different sections of this Fire Code specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.
- e) Abrogation and greater restrictions. Except as specifically set forth herein, this Fire Code is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing laws, regulations, easements, covenants, or deed restrictions.
- f) Provisions in referenced codes and standards. Where the extent of the reference to a referenced code or standard includes subject matter that is within the scope of this Fire Code, the provisions of this Fire Code, as applicable, shall take precedence over the provisions in the referenced code or standard.
- g) Subjects not regulated by this Fire Code. Where applicable standards or requirements are not set forth in this code, or are contained within other laws, codes, regulations, ordinances or bylaws adopted by the jurisdiction, compliance with applicable standards of the National Fire Protection Association or other nationally recognized fire safety standards, as approved, shall be deemed as prima facie evidence of compliance with the intent of this code. Nothing herein shall derogate from the authority of the Webb County Fire Marshal to determine compliance with codes or standards for those activities or installations within the Webb County Fire Marshal's jurisdiction or responsibility.
- h) Matters not provided for. Requirements that are essential for the public safety of an existing or proposed activity, building or structure, or for the safety of the occupants thereof, that are not specifically provided for by this Fire Code, shall be determined by the County Fire Marshal and County Engineer.
- i) Application of references. References to chapter or section numbers, or to provisions not specifically identified by number, shall be construed to refer to such chapter, section or provision of this Code.

CHAPTER 15 EFFECTIVE DATE

This **Order** shall become effective on _____, 2023.

ADDENDUM 1

Webb County Fire Code Amendments to 2021 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE®

The Webb County Fire Code includes the following **additions, insertions, and deletions and changes to the International Fire Code®, 2021 Edition**. All other provisions of the International Fire Code, 2021 Edition apply as stated.

CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 101 Scope and General Requirements

101.1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of Webb County, hereinafter may be referred to as the "Fire Code" or "this Code".

Section 102 Applicability

102.1; change #3 to read as follows:

3. Existing structures, facilities, and conditions when required in Chapter 11 or in specific sections of this Code.

(Explanation: To clarify that there are other provisions in the fire code applicable to existing buildings that are not located in Chapter 11, including but not limited to Section 505 Premises Identification.)

102.5 Application of residential code.
Deleted in its entirety.

Section 103 Code Compliance Agency

103.1 Creation of Agency

The Webb County Office of the Fire Marshall is hereby created and the official in charge shall be known as the Fire Code Official. The function of the shall be the implementation, administration and enforcement of the provisions of this code.

Section 105 Permits

105.3.3 Occupancy prohibited before approval. The building or structure shall not be occupied prior to the fire code official issuing a permit when required and conducting associated inspections indicating the applicable provisions of this Code have been met.

(Explanation: For clarity to allow for better understanding in areas not requiring such permits, such as unincorporated areas of counties.)

Section 105.6.25; add to read as follows:

105.7.19 Electronic access control systems. Construction permits are required for the installation or modification of an electronic access control system, as specified in Chapter 10. A separate construction permit is required for the installation or modification of a fire alarm system that may be connected to the access control system. Maintenance performed in accordance with this Code is not considered a modification and does not require a permit.

(Explanation: Adds construction permit requirements for electronic access control systems affecting access and/or egress to ensure proper design and installation of such systems. These changes reflect local practices of municipalities in this State.)

Section 107 FEES

Section 107.3 {Deleted in its entirety}

(Explanation: Different jurisdiction establish permit fee requirements in different ways, and the majority int this State do not utilize this methodology for establishing Fire Code required permit fees, as well as have already established and adopted applicable permit fee requirements.)

SECTION 111 Means Of Appeals {Deleted in its entirety}.
Refer to the Webb County Fire Code

CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS

SECTION 202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

{changes, additions to General Definitions}

AMBULATORY CARE FACILITY. Buildings or portions thereof used to provide medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing, or similar care on a less than 24-hour basis to persons who are rendered incapable of self-preservation by the services provided. This group may include but not be limited to the following:

Dialysis centers

Procedures involving sedation

Sedation dentistry

Surgery centers

Colonic centers

Psychiatric centers

(Explanation: to clarify the range of uses included in the definition)

APPROVED CONTAINER. Any non-combustible receptacle of sufficient integrity to maintain contents and fire in a controlled state.

ATRIUM. An opening connecting three or more stories other than enclosed stairways, elevators, hoistways, escalators, plumbing, electrical, air-conditioning or other equipment, which is closed at the top and not defined as a mall. Stories, as used in this definition, do not include balconies within assembly groups or mezzanines that comply with Section 505 of the International Building Code.

BUILDING. Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

CUL-DE-SAC. A dead-end street with a turnaround at the closed end.

DEAD-ENDS. A street or alley that has no regular exit or outlet. A closed end street.

DEFEND IN PLACE. A method of emergency response that engages building components and trained staff to provide occupant safety during an emergency. Emergency response involves remaining in place, relocating within the building, or both, without evacuating the building.

(Explanation: Added from International Building Code (/BC) definitions for consistency in interpretation of the subject requirements pertaining to such occupancies.)

FIRE WATCH. A temporary measure intended to ensure continuous and systematic surveillance of a building or portion thereof by one or more qualified individuals or standby personnel when required by the fire code official, for the purposes of identifying and controlling fire hazards, detecting early signs of unwanted fire, raising an alarm of fire and notifying the fire department.

(Explanation: Clearly defines options to the fire department for providing a fire watch.)

FIREWORKS. Any composition or device for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect for entertainment purposes by combustion, deflagration, detonation, and/or activated by ignition with a match or other heat producing device that meets the definition of 1.3G fireworks or 1.4G fireworks. {Remainder of text unchanged} ...

(Explanation: Increased safety from fireworks related injuries.)

HIGH-PILED COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE. Storage of combustible materials in closely packed piles or combustible materials on pallets, in racks or on shelves where the top of storage is greater than 12 feet (3658 mm) in height. Where required by the fire code official, high-piled combustible storage also includes certain high-hazard commodities, such as rubber tires, Group A plastics, flammable liquids, idle pallets and similar commodities, where the top of storage is greater than 6 feet (1829 mm) in height.

Any building classified as a group S Occupancy or Speculative Building exceeding 6,000 sq. ft. (557 4182 mm²) that has a clear height of 14 feet, making it possible to be used for storage in excess of 12 feet (36576 mm), shall be considered to be high-piled storage. When a specific product cannot be identified, a fire protection system and life safety features shall be installed as for Class IV commodities, to the maximum pile height.

HIGH-RISE BUILDING. A building with an occupied floor located more than 55 feet (16 764 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

NO BURN DAY. When atmospheric and/or ground conditions are unfavorable for controlled burning, for a 24-hour period beginning at sunrise, as determined by the Webb County Fire Marshals Office or a duly authorized agency.

REPAIR GARAGE. A building, structure or portion thereof used for servicing or repairing motor vehicles. This occupancy shall also include garages involved in minor repair, modification and servicing of motor vehicles for items such as lube changes, inspections, windshield repair or replacement, shocks, minor part replacement, and other such minor repairs.

(Explanation: To further clarify types of service work allowed in a repair garage, as well as to correspond with definition in the IBC.)

SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY. Real property designed and used for the purpose of renting or leasing individual storage spaces to customers for the purpose of storing and removing personal property on a self-service basis.

(Explanation: To provide a definition that does not exist in the code.)

UPGRADED OR REPLACED FIRE ALARM SYSTEM. A fire alarm system that is upgraded or replaced includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Replacing one single board or fire alarm control unit component with a newer model
 - Installing a new fire alarm control unit in addition to or in place of an existing one
 - Conversion from a horn system to an emergency voice/alarm communication system
 - Conversion from a conventional system to one that utilizes addressable or analog devices
- The following are not considered an upgrade or replacement:

- Firmware updates
- Software updates
- Replacing boards of the same model with chips utilizing the same or newer firmware

(Explanation: "Upgraded" or "Replaced" is referenced in several places, but the wording of "upgraded or replaced" is somewhat ambiguous and open to interpretation. Defining it here allows for consistent application across the State.)

CHAPTER 3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 307 OPEN BURNING, RECREATIONAL FIRES AND PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

307.1.1 Prohibited open burning. Open burning shall be prohibited that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.

Exception:

Prescribed burning for the purpose of reducing the impact of wildland fire when authorized by the fire code official.

Permit required. A permit shall be obtained from the appropriate regulatory entity or the fire code official in accordance with Section 105.6 prior to kindling a fire for recognized horticultural, range or wildlife management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests. Application for such approval shall only be presented by and permits issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

Examples of state or local law, or regulations referenced elsewhere in this section may include but not be limited to the following:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) guidelines and/or restrictions.

State, County, or Local temporary or permanent bans on open burning.

Local written policies as established by the fire code official.

Extinguishment authority. Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation the fire code official, the fire department, or another person responsible may order the extinguishment of a fire or open burning operations. The extinguishment of a fire may be ordered by the fire code official if the individual responsible does not have a permit or proper authorization from State, County, or Local authorities as listed in 307.2

(Explanation: Provides direction as to responsible parties relative to extinguishment of the subject open burning)

Location. The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 300 feet (15240 91440 mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 300 feet (15240 91440 mm) of any structure.

