

Ordinance Number 2021-1070-G

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 50-66 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE TEXAS ADOPTING THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE AS PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL, INC., REGULATING AND GOVERNING THE SAFEGUARDING OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS ARISING FROM THE STORAGE, HANDLING, AND USE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES, MATERIALS AND DEVICES, AND FROM CONDITIONS HAZARDOUS TO LIFE OR PROPERTY IN THE OCCUPANCY OF BUILDINGS AND PREMISES IN THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE.

WHEREAS, the City of Brownsville recognizes the importance of updated Codes and the provisions herein are necessary to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public;

WHEREAS, the adoption of updated Codes streamlines the building regulatory system through a single family of codes that brings consistency and compatibility to multiple layers of requirements existing at the international, federal, state, and local levels.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE:

PART 1. That Chapter 50 Fire Protection and Prevention, Section. 50-66- “Adopted” is hereby repealed and replaced to read as follows:

Sec. 18-116. - Adopted.

(a) The International Fire Code, 2018 Edition, as published by the International Code Council, Inc. is hereby adopted by the City Commission and shall go into effect upon the passage of this ordinance for the purpose of establishing rules and regulations governing building and building activities within the corporate limits of the city, a copy of the aforementioned code can be found at the Fire Department of the City of Brownsville. Said code is hereby adopted and incorporated fully as if set out at length herein; and the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the corporate limits of the city.

(1) Appendices B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and N of the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition, shall be part of this ordinance.

PART 2. That Chapter 3 – of the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the new section 319.11 Solid Fuel Cooking Appliances, section 319.11 through 319.11.3.2, to read as follows:

SECTION 319.11 SOLID FUEL COOKING APPLIANCES

Where solid fuel is used for cooking, such systems shall comply with Sections 319.8.1 through 319.8.3.

319.11.1 Solid fuel cooking appliance location.

Appliances utilizing solid fuels shall be located to the rear of the mobile food preparation vehicle with at least 3 walls made of screens to provide ventilation.

319.11.1 Solid fuel cooking appliance exits.

Each area in which a solid fuel cooking appliance is located shall have at least 2 exits, one of which must exit directly to the exterior of the mobile food preparation vehicle.

319.11.2 Solid fuel cooking appliance exhaust.

Each solid fuel cooking appliance shall be provided with an exhaust that exits the mobile food preparation vehicle and terminates no less than 6 inches from the roof of the food preparation vehicle.

319.11.3 Solid fuel cooking appliance fire protection.

319.11.3.1 Extinguisher required.

Each solid fuel cooking area shall be provided with a minimum 5lb ABC extinguisher in addition to the mobile food preparation vehicles required protection.

319.11.3.2 Waste Container.

A metal container shall be provided for any waste or excess ash produced during cooking operations.

PART XX. That Chapter 5 – of the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition is hereby amended by REMOVING AND REPLACING section 503.1.1, Building and facilities, section 503.1.1 to read as follows:

503.1.1 Buildings 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 (45 720 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. In sprinklered Group R-2 apartment houses, the distance may be measured through open breezeways having a minimum clear width of six feet.

Exceptions:

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

1.1 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. The dimension shall be increased from

150 feet to 200 feet. This increase shall not be applicable to Groups H and I Occupancies, buildings with occupancies having High-Piled Combustible Storage and high-rise buildings.

1.2 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.

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

1.4 The building is a non-combustible Group S-2 open parking garage meeting the requirements of the 2018 International Building Code Section 406.4, with or without a sprinkler system. The increase shall be allowed to be up to 200 feet.

2. 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.

PART XX. That Chapter 5 – of the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition is hereby amended by REMOVING AND REPLACING section 503.2.5, Dead ends, section 503.2.5 to read as follows:

503.2.5 Dead Ends.

Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the turning around of fire apparatus. Turn arounds approved by the Fire Marshal or as permitted by Appendix D are acceptable.

Exception: Where the building is equipped throughout with an approved sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2, or 903.3.1.3, the maximum length of dead-end fire apparatus access roads shall be increased to 200 feet. This increase shall not be applicable to Groups H and I Occupancies, buildings with occupancies having High-Piled Combustible Storage and high-rise buildings. This increase shall apply to all non-combustible Group S-2 open parking garages meeting the requirements of the 2015 International Building Code Section 406.3, with or without a sprinkler system.

PART 3. That Chapter 5 – of the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition is hereby amended by REMOVING AND REPLACING section 506. Key Boxes, section 506 to read as follows:

SECTION 506 KEY BOXES

506.1 Key boxes required.

The following structures and/or properties shall be equipped with an approved key lock security system box or electronic override key switch in a location to be determined by the Fire Marshal.

1. Structures that are equipped with fire sprinkler systems

2. Multifamily residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors or gates and that have a common area or corridor for access to the living units.
3. Buildings, regardless of use or occupancy, that contains four or more occupancies within the same structure that have separate entryways and exit ways that are separated by tenant space and/or have restricted common entryways and exit ways into the common area of the building.
4. Properties having mechanical gates that control vehicular and pedestrian access to commercial property or to streets in subdivisions, apartment complexes, condominiums or other residential developments which contain more than two residential units; or
5. Commercial property with parking garages or secured parking and storage unit areas that will restrict access for emergency services.

506.2 Type of lock box required.

The Fire Marshal shall designate the type and location of key lock box system to be implemented within the city and shall have the authority to require all structures and/or property to use the designated system.


506.3 Access to buildings

The owner or operator of a structure and/or property required to have a key lock box shall at all times keep the required keys in the lock box that will allow for access to the structure, required rooms and/or property. Required keys shall not include keys to individual living units.

PART 4. That Chapter 9 – of the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition, is hereby amended by adding new criteria to section 912.1. Section 912.2.3 through 912.2.4 to read as follows:

912.2.3 On buildings over one story in height, the fire department connection shall be located remotely in a location designated by the Fire Marshal.

912.2.4 Fire department connection shall be located no more than 150 ft. from a fire hydrant.



John Cowen Jr.,
Mayor

Attest:



Yolanda Galarza-Gomez
City Secretary