Exceptions:

Fires in approved containers that are not less than 25 feet (762 mm) from a structure.

The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 50 feet (7620 mm) where the pile size is 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height.

Portable outdoor fireplaces. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet (4 572 mm) of a structure or combustible material.

Exceptions:

1. Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one- and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system.

(Explanation: To reflect similar allowances for open-flame cooking in these same locations.)

Section 307.4.4 and 307.4.5; change to read as follows:

Permanent outdoor fire pit. Permanently installed outdoor fire pits for recreational fire purposes shall not be installed within 10 feet (3048 mm) of a structure or combustible material.

Exception:

Permanently installed outdoor fireplaces constructed in accordance with the International Building Code®.

Trench burns. Trench burns shall be conducted in air curtain trenches and in accordance with Section 307.2.

(To provide a greater level of safety for this potentially hazardous fire exposure condition. Decrease in separation distance allowed for outdoor fire pits due to permanent nature of construction having substantial securement)

Attendance. Open burning, trench burns, bonfires, recreational fires, and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire- extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

(Explanation: Adds attendance for trench burns)

Location. The location for open burning shall not be less than 300 feet (91 440 mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 300 feet (91 440 mm) of any structure.

Exceptions:

Fires in approved containers that are not less than 25 feet (7 62 mm) from a structure.

The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 50 feet (7 620 mm) where the pile size is 3 feet (9 14 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (6 10 mm) or less in height.

Portable outdoor fireplaces. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet (4 572 mm) of a structure or combustible material.

Exceptions:

Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one- and two-family dwellings.

Permanent outdoor fire pit. Permanently installed outdoor fire pits for recreational fire purposes shall not be installed within 10 feet (3048 mm) of a structure or combustible material.

Exception:

Permanently installed outdoor fireplaces constructed in accordance with the International Building Code®.

Trench burns. Trench burns shall be conducted in air curtain trenches and in accordance with Section 307.2. Open trench burns shall not be conducted within 300 feet (91 44mm) of any structure or other combustible material.

307.5 Attendance. Open burning, trench burns, bonfires, recreational fires, and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire- extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization

SECTION 308 OPEN FLAMES

Open-flame cooking devices. Open-flame cooking devices, charcoal grills and other similar devices used for cooking shall not be located or used on combustible balconies, decks, or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

One- and two-family dwellings, where LP-gas containers are limited to a water capacity not greater than 50 pounds (22.68 kg) [nominal 20 pound (9.08 kg) LP-gas capacity] with an aggregate LP-gas capacity not to exceed 100 lbs. (5 containers).

Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system, and LP-gas containers are limited to a water capacity not greater than 50 pounds (22.68 kg) [nominal 20-pound (9.08 kg) LP-gas capacity], with an aggregate LP-gas capacity not to exceed 40 lbs (2 containers).

LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 21/2 pounds [nominal 1-pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity].

(Explanation: Decrease fire risk in multi-family dwellings and minimizes ignition sources and clarify allowable limits for 1 & 2 family dwellings, and allow an expansion for fire-sprinklered multi-family uses. This amendment adds clarification and defines the container size allowed for residences.)

Portable fueled open-flame devices. Portable open-flame devices fueled by flammable or combustible gases or liquids shall be enclosed or installed in such a manner as to prevent the flame from contacting combustible material.

Exceptions:

LP-gas-fueled devices used for sweating pipe joints or removing paint in accordance with Chapter 61.

Cutting and welding operations in accordance with Chapter 35.

Torches or flame-producing devices in accordance with Section 308.1.3.

Candles and open-flame decorative devices in accordance with Section 308.3.

(Explanation: Section identified in published code is in appropriate.)

Sky lanterns. A person shall not release or cause to be released an unmanned free-floating

device containing an open flame or other heat source, such as but not limited to a sky lantern.

(Explanation: Eliminates the potential fire hazard presented by utilization of such devices and the potential accidental release of such devices.)

SECTION 311 VACANT PREMISES

311.5 Placards. The fire code official is authorized to require marking of any vacant or abandoned buildings or structures determined to be unsafe pursuant to Section 114 of this code relating to structural or interior hazards, as required by Section 311.5.1 through 311.5.5.

(Explanation: There may be situations where placarding is not desired or necessary; also clarifies intent that it is not fire code official's responsibility to provide the placard)

CHAPTER 4 EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS SECTION 403 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REQUIREMENTS

403.4 Group E Occupancies. An approved fire safety and evacuation plan in accordance with Section 404 shall be prepared and maintained for Group E occupancies and for buildings containing both Group E occupancies and an atrium. A diagram depicting two evacuation routes shall be posted in a conspicuous location in each classroom. Group E occupancies shall also comply with Sections 403.4.1 through 403.4.3.

(Explanation: The diagrams are intended to assist with egress in such occupancies-specifically, the primary teacher is not always present to assist children with egress. Also, such will help reinforce evacuation drill requirements)

SECTION 404 FIRE SAFETY, EVACUATION AND LOCKDOWN PLANS

Fire safety plans. Fire safety plans shall include the following:

The procedure for reporting a fire or other emergency.

The life safety strategy including the following:

Procedures for notifying occupants, including areas with a private mode alarm system.

Procedures for occupants under a defend-in-place response.

Procedures for evacuating occupants, including those who need evacuation assistance.

Site plans indicating the following:

The occupancy assembly point.

The locations of fire hydrants.

The normal routes of fire department vehicle access.

Floor plans identifying the locations of the following:

Exits.

Primary evacuation routes.

Secondary evacuation routes.

Accessible egress routes.

Areas of refuge.

Exterior areas for assisted rescue.
Refuge areas associated with smoke barriers and horizontal exits.
Manual fire alarm boxes.
Portable fire extinguishers.
Occupant-use hose stations.
Fire alarm annunciators and controls.

4.10 Fire extinguishing system controls.

A list of major fire hazards associated with the normal use and occupancy of the premises, including maintenance and housekeeping procedures.

Identification and assignment of personnel responsible for maintenance of systems and equipment installed to prevent or control fires.

Identification and assignment of personnel responsible for maintenance, housekeeping and controlling fuel hazard sources.

405.5 Time. The fire code official may require an evacuation drill at any time. Drills shall be held at unexpected times and under varying conditions to simulate the unusual conditions that occur in case of fire.

1. {No Change}
2. {No Change}
3. Notification of teachers/staff having supervision of light or sound-sensitive students/occupants. such as those on the autism spectrum. for the protection of those students/occupants. shall be allowed prior to conducting a drill.

(Explanation: This change clarifies who may require a fire or evacuation drill, and also allows for consideration/protection of students/occupants who may be severely negatively impacted by the nature of a fire alarm notification during a practice drill.)

CHAPTER 5 FIRE SERVICE FEATURES

SECTION 501 GENERAL

Section 501.4; change to read as follows:

501.4 Timing of Installation. When fire apparatus access roads or a water supply for fire protection is required to be installed for any structure or development they shall be installed, tested, and approved prior to the time of which construction has progressed beyond completion of the foundation of any structure.

(Explanation: Reflects current practice in the State relative to enduring fire department and EMS access during construction, which can be a time of increased frequency for emergency incidents.)

SECTION 503 FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

Building and facilities. Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility,

building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirements of this section and shall extend to within 150 feet (45720 mm) of all portions of the facility and all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility. Except for one- or two-family dwellings, the path of measurement shall be along a minimum of a 10 feet (3048 mm) wide unobstructed pathway around the external walls of the structure.

Exceptions:

The fire code official is authorized to increase the dimension of 150 feet (45 720 mm) where any of the following conditions occur:

The building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3.

Fire apparatus access roads cannot be installed because of location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades or other similar conditions, and an approved alternative means of fire protection is provided.

There are not more than two Group R-3 or Group U occupancies.

Where approved by the fire code official, fire apparatus access roads shall be permitted to be exempted or modified for solar photovoltaic power generation facilities.

Dimensions. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 24 feet (7315 mm), exclusive of shoulders, except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 14 feet (4 267 mm).

Exception: Vertical clearance may be reduced; provided such reduction does not impair access by fire apparatus and approved signs are installed and maintained indicating the established vertical clearance when approved.

(Explanation: Amendments to 503.2.1 and 503.2.2 recognize that the equipment now used in firefighting is increasing in size. The code already recognizes that larger dimensions may be required under Section 503.2.2. The amendments are to standardize the dimensions for this area.)

Section 503.2.3; change to read as follows:

Authority. The fire code official shall have the authority to require an increase in the minimum access widths and vertical clearances where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations.

(Explanation: Amendments to 503.2.1 and 503.2.2 recognize that the equipment now used in firefighting is increasing in size. The code already recognizes that larger dimensions may be required under Section 503.2.2. The amendments are to standardize the dimensions for this area.)

Section 503.2.3; change Section 503.2.3 to read as follows:

Surface. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support imposed loads

of 85,000 lbs for fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities.

Explanation: To address the current size of fire trucks in use - figure derived from DOT requirements for waiver of vehicle exceeding such weight and from current maximum weights of fire trucks being purchased by jurisdictions in Texas)

Section 503.3; change to read as follows:

Marking. Striping, signs, or other markings, when approved by the fire code official, shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof. Striping, signs and other markings shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.

Striping – Fire apparatus access roads shall be continuously marked by painted lines of red traffic paint 6 inches (152 mm) in width to show the boundaries of the lane. The words “NO PARKING FIRE LANE” or “FIRE LANE NO PARKING” shall appear in 4 inch (101.6 mm) white letters at 25 feet (7 62 mm) intervals on the red border markings along both sides of the fire lanes. Where a curb is available, the striping shall be on the vertical face of the curb.

Signs – Signs shall read “NO PARKING FIRE LANE” or “FIRE LANE NO PARKING” and shall be 12 inches (304.8 mm) wide and 18 inches (457.2 mm) high. Signs shall be painted on a white background with letters and borders in red, using not less than 2 inch (50.8 mm) lettering. Signs shall be permanently affixed to a stationary post and the bottom of the sign shall be six feet, six inches (2 01168 mm) above finished grade. Signs shall be spaced not more than 50 feet (15 24 mm) apart along both sides of the fire lane. Signs may be installed on permanent buildings or walls or as approved by the fire code official.

(Explanation: Establishes a standard method of marking and reflects State long-standing practices.)

Section 503.4; change to read as follows:

Obstruction of fire apparatus access roads. Fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. The minimum widths and clearances established in Section 503.2.1 and any area marked as a fire lane as described in Section 503.3 shall be maintained at all times.

(Explanation: As originally worded, the section implied that vehicles could be parked in the marked fire lane and not be in violation if the minimum width is still maintained. Current accepted enforcement practice is to require the entire marked fire lane to be maintained clear and unobstructed.)

Section 505.1; change to read as follows:

SECTION 505 PREMISES IDENTIFICATION

505.1 Address identification. New and existing buildings shall be provided with approved address identification. The address identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property. Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall not be spelled out. Each character shall be not less than 6 inches (152.4 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 1/2 inch (12.7 mm). Where required by the fire code official, address numbers shall be provided in additional approved locations to facilitate emergency response. Where access is by means of a private road, buildings do not immediately front a street, and/or the building cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument, pole or other sign with approved 6-inch (152.4 mm) height building numerals or addresses and 4-inch (101.6 mm) height suite/apartment numerals of a color contrasting with the background of the building or other approved means shall be used to identify the structure. Numerals or addresses shall be posted on a minimum 20-inch (508 mm) by 30-inch (762 mm) background on border. Address identification shall be maintained.

Exception: R-3 Single Family occupancies shall have approved numerals of a minimum 3 1/2 inches (88.9 mm) in height and a color contrasting with the background clearly visible and legible from the street fronting the property and rear alleyway where such alleyway exists.

(Explanation: To increase the minimum addressing requirements for commercial properties and establish a minimum for single-family residential properties such improves legibility of these signs which are critical to emergency response in a timelier manner.)

SECTION 507 FIRE PROTECTION WATER SUPPLIES

Section 507.1.1; Add to read as follows:

507.4 Water supply test date and information. The water supply test used for hydraulic calculation of fire protection systems shall be conducted in accordance with NFPA 291 “Recommended Practice for Fire Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants” and within one year of sprinkler plan submittal. The fire code official shall be notified prior to the water supply test. Water supply tests shall be witnessed by the fire code official, as required. The exact location of the static/residual hydrant and the flow hydrant shall be indicated on the design drawings. All fire protection plan submittals shall be accompanied by a hard copy of the waterflow test report, or as approved by the fire code official. The report must indicate the dominant water tank level at the time of the test and the maximum and minimum operating levels of the tank, as well, or identify applicable water supply fluctuation. The licensed contractor must then design the fire protection system based on this fluctuation information, as per the applicable referenced NFPA standard. Reference Section 903.3.5 for additional design requirements.

(Explanation: Clarifies intent of the test to ensure contractor accounts for water supply fluctuations)

Section 507.5.4; change to read as follows:

507.5.4 Obstruction. Unobstructed access to fire hydrants shall be maintained at all times. Posts, fences, vehicles, growth, trash, storage and other materials or objects shall not be placed or kept near fire hydrants, fire department inlet connections or fire protection system control valves in a manner that would prevent such equipment or fire hydrants from being immediately discernible. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants.

(Explanation: Additional guidance based on legacy language to ensure these critical devices are available in an emergency incident.)

SECTION 509 FIRE PROTECTION AND UTILITY EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION AND ACCESS

Section 509.1.2; add to read as follows:

509.1.2 Sign requirements. Unless more stringent requirements apply, lettering for signs required by this section shall have a minimum height of 2 inches (50.8 mm) when located inside a building and 4 inches (101.6 mm) when located outside, or as approved by the fire code official. The letters shall be of a color that contrasts with the background.

(Explanation: Provides direction as to appropriate sign criteria to develop local and State consistency in this regard.)

CHAPTER 6 BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS SECTION

SECTION 605 FUEL-FIRED APPLIANCES

Section 605.4.2.2 ; change to read as follows:

605.4.2.2. Quantity limits. One or more fuel oil storage tanks containing Class II or III combustible liquid shall be permitted in a building. The aggregate capacity of all such tanks shall not exceed 660 gallons (2498 L).

Exceptions:

The aggregate capacity limit shall be permitted to be increased to 3,000 gallons (11,356 L) in accordance with all requirements of Chapter 57.

(Explanation: Issues addressed by Chapter 57, such as venting to outside of buildings, remote fill to outside of building, overfill protection, physical protection, etc., are not included in Section 605.4, so compliance with Chapter 57 is also required.)

Section 605.4.2.3; change to reads as follows:

605.4.2.3 Restricted use and connection. Tanks installed in accordance with Section 605.4.2 shall be used only to supply fuel oil to fuel-burning or generator equipment installed in accordance with Section 605.4.2.5. Connections between tanks and equipment supplied by such tanks shall be made using closed piping systems.

CHAPTER 8 INTERIOR FINISH, DECORATIVE MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS

SECTION 807 DECORATIVE MATERIALS OTHER THAN DECORATIVE VEGETATION IN NEW AND EXISTING BUILDINGS

807.2 Combustible decorative materials. In occupancies in Groups A, E, I, and R-1, and dormitories in Group R-2, curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and other similar combustible decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall comply with Section 807.3 and shall not exceed 10 percent of the specific wall or ceiling area to which they are attached.

{Remainder of Section remains unchanged including Exceptions}

807.5.2.2 Artwork in corridors. Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on the walls of corridors to not more than 20 percent of the wall area. Such materials shall not be continuous from floor to ceiling or wall to wall. Curtains, draperies, wall hangings, and other decorative material suspended from the walls or ceilings shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 in accordance with Section 807 or be noncombustible.

Exception:

Corridors protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 shall be limited to 50 percent of the wall area.

807.5.2.3 Artwork in classrooms. Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 50 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached. Curtains, draperies, wall hangings and other decorative material suspended from the walls or ceilings shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 in accordance with Section 807 or be noncombustible.

Artwork in corridors. Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on the walls of corridors to not more than 20 percent of the wall area. Such materials shall not be continuous from floor to ceiling or wall to wall. Curtains, draperies, wall hangings and other decorative material suspended from the walls or ceilings shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 in accordance with Section 807 or be noncombustible.

Exception:

Corridors protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 shall be limited to 50 percent of the wall area.

Artwork in classrooms. Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 50 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached. Curtains, draperies, wall hangings and other decorative material suspended from the walls or ceilings shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 in accordance with Section 807 or be noncombustible.

(Explanation: This change allows an increase in wall coverage due to the presence of sprinklers. Also provides additional guidance relative to fire resistance requirements in these areas.)

CHAPTER 9 FIRE PROTECTION AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS

SECTION 901 GENERAL.

Section 901.6.1.1; add to read as follows:

Standpipe testing. Building owners/managers must maintain and test standpipe systems as per NFPA 25 requirements. The following additional requirements shall be applied to the testing that is required every 5 years:

The piping between the Fire Department Connection (FDC) and the standpipe shall be backflushed when foreign material is present and also hydrostatically tested for all FDC's on any type of standpipe system. Hydrostatic testing shall also be conducted in accordance with NFPA 25 requirements for the different types of standpipe systems.

For any manual (dry or wet) standpipe system not having an automatic water supply capable of flowing water through the standpipe, the tester shall connect hose from a fire hydrant or portable pumping system (as approved by the fire code official) to each FDC, and flow water through the standpipe system to the roof outlet to verify that each inlet connection functions properly. Confirm that there are no open hose valves prior to introducing water into a dry standpipe. There are no required pressure criteria at the outlet. Verify that check valves function properly and that there are no closed control valves on the system.

Any pressure relief, reducing, or control valves shall be tested in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 25. All hose valves shall be exercised.

If the FDC is not already provided with approved caps, the contractor shall install such caps for all FDC's as required by the fire code official.

Upon successful completion of standpipe test, place a blue tag (as per Texas Administrative Code, Fire Sprinkler Rules for Inspection, Test and Maintenance Service (ITM) Tag) at the bottom of each standpipe riser in the building. The tag shall be check-marked as "Fifth Year" for Type of ITM, and the note on the back of the tag shall read "5 Year Standpipe Test" at a minimum.

The procedures required by Texas Administrative Code Fire Sprinkler Rules with regard to Yellow Tags and Red Tags or any deficiencies noted during the testing, including the required notification of the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (fire code official) shall be followed.

Additionally, records of the testing shall be maintained by the owner and contractor, if applicable, as required by the State Rules mentioned above and NFPA 25.

Standpipe system tests where water will be flowed external to the building shall not be conducted during freezing conditions or during the day prior to expected night time freezing conditions.

Contact the fire code official for requests to remove existing fire hose from Class II and III

standpipe systems where employees are not trained in the utilization of this firefighting equipment. All standpipe hose valves must remain in place and be provided with an approved cap and chain when approval is given to remove hose by the fire code official.

(Explanation: Increases the reliability of the fire protection system and re-emphasizes the requirements of NFPA 25 relative to standpipe systems, as well as ensuring that FDC connections are similarly tested/maintained to ensure operation in an emergency incident.)

Section 901.6.4; add to read as follows:

901.6.4 False Alarms and Nuisance Alarms. False alarms and nuisance alarms shall not be signaled, transmitted, caused, or permitted to be given, signaled or transmitted in any manner.

(Explanation: Places the responsibility on the business or property owner to maintain their fire alarm systems in approved condition. Allows the enforcement of "prohibition of false alarms". Replaces text lost from the legacy codes that helps to ensure the maintenance of life safety systems.)

Section 901.7; change to read as follows:

901.7 Systems out of service. Where a required fire protection system is out of service or in the event of an excessive number of activations, the fire department and the fire code official shall be notified immediately and, where required by the fire code official, the building shall either be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shut down until the fire protection system has been returned to service....{remaining text unchanged}

(Explanation: Gives fire code official more discretion with regards to enforcement of facilities experiencing nuisance alarms or fire protection system activations necessitating correction/replacement. The intent of the amendment is to allow local jurisdictions to enforce fire watches, etc., where needed to ensure safety of occupants where fire protection system are experiencing multiple nuisance activations.)

Removal of existing occupant-use hose lines. The fire code official is authorized to permit the removal of occupant-use hose lines and hose valves where all of the following conditions exist:

The hose line(s) would not be utilized by trained personnel or the fire department.
If the occupant-use hose lines are removed, but the hose valves are required to remain as per the fire code official, such shall be compatible with local fire department fittings.

SECTION 903 AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Section 903.1.1; change to read as follows:

903.1.1 Alternative protection. Alternative automatic fire-extinguishing systems complying with Section 904 shall be permitted instead of in addition to automatic sprinkler protection where

recognized by the applicable standard and, or as approved by the fire code official.

(Explanation: Such alternative systems do not provide the reliability of automatic sprinkler protection. Most gaseous type systems are highly susceptible to open doors, ceiling or floor tile removal, etc. However, an applicant could pursue an Alternate Method request to help mitigate the reliability issues with these alternative systems with the fire code official if so desired, or there may be circumstances in which the fire code official is acceptable to allowing an alternative system in lieu of sprinklers, such as kitchen hoods)

Section 903.2; add paragraph to read as follows and delete the Exception for telecommunications buildings:

903.2 Where required. Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in the locations described in Sections 903.2.1 through 903.2.12. Automatic Sprinklers shall not be installed in elevator machine rooms, elevator machine spaces, and elevator hoistways, other than pits where such sprinklers would not necessitate shunt trip requirements under any circumstances. Storage shall not be allowed within the elevator machine room. Signage shall be provided at the entry doors to the elevator machine room indicating “ELEVATOR MACHINERY – NO STORAGE ALLOWED.”

Exception: {deleted}

Add Section 903.2.9.5 to read as follows:

903.2.9.5 Self-service storage facility. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout all self-service storage facilities.

Exception:

Unit size no more than 10x20x12, with a building length not to exceed 110 feet (33 528 mm) and,
The building in single compartment depths and,
No electrical outlets or connections, except for interior lighting and,
Units separated with walls floor to deck, sealed, and no common attic and,
No vehicular storage such as autos, RV’s, boats, or motorized units fuel gas or electrical and,
Fire Lane access on all sides of the structure.

(Explanation: Fire departments are unable to regularly inspect the interior of these commercial occupancies and are unaware of the contents being stored. Previous allowance to separate units by fire barriers is difficult to enforce maintenance after emergency)

Add section 903.2.11.3

903.2.11.3 Buildings 35 feet or more in height. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout buildings that have one or more stories, other than penthouses in compliance with Section 1511 of the International Building Code®, located 35 feet (10668 mm) or more above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access, measured to the finished floor.

Exception:

Open parking structures in compliance with Section 406.5 of the International Building Code®, having no other occupancies above the subject garage.

(Explanation: Provides jurisdictions options as to their desired level of sprinkler protection based on multiple factors including firefighting philosophies/capabilities.)

Section 903.3.1.1.1; change to read as follows:

Exempt locations. When approved by the fire code official automatic sprinklers shall not be required in the following rooms or areas where such rooms or areas are protected with an approved automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 907.2 that will respond to visible or invisible particles of combustion. Sprinklers shall not be omitted from a room merely because it is damp, of fire- resistance-rated construction or contains electrical equipment.

Any room where the application of water, or flame and water, constitutes a serious life or fire hazard.

Any room or space where sprinklers are considered undesirable because of the nature of the contents, when approved by the fire code official.

Generator and transformer rooms, under the direct control of a public utility, separated from the remainder of the building by walls and floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assemblies having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 2 hours.

Rooms or areas that are of noncombustible construction with wholly non combustible contents. Fire service access elevator machine rooms and machinery space.

Machine rooms, machinery spaces, controls rooms and control spaces associated with occupant evacuation elevators in accordance with Section 3008 of the International Building Code.

Explanation: Gives more direction to code official. Exception 4 deleted to provide protection where fire risks are poorly addressed. Amendment 903.2 addresses Exception 5 above relative to the elimination of sprinkler protection in these areas to avoid the shunt tri requirement.)

Section 903.3.1.2.3; delete section and replace as follows:

903.3.1.2.3 Attics and attached garages. Sprinkler protection is required in attic spaces of such buildings two or more stories in height, in accordance with NFPA 13 and or NFPA 13R requirements, and attached garages.

(Explanation: Attic protection is required due to issues with fire exposure via soffit vents, as well as firefighter safety. Several jurisdictions indicated experience with un-protected attic fires resulting in displacement of all building occupants. NFPA 13 provides for applicable attic sprinkler protection requirements, as well as exemptions to such, based on noncombustible construction, etc. Attached garages already require sprinklers via NFPA 13R - this amendment just reemphasizes the requirement).

Section 903.3.1.3; change to read as follows:

NFPA 13D sprinkler systems. Automatic sprinkler systems installed in one- and two-family dwellings; Group R-3; Group R-4 Condition 1 and townhouses shall be permitted to be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13D or in accordance with state law.

(Explanation: To allow the use of the Plumbing section of the International Residential Code (IRC) and recognize current state stipulations in this regard)

Section 903.3.1.4; add to read as follows:

Freeze protection. Freeze protection systems for automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be in accordance with the requirements of the applicable referenced NFPA standard and this section.

Attics. Only dry-pipe, pre-action, or listed antifreeze automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be allowed to protect attic spaces.

Exception: Wet-pipe fire sprinkler systems shall be allowed to protect non-ventilated attic spaces where:

The attic sprinklers are supplied by a separate floor control valve assembly to allow ease of draining the attic system without impairing sprinklers throughout theres! of the building, and Adequate heat shall be provided for freeze protection as per the applicable referenced NFPA standard, and

The attic space is a part of the building's thermal, or heat, envelope, such that insulation is provided at the roof deck, rather than at the ceiling level.

Heat trace/insulation. Heat trace/insulation shall only be allowed where approved bythe fire code official for small sections of large diameter water-filled pipe.

(Explanation: severe winters brought to light several issues with current practices for placing fire sprinklers in attics, not the least of which was wet-pipe sprinklers in ventilated attics provided with space heaters, etc. for freeze protection of such piping. This practice is not acceptable for the protection of water-filled piping in a ventilated attic space as it does not provide a reliable means of maintaining the minimum 40 degrees required by NFPA, wastes energy, and presents a potential ignition source to the attic space. Listed antifreeze is specifically included because NFPA currently allows such even though there is no currently listed antifreeze at the time of development of these amendments. The intent of this amendment is to help reduce the large number of freeze breaks that have occurred in the past with water-filled wet-pipe sprinkler systems in the future, most especially in attic spaces.)

Section 903.3.5; add a second paragraph to read as follows:

903.3.5 Water supplies. Water supplies for automatic sprinkler systems shall comply with this section and the standards referenced in Section 903.3.1. The potable water supply shall be protected against backflow in accordance with the requirements of this section and the International Plumbing Code. For connections to public waterworks systems, the water supply test used for design of fire protection systems shall be adjusted to account for seasonal and daily

pressure fluctuations based on information from the water supply authority and as approved by the fire code official.

Water supply as required for such systems shall be provided in conformance with the supply requirements of the respective standards; however, every water-based fire protection system shall be designed with a 10-psi safety factor. Reference Section 507.4 for additional design requirements.

(Explanation: To Define Uniform Safety Factor for the State)

section 903.4; add a second paragraph after the exceptions to read as follows:

Sprinkler system supervision and alarms. Valves controlling the water supply for automatic sprinkler systems, pumps, tanks, water levels and temperatures, critical air pressures and waterflow switches on all sprinkler systems shall be electrically supervised by a listed fire alarm control unit.

Exceptions:

Automatic sprinkler systems protecting one and two family dwellings.

Limited area sprinkler systems in accordance with Section 903.3.8.

Automatic sprinkler systems installed in accordance with NFPA 13R where a common supply main is used to supply both domestic water and the automatic sprinkler system, and a separate shutoff valve for the automatic sprinkler system is not provided.

Jockey pump control valves that are sealed or locked in the open position.

Control valves to commercial kitchen hoods, paint spray booths or dip tanks that are sealed or locked in the open position.

Valves controlling the fuel supply to fire pump engines that are sealed or locked in the open position.

Trim valves to pressure switches in dry, preaction and deluge sprinkler systems that are sealed or locked in the open position.

Sprinkler and standpipe system water-flow detectors shall be provided for each floor tap to the sprinkler system and shall cause an alarm upon detection of water flow for more than 45 seconds. All control valves in the sprinkler and standpipe systems except for fire department hose connection valves shall be electrically supervised to initiate a supervisory signal at the central station upon tampering.

(Explanation: Fire department connections are not always located at the riser; this allows the fire department faster access and ease of recognition of FDC locations, especially at night)

Section 903.4.2; change to read as follows:

903.4.2 Alarms. An approved audible device, located on the exterior of the building in an approved location, shall be connected to each automatic sprinkler system. Such sprinkler waterflow alarm devices shall be activated by water flow equivalent to the flow of a single

sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed in the system. Where a fire alarm system is installed, actuation of the automatic sprinkler system shall actuate the building fire alarm system.

The alarm device required on the exterior of the building shall be a weatherproof horn/strobe notification appliance with a minimum 75 candela strobe rating, installed as close as practicable to the fire department connection.

SECTION 905 STANDPIPE SYSTEMS

905.2 Installation standard. Standpipe systems shall be installed in accordance with this section and NFPA 14. Manual dry standpipe systems shall be supervised with a minimum of 10 psig and a maximum of 40 psig air pressure with a high/low alarm.

Buildings exceeding 10,000 sq. ft. In buildings exceeding 10,000 square feet in area per story and where any portion of the building's interior area is more than 200 feet (60 96 mm) of travel, vertically and horizontally, from the nearest point of fire department vehicle access, Class I automatic wet or manual wet standpipes shall be provided.

Exceptions:

Automatic dry and semi-automatic dry standpipes are allowed as provided for in NFPA 14. R-2 occupancies of four stories or less in height having no interior corridors.

section 905.4; change Item 1, and 5, and add Item 7 to read as follows:

Location of Class I Standpipe hose connections. Class I standpipe hose connections shall be provided in all of the following locations:

In every required interior exit stairway, a hose connection shall be provided for each story above and below grade plane. Hose connections shall be located at an intermediate landing between stories, unless otherwise approved by the fire code official.

On each side of the wall adjacent to the exit opening of a horizontal exit.

In every exit passageway, at the entrance from the exit passageway to other areas of a building.

Exception: Where floor areas adjacent to an exit passageway are reachable from an interior exit stairway hose connection by a {no change to rest of paragraph}

In covered mall buildings, adjacent to each exterior public entrance to the mall and adjacent to each entrance from an exit passageway or exit corridor to the mall. In open mall buildings, adjacent to each public entrance to the mall at the perimeter line and adjacent to each entrance from an exit passageway or exit corridor to the mall.

Where the roof has a slope less than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33.3-percent slope), each standpipe shall be provided with a two-way a hose connection shall be located to serve the roof or at the highest landing of an interior exit stairway with stair access to the roof provided in accordance with Section 1011.12.

Where the most remote portion of a non-sprinklered floor or story is more than 150 feet (45 720 mm) from a hose connection or the most remote portion of a sprinklered floor or story is more than 200 feet (60960 mm) from a hose connection, the fire code official is authorized to require

that additional hose connections be provided in approved locations.

When required by this Chapter, standpipe connections shall be placed adjacent to all required exits to the structure and at 200 feet (6096 mm) intervals along major corridors thereafter, or as otherwise approved by the fire code official.

(Explanation: Item 1, and 5 amendments to remove 'interior' will help to clarify that such connections are required for all 'exit' stairways, to ensure firefighter capabilities are not diminished in these tall buildings, simply because the stair is on the exterior of the building. Item 5 reduces the amount of pressure required to facilitate testing, and provides backup protection for fire fighter safety. Item 7 allows for the rapid deployment of hose lines to the body of the fire)

section 905.9; shall be amended and adds a second paragraph to read as follows

Valve supervision. Valves controlling water supplies shall be supervised in the open position so that a change in the normal position of the valve will generate a supervisory signal at the supervising station required by Section 903.4. Where a fire alarm system is provided, a signal shall be transmitted to the control unit.

Exceptions:

Valves to underground key or hub valves in roadway boxes provided by the municipality or public utility do not require supervision.

Valves locked in the normal position and inspected as provided in this code in buildings not equipped with a fire alarm system.

Sprinkler and standpipe system water-flow detectors shall be provided for each floor tap to the sprinkler system and shall cause an alarm upon detection of water flow for more than 45 seconds. All control valves in the sprinkler and standpipe systems except for fire department hose connection valves shall be electrically supervised to initiate a supervisory signal at the central station upon tampering.

(Explanation: To avoid significant water losses. Consistent with amendment to IFC 903.4)

SECTION 907 FIRE ALARM AND DETECTION SYSTEMS

Section 907.1.4; add to read as follows:

907.1.4 Design standards. Where a new fire alarm system is installed, the devices shall be addressable. Fire alarm systems utilizing more than 20 smoke detectors shall have analog initiating devices.

(Explanation: Provides for the ability of descriptive identification of alarms, and reduces need for panel replacement in the future. Change of terminology for reference back to definitions of NFPA 72)

907.2.1 Group A. A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in

accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in Group A occupancies having an occupant load of 300 or more persons or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge. Group A occupancies not separated from one another in accordance with Section 707.3.10 of the International Building Code® shall be considered as a single occupancy for the purposes of applying this section. Portions of Group E occupancies occupied for assembly purposes shall be provided with a fire alarm system as required for the Group E occupancy.

Exception: {No Change}

Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler water flow.

Activation of fire alarm notification appliances shall:

Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1 foot-candle (11 lux) at the walking surface level, and

Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions.

(Explanation: Increases the requirement to be consistent with Group B requirement. Also addresses issue found in Group A occupancies of reduced lighting levels and other A/V equipment that distracts from fire alarm notification devices or reduces ability of fire alarm system to notify occupants of the emergency condition)

Section 907.2.3; change to read as follows:

Group E. A manual fire alarm system that initiates the occupant notification signal utilizing an emergency voice/alarm communication system meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group E educational occupancies. When automatic sprinkler systems or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system. An approved smoke detection system shall be installed in Group E day care occupancies. Unless separated by a minimum of 100 feet (30 48 mm) open space, all buildings, whether portable buildings or the main building, will be considered one building for alarm occupant load consideration and interconnection of alarm systems.

Exceptions:

A manual fire alarm system is not required in Group E occupancies with an occupant load of 50 or less.

Residential In-Home day care with not more than 12 children may use interconnected single station detectors in all habitable rooms. (For care of more than five children 2 ½ or less years of age, see Section 907.2.6.)

Emergency voice/alarm communication systems meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall not be required in Group E occupancies with occupant loads of 100 or less, provided that activation of the manual fire alarm system initiates an approved occupant notification signal in accordance with Section 907.5.

Manual fire alarm boxes are not required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:

Interior corridors are protected by smoke detectors.

Auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and similar areas are protected by heat detectors or other approved detection devices.

Shops and laboratories involving dusts or vapors are protected by heat detectors or other approved detection devices.

Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:

The building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

The emergency voice/alarm communication system will activate on sprinkler water flow.

Manual activation is provided from a normally occupied location.

(Explanation. To distinguish educational from day care occupancy minimum protection requirements. Further, to define threshold at which portable buildings are considered a separate building for the purposes of alarm systems. Exceptions provide consistency with State Law concerning such occupancies)

Section 907.2.13, Exception 3. Change to read as follows:

High-rise buildings. High-rise buildings shall be provided with an automatic smoke detection system in accordance with Section 907.2.13.1, a fire department communication system in accordance with Section 907.2.13.2 and an emergency voice/alarm communication system in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2.

Exceptions:

Airport traffic control towers in accordance with Section 907.2.22 of this code and Section 412 of the International Building Code.

Open parking garages in accordance with Section 406.5 of the International Building Code.

Open air portions of buildings with an occupancy in Group A-5 in accordance with Section 303.1 of the International Building Code®, however, this exception does not apply to accessory uses including but not limited to sky boxes, restaurants, and similarly enclosed areas.

Low-hazard special occupancies in accordance with Section 503.1.1 of the International Building Code.

Buildings with an occupancy in Group H-1, H-2 or H-3 in accordance with Section 415 of the International Building Code.

In Group I-1 and I-2 occupancies, the alarm shall sound at a constantly attended location and occupant notification shall be broadcast by the emergency voice/alarm communication system.

Explanation: To indicate that enclosed areas within open air seating type occupancies are not exempt from automatic fire alarm system requirements)

907.4.2 Manual fire alarm boxes.

Where a manual fire alarm system is required by another section of this code, it shall be activated by fire alarm boxes with Section 907.4.2.1 through 907.4.2.6.

Section 907.4.2.7; add to read as follows:

907.4.2.7 Type. Manual alarm initiating devices shall be an approved double action type.

(Explanation: Helps to reduce false alarms.)

Installation and monitoring. A fire alarm system shall be installed and monitored in accordance with Sections 907.6.1 through 907.6.6.2 and NFPA 72.

Wiring. Wiring shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 70 and NFPA 72. Wireless protection systems utilizing radio-frequency transmitting devices shall comply with the special requirements for supervision of low-power wireless systems in NFPA 72.

Section 907.6.1.1; add to read as follows:

Wiring installation. All fire alarm systems shall be installed in such a manner that a failure of any single initiating device or single open in an initiating circuit conductor will not interfere with the normal operation of other such devices. All signaling line circuits (SLC) shall be installed in such a way that a single open will not interfere with the operation of any addressable devices (Class A). Outgoing and return SLC conductors shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 72 requirements for Class A circuits and shall have a minimum of four feet separation horizontal and one foot vertical between supply and return circuit conductors. The initiating device circuit (IDC) from a signaling line circuit interface device may be wired Class B, provided the distance from the interface device to the initiating device is ten feet or less.

(Explanation: To provide uniformity in system specifications and guidance to design engineers. Improves reliability of fire alarm devices and systems)

Section 907.6.3; delete all four Exceptions.

907.6.3 Initiating device identification. The fire alarm system shall identify the specific initiating device address, location, device type, floor level where applicable and status including indication of normal, alarm, trouble and supervisory status, as appropriate.

Exception: {deleted}

(Explanation: To assist responding personnel in locating the emergency event for all fire alarm systems. This is moved from 907.6.5.3 in the 2018 IFC and reworded to match new code language and sections)

Section 907.6.6; add sentence at end of paragraph to read as follows:

907.6.6 Monitoring. Fire alarms systems required by this chapter or by the International Building Code shall be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with NFPA 72. See 907.6.3 for the required information transmitted to the supervising station.

(Explanation: To assist responding personnel in locating the emergency event for all fire alarm

systems. This was moved from 907.6.5.3 in the 2018 IFC and reworded to match new code language and sections)

SECTION 910 SMOKE AND HEAT REMOVAL

Section 910.2; change Exceptions 2. and 3. to read as follows:

Where required. Smoke and heat vents or a mechanical smoke removal system shall be installed as required by Sections 910.2.1 and 910.2.2.

Exceptions:

Frozen food warehouses used solely for storage of Class I and II commodities where protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system.

Only manual smoke and heat removal shall not be required in areas of buildings equipped with early suppression fast-response (ESFR) sprinklers. Automatic smoke and heat removal is prohibited.

Only manual smoke and heat removal shall not be required in areas of buildings equipped with control mode special application sprinklers with a response time index of $50(m^*S)^{1/2}$ or less that are listed to control a fire in stored commodities with 12 or fewer sprinklers. Automatic smoke and heat removal is prohibited.

Explanation: Allows the fire department to control the smoke and heat during and after a fire event, while still prohibiting such systems from being automatically activated, which is a potential detriment to the particular sprinkler systems indicated)

Section 910.2.3; add to read as follows:

Group H. Buildings and portions thereof used as a Group H Occupancy as follows:

In occupancies classified as Group H-2 or H-3, any of which are more than 15,000 square feet (1394 m²) in single floor area.

Exception: Buildings of noncombustible construction containing only noncombustible materials.

In areas of buildings in Group H used for storing Class 2, 3, and 4 liquid and solid oxidizers, Class I and unclassified detonable organic peroxides, Class 3 and 4 unstable (reactive) materials, or Class 2 or 3 water-reactive materials as required for a high-hazard commodity classification.

Exception: Buildings of noncombustible construction containing only noncombustible materials.

(Explanation: Maintains a fire protection device utilized in such occupancies where it is sometimes necessary to allow chemicals to burn out, rather than extinguish.)

Vent operation. Smoke and heat vents shall be capable of being operated by approved automatic and manual means. Automatic operation of smoke and heat vents shall conform to the provisions of Sections 910.3.2.1 through 910.3.2.3.

Sprinklered buildings. Where installed in buildings equipped with an approved automatic sprinkler system, smoke and heat vents shall be designed to operate automatically. The automatic operating mechanism of the smoke and heat vents shall operate at a temperature rating at least 100 degrees F (approximately 38 degrees Celsius) greater than the temperature rating of the sprinklers installed.

Exception:

Manual only systems per Section 910.2.

Non-sprinklered buildings. Where installed in buildings not equipped with an approved automatic sprinkler system, smoke and heat vents shall operate automatically by actuation of a heat-responsive device rated at between 100°F (56°C) and 220°F (122°C) above ambient.

Exception: Listed gravity-operated drop out vents.

Section 910.4.3.1; change to read as follows:

910.4.3.1 Makeup air. Makeup air openings shall be provided within 6 feet (1829 mm) of the floor level. Operation of makeup air openings shall be automatic. The minimum gross area of makeup air inlets shall be 8 square feet per 1,000 cubic feet per minute (0.74 m² per 0.4719 m³/s) of smoke exhaust.

(Explanation: Makeup air has been required to be automatic in this State when mechanical smoke exhaust systems are proposed. This allows such systems to be activated from the smoke control panel by first responders without having to physically go around the exterior of the building opening doors manually. Not having Makeup Air requires a significant number of first responders on scene to conduct this operation and significantly delays activation and/or capability of the smoke exhaust system)

910.4.4 Activation. The mechanical smoke removal system shall be activated automatically by the automatic sprinkler system or by an approved fire detection system. Individual manual controls shall also be provided.

Exception:

Manual only systems per Section 910.2.

SECTION 913 FIRE PUMPS

Section 913.2.1; add second paragraph and exception to read as follows:

913.2.1 Protection of fire pump rooms. Rooms where fire pumps are located shall be separated from all other areas of the building in accordance with Section 913.2.1 of the International Building Code.

When located on the ground level at an exterior wall, the fire pump room shall be provided with

an exterior fire department access door that is not less than 3 feet (9144 mm) in width and 6 feet 8 inches (2 0726 mm) in height, regardless of any interior doors that are provided. A key box shall be provided at this door, as required by Section 506.1.

Exception:

When it is necessary to locate the fire pump room on other levels or not at an exterior wall, the corridor leading to the fire pump room access from the exterior of the building shall be provided with equivalent fire resistance as that required for the pump room, or as approved by the fire code official. Access keys shall be provided in the key box as required by Section 506.1.

(Explanation: This requirement allows fire fighters safer access to the fire pump room. The requirement allows access without being required to enter the building and locate the fire pump room interior access door during a fire event. The exception recognizes that this will not always be a feasible design scenario for some buildings, and as such, provides an acceptable alternative to protect the

SECTION 914 FIRE PROTECTION BASED ON SPECIAL DETAILED REQUIREMENTS OF USE AND OCCUPANCY

Water supply to required fire pumps. In buildings that are more than 120 feet (128 m) in building height, required fire pumps shall be supplied by connections to no fewer than two water mains located in different streets. Separate supply piping shall be provided between each connection to the water main and the pumps. Each connection and the supply piping between the connection and the pumps shall be sized to supply the flow and pressure required for the pumps to operate.

Exception:

Two connections to the same main shall be permitted provided the main is valved such that an interruption can be isolated so that the water supply will continue without interruption through no fewer than one of the connections.

Explanation: The 2009 edition of the IFC added this requirement based on a need for redundancy of the water supply similar to the redundancy of the power supply to the fire pumps required for such tall buildings, partially due to the fact that these buildings are rarely fully evacuated in a fire event. More commonly, the alarm activates on the floor of the event, the floor above and the floor below. Back-up power to the fire pump becomes critical for this reason.)

CHAPTER 10 MEANS OF EGRESS

SECTION 1009 ACCESSIBLE MEANS OF EGRESS

1009.1 Accessible means of egress required. Accessible means of egress shall comply with this section. Accessible spaces shall be provided with not less than one accessible means of egress. Where more than one means of egress is required by Section 1006.2 or 1006.3 from an accessible space, each accessible portion of the space shall be served by not less than two

accessible means of egress.

Exceptions:

Accessible means of egress are not required to be provided in existing buildings.

One accessible means of egress is required from an accessible mezzanine level in accordance with Section 1009.3, 1009.4 or 1009.5.

In assembly areas with ramped aisles or stepped aisles, one accessible means of egress is permitted where the common path of travel is accessible and meets the requirements in Section 1029.8.

Buildings regulated under State Law and built in accordance with State registered plans, including any variances or waivers granted by the State, shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of Section 1009.

SECTION 1010 DOORS, GATES, AND TURNSTILES

SECTION 1015 GUARDS

Section 1015.8 Window openings. Windows in Group R-2 and R-3 buildings including dwelling units, where the top of the sill of an operable window opening is located less than 36 inches above the finished floor and more than 72 inches (1 829 mm) above the finished grade or other surface below on the exterior of the building, shall comply with one of the following:

Operable windows where the top of the sill of the opening is located more than 55 (16 764 mm) above the finished grade or other surface below and that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F 2006.

Operable windows where the openings will not allow a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere to pass through the opening when the window is in its largest opened position.

Operable windows where the openings are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F 2090.

Operable windows that are provided with window opening control devices that comply with Section 1015.8.1.

SECTION 1020 CORRIDORS

1020.2 Construction. Corridors shall be fire-resistance rated in accordance with Table 1020.2. The corridor walls required to be fire-resistance rated shall comply with Section 708 of the International Building Code for fire partitions.

Exceptions:

A fire-resistance rating is not required for corridors in an occupancy in Group E where each room that is used for instruction has not less than one door opening directly to the exterior and rooms for assembly purposes have not less than one-half of the required means of egress doors opening directly to the exterior. Exterior doors specified in this exception are required to be at ground level.

A fire-resistance rating is not required for corridors contained within a dwelling unit or sleeping

unit in an occupancy in Groups I-1 and R.

A fire-resistance rating is not required for corridors in open parking garages.

A fire-resistance rating is not required for corridors in a Group B Occupancy that is a space requiring only a single means of egress complying with Section 1006.2.

Corridors adjacent to the exterior walls of buildings shall be permitted to have unprotected openings on unrated exterior walls where unrated walls are permitted by Table 602 of the International Building Code and unprotected openings are permitted by Table 705.8 of the International Building Code.

In group B occupancies, corridor walls and ceilings need not be of fire-resistive construction within a single tenant space when the space is equipped with approved automatic smoke-detection within the corridor. The actuation of any detector shall activate self-annunciating alarms audible in all areas within the corridor. Smoke detectors shall be connected to an approved automatic fire alarm system where such system is provided.

CHAPTER 11 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

SECTION 1103 FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

1103.3 Existing elevators. Existing elevators, escalators, and moving walks shall comply with the requirements of section 1103.3.1 and 1103.3.2. Provide emergency signage as required by Section 607.3.

Section 1103.5.1; add sentence to read as follows:

Fire sprinkler system installation shall be completed within 24 months from date of notification by the fire code official.

(Explanation: This allows business owners adequate time budget to accommodate the cost of the fire sprinkler system)

CHAPTER 23 MOTOR FUEL-DISPENSING FACILITIES AND REPAIR GARAGES

SECTION 2304 DISPENSING OPERATIONS

section 2304.1; change to read as follows:

2304.1 Supervision of dispensing. The dispensing of fuel at motor fuel-dispensing facilities shall be in accordance with Section 2204.3.

Conducted by a qualified attendant; and/or,

Shall be under the supervision of a qualified attendant; and/or

Shall be an unattended self-service facility in accordance with Section 2304.3.

At any time the qualified attendant of item Number 1 or 2 above is not present, such operations shall be considered as an unattended self-service facility and shall also comply with Section 2304.3.

(Explanation: Allows a facility to apply the attended and unattended requirements of the code when both are potentially applicable)

CHAPTER 24 FLAMMABLE FINISHES

SECTION 2401 GENERAL

Section 2401.2; Delete this section in its entirety
2401.2 Non-applicability. {deleted in its entirety}

(Explanation: This section eliminates such booths from all compliance with Chapter 24 including, but not limited to: size, ventilation, fire protection, construction, etc. If the product utilized is changed to a more flammable substance, the lack of compliance with Chapter 15 could result in significant fire or deflagration and subsequent life safe hazard.)

CHAPTER 32 HIGH-PILED COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE

SECTION 3206 GENERAL FIRE PROTECTION AND LIFE SAFETY FEATURES

3206.2 Extent and type of protection.

Table 3206.2, footnote j; change text to read as follows:

Table 3206.2 GENERAL FIRE PROTECTION AND LIFE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

{footnotes a through i remain unchanged}

{footnote j; changed to read as follows}

Where storage areas are protected by either early suppression fast response (ESFR) sprinkler systems or control mode special application sprinklers with a response time index of $50 (m \cdot s)^{1/2}$ or less that are listed to control a fire in the stored commodities with 12 or fewer sprinklers, installed in accordance with NFPA 13, manual smoke and heat vents or manually activated engineered mechanical smoke exhaust systems shall be required within these areas.

CHAPTER 56 EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS

SECTION 5601 General

section 5601.1.3; change to read as follows:

5601.1.3 Fireworks. The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling, and use of fireworks are prohibited.

Exceptions:

Only when approved for fireworks displays, storage, and handling of fireworks as allowed in Section 5604 and 5608.

Manufacture, assembly and testing of fireworks as allowed in Section 5605.

The use of fireworks for approved fireworks displays as allowed in Section 5608.

The possession, storage, sale, and use as allowed by State Law in the unincorporated areas of the County.

(Explanation: Restricts fireworks to approved displays only, which is consistent with State practice. Such is intended to help protect property owners and individuals from unintentional fireworks fires within the jurisdiction, as well as to help protect individuals from fireworks injuries. It is noted that there has been a change in the State Law to allow possession of unopened fireworks in certain areas of the vehicle, and it is highly recommended that AHJ's familiarize themselves with the applicable state laws in this regard.)

CHAPTER 57 FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS SECTION 5703 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 5703.6; change to read as follows:

5703.6 Piping systems. Piping systems, and their component parts, for flammable and combustible liquids shall be in accordance with Sections 5703.6.1 through 5703.6.11. An approved method of secondary containment shall be provided for underground tank and piping systems.

(Explanation: Increased protection in response to underground leak problems and remediation difficulty in underground applications. Coordinates with TCEQ requirements)

SECTION 5704 STORAGE

5704.2.9.5 Above-ground tanks inside of buildings. Above-ground tanks inside of buildings shall comply with Section 5704.2.9.5.1 through 5704.2.9.5.3.

5704.2.9.5.1 Overfill prevention. Above-ground tanks storing Class I, II and IIIA liquids inside buildings shall be equipped with a device or other means to prevent overflow into the building including, but not limited to: a float valve; a preset meter on the fill line; a valve actuated by the weight of the tank's contents; a low-head pump that is incapable of producing overflow; or a liquid-tight overflow pipe not less than one pipe size larger than the fill pipe and discharging by gravity back to the outside source of liquid or to an approved location. Tanks containing Class IIIB liquids and connected to fuel-burning equipment shall be provided with a means to prevent overflow into buildings in accordance with Section 5704.2.7.5.8.

5704.2.9.5.2 Fill pipe connections. Fill pipe connections for tanks storing Class I, II and IIIA liquids and Class IIIB liquids connected to fuel-burning equipment shall be in accordance with Section 5704.2.9.7.7.

5704.2.9.5.3 Combustible liquid storage tanks inside of buildings. The maximum aggregate allowable quantity limit shall be 3,000 gallons (11 356 L) of Class II or III combustible liquid for storage in protected aboveground tanks complying with Section 5704.2.9.7 when all of the following conditions are met:

The entire 3,000-gallon (11 356 L) quantity shall be stored in protected above-ground tanks; The 3,000-gallon (11 356 L) capacity shall be permitted to be stored in a single tank or multiple

smaller tanks;

The tanks shall be located in a room protected by an automatic sprinkler system complying with Section 903.3.1.1; and

Tanks shall be connected to fuel-burning equipment, including generators, utilizing an approved closed piping system.

The quantity of combustible liquid stored in tanks complying with this section shall not be counted towards the maximum allowable quantity set forth in Table 5003.1.1(1), and such tanks shall not be required to be located in a control area. Such tanks shall not be located more than two stories below grade.

Section 5704.2.11.4; change to read as follows:

5704.2.11.4 Leak prevention. Leak prevention for underground tanks shall comply with Sections 5704.2.11.4.1 through 5704.2.11.4.3. An approved method of secondary containment shall be provided for underground tank and piping systems.

(Explanation: Increased protection in response to underground leak problems and remediation difficulty in underground applications. Coordinates with TCEQ requirements)

section 5704.2.11.4.2; change to read as follows:

5704.2.11.4.2 Leak detection. Underground storage tank systems shall be provided with an approved method of leak detection from any component of the system that is designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 30 and as specified in Section 5704.2.11.4.3.

(Explanation: Reference to IFC Section 5704.2.11.4.3)

5704.2.11.4.3 Observation wells. Approved sampling tubes of a minimum 4 inches in diameter shall be installed in the backfill material of each underground flammable or combustible liquid storage tank. The tubes shall extend from a point 12 inches below the average grade of the excavation to ground level and shall be provided with suitable surface access caps. Each tank site shall provide a sampling tube at the corners of the excavation with a minimum of 4 tubes. Sampling tubes shall be placed in the product line excavation within 10 feet of the tank excavation and one every 50 feet routed along product lines towards the dispensers, a minimum of two are required.

CHAPTER 61 LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GASES

SECTION 6103 INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT

section 6103.2.1.8; add to read as follows:

6103.2.1.8 Jewelry repair, dental labs and similar occupancies. Where natural gas service is not available, portable LP-Gas containers are allowed to be used to supply approved torch assemblies or similar appliances. Such containers shall not exceed 20-pound (9.0 kg) water capacity. Aggregate capacity shall not exceed 60-pound (27.2 kg) water capacity. Each device shall be separated from other containers by a distance of not less than 20 feet.

(Explanation: To provide a consistent and reasonable means of regulating the use of portable LP-Gas containers in these situations. Reduces the hazard presented by portable containers when natural gas is already available. Please note that current State law does not allow for the enforcement of any rules more stringent than that adopted by the State, so this amendment is only applicable as to the extent allowed by law)

SECTION 6104 LOCATION OF LP-GAS CONTAINERS

Section 6104.2; add Exception 2. to read as follows:

6104.2 Maximum capacity within established limits. Within the limits established by law restricting the storage of liquefied petroleum gas for the protection of heavily populated or congested areas, the aggregate capacity of any one installation shall not exceed a water capacity of 2,000 gallons (7570 L)

Exceptions:

In particular installations, this capacity limit shall be determined by the fire code official, after consideration of special features such as topographical conditions, nature of occupancy, and proximity to buildings, capacity of proposed LP-gas containers, degree of fire protection to be provided and capabilities of the local fire department.

Except as permitted in Sections 308 and 6104.3.2, LP-gas containers are not permitted in residential areas.

(Explanation: To provide a consistent and reasonable means of regulating the use LP-Gas containers. Reduces the hazard presented by such containers when natural gas is already available. References State amendment to IFC 6104.3.3. Please note that current State Law does not allow for the enforcement of any rules more stringent than that adopted by the State, so this amendment is only applicable as to the extent allowed b that State Law.)

Section 6104.3.3; add to read as follows:

6104.3.3 Spas, pool heaters, and other listed devices. Where natural gas service is not available, an LP-gas container is allowed to be used to supply spa and pool heaters or other listed devices. Such container shall not exceed 250-gallon water capacity per lot. See Table 6104.3 for location of containers.

Exception:

Lots where LP-gas can be off-loaded wholly on the property where the tank is located may install up to 500 gallon above ground or 1,000 gallon underground approved containers.

(Explanation: Allows for an alternate fuel source. Dwelling density must be considered and possibly factored into zoning restrictions. Reduces the hazard presented by over-sized LP-Gas containers. Please note that current State Law does not allow for the enforcement of any rules more stringent than that adopted by the State, so this amendment is only applicable as to the extent allowed b that State Law.)

SECTION 6107 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND DEVICES

Section 6107.4 is amended as follows:

6107.4 Protecting containers from vehicles. Where exposed to vehicular damage due to proximity to alleys, driveways or parking areas, LP-gas containers, regulators and piping shall be protected in accordance with Section 312.

SECTION 6109 STORAGE OF PORTABLE LP-GAS CONTAINERS AWAITING USE OR RESALE

Section 6109.13 is amended to delete the Exception:

6109.13 Protection of Containers. LP-gas containers shall be stored within a suitable enclosure or otherwise protected against tampering. Vehicle impact protection shall be provided as required by Section 6107.4.

(Explanation: NFPA 58 does not provide substantial physical protection [it allows raised sidewalks, fencing, ditches, parking bumpers as 'vehicle barrier protection'] of the container(s) from vehicular impact as is required and has been required historically, as per Section 312, i.e. bollard protection. Further, the exception to Section 6109.13 would allow for portable containers in ventilated metal cabinets to no/require any physical protection whatsoever from vehicular impact, regardless of the location of the containers. Please note that current State Law does not allow for the enforcement of any rules more stringent than that adopted by the State, so this amendment is only applicable as to the extent allowed b that state Law.)

APPENDIX A is deleted in its entirety
APPENDIX B is adopted in its entirety
APPENDIX C is adopted in its entirety
APPENDIX D is adopted in its entirety
APPENDIX E is adopted in its entirety
APPENDIX F is adopted in its entirety
APPENDIX G is adopted in its entirety
APPENDIX H is adopted in its entirety
APPENDIX I is adopted in its entirety
APPENDIX J remains non-mandatory
APPENDIX K remains non-mandatory
APPENDIX L remains non-mandatory
APPENDIX M remains non-mandatory
APPENDIX N is adopted in its entirety

ADDENDUM 2 Inspection and Permit Fee Schedule

INSPECTIONS	FEES	
AFTER HOUR INSPECTION	\$200.00	Per hour
BEER & WINE PERMIT	\$100.00	
DAYCARE OR SIMILAR INSPECTION	\$50.00	annually
DETENTION/CORRECTIONAL	\$100.00	annually
FIRE INSPECTION	\$50.00	All other inspections not covered on this list
FIRE REINSPECTION	\$100.00	
FUEL LINE PRESSURE TEST	\$50.00	Per line
FUEL PUMP	\$50.00	Per pump
HOSPITAL OR SIMILAR INSPECTION	\$250.00	Plus \$1 per bed after 250 beds annually
HOTEL/MOTEL	\$100.00	annually
HYDROSTATIC TEST	\$50.00	Per test
MONITORING WELL GAS	\$50.00	Per well
NURSING HOME OR SIMILAR INSPECTION	\$150.00	Plus \$1 per bed after 150 beds
OPERATING WITHOUT A PERMIT	PERMIT FEE	Plus 150%
REHAB PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINICS	\$100.00	annually
UNDERGROUND TANK REMOVAL	\$100.00	Per tank
WAREHOUSE 1-49,999 SQ. FT.	\$100.00	annually
WAREHOUSE 50,000 – 200,000 SQ.FT.	\$200.00	annually
WAREHOUSE 200,001+ SQ. FT.	\$300.00	annually
PLAN REVIEWS	FEES	
PLAT REVIEW	\$100.00	
FIRE ALARM CONN. TO SPRINKLER SYSTEM	\$100.00	Per panel
FIRE ALARM MODIFICATION	\$50.00	Plus (1-25) \$1.75 per device (26+) \$0.75 per device
FIRE ALARM PANEL REPLACEMENT	\$100.00	Per panel
NEW FIRE ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLATION	\$100.00	Plus (1-25) \$1.75 per device (26+) \$0.75 per device
NEW SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLATION	\$100.00	Plus (1-25) \$1.50 per head (26+) \$0.50 per head
PLAN REVIEW	\$100.00	Plus \$0.001 per square foot
PLAN REVIEW AUTOMATIC VENT HOOD	\$180.00	Per system
PLAN REVIEW FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	\$100.00	Plus \$0.002 per square foot
PLAN REVIEW SPRINKLER SYSTEM	\$100.00	Plus \$0.002 per square foot
SPRINKLER MODIFICATION	\$50.00	Plus (1-25) \$1.50 per head (26+) \$0.50 per head
PERMITS	FEES	
CONTROL BURNING/BONFIRE	\$100.00	1 to 50 Acres
CONTROL BURNING/BONFIRE	\$200.00	50 to 100 Acres
CONTROL BURNING/BONFIRE	\$300.00	100 to 200 Acres
CONTROL BURNING/BONFIRE	\$400.00	200 to 500 Acres
CONTROL BURNING/BONFIRE	\$500.00	500 to 1000 Acres
EXPLOSIVE TRANSPORT	\$50.00	Per truck
FIRE REPORT	\$10.00	Per report
FIREWORKS DISPLAY*	\$500.00	Per event
FIREWORKS STAND*	\$100.00	Per unit annually

*Fireworks stands, fireworks indoor sale sites, firework displays, and firework storage facilities must comply with the State of Texas "Fireworks Rules" (Texas Occupation Code 2154)

INSPECTIONS	FEES	
FOOD BOOTH	\$20.00	Per booth
LPG TANK	\$50.00	Per tank
MOBILE REFUEL 11+VEHICLES	\$800.00	
MOBILE REFUEL 1-3 VEHICLES	\$200.00	
MOBILE REFUEL 4-6 VEHICLES	\$400.00	
MOBILE REFUEL 7-10 VEHICLES	\$600.00	
MOBILE REFUEL INITIAL FEE	\$250.00	
PYROTECHNICS INDOORS	\$50.00	Per event
SPRAY PAINT BOOTH	\$150.00	Per booth annually
STANDBY FIRE COMPANY	\$250.00	Per hour (min. 2 hours)
STORAGE TANK ABOVE/UNDERGROUND	\$150.00	Per tank
TENT PERMIT	\$50.00	Per tent
UNDERGROUND FIRE LINE	\$50.00	Per line
USED CLOTHING	\$100.00	annually
OTHER	FEES	
FIRE DRILLS COMMERCIAL	\$50.00	
FIRE EQUIPMENT DEMO/TRAINING	\$150.00	For demo/training up to 40 people
AMUSEMENT CENTER'S	\$ 200.00	annually