

## ORDINANCE

[To Amend Chapter 26 - Fire Prevention and Protection, Article II – Fire Prevention Codes.]

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Prattville that Chapter 26 Fire Prevention and Protection, Article II – Fire Prevention Code, Section 26-42. Code Adopted; Penalty, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Prattville, is hereby amended to read as follows:

### ARTICLE II. FIRE PREVENTION CODE DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

#### **Sec. 26-41. Purposes.**

The purposes of this chapter are to extinguish and prevent fires and to compel citizens to render assistance to the fire department through training and public relations in case of need and to establish, regulate the size, materials and construction of buildings, fences and other structures hereafter erected, and to require the same to be done in such manner as public safety and convenience may require, to remove or require to be removed, any building or structure or addition thereto which by reason of dilapidation, defect of structure or other cause, may have become dangerous to life or property or which may be erected contrary to law, to establish and designate from time to time fire limits within which limits, wooden buildings shall not be constructed, removed, added to or enlarged and to direct that any future buildings within such limits shall be constructed as required in the codes and regulations herein adopted by the city.

#### **Sec. 26-42. Code adopted; penalty.**

The International Fire Code, 2021 edition as revised, consisting of chapters 1—67 and Appendices A—I, and K published by the International Code Council, Inc., at least one copy of which is on file in the city clerk's office, which provides rules and regulations for fire prevention standards and the same is hereby adopted and incorporated herein by reference. When a provision of the International Fire Code is in conflict with a provision of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, and the conflict relates to life and building safety performance requirements, the Fire Chief shall have the discretion to determine which provision shall apply.

Amendments to the International Fire Code are as follows:

*506.2.1* All devices shall be installed and maintain at the owner/occupant's expense.

*507.5.1.1.1 Hydrant for fire sprinkler systems.* Buildings equipped with an FDC (Fire Department Connection) for a fire sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903 shall have a fire hydrant within 150 feet of the FDC.

*Exception:* The distance shall be permitted to exceed 150 feet where approved by the fire code official.

*903.3.7.1* Where sprinkler systems are installed and are required by code to have an (FDC) Fire Department Connection, all F.D.C.'s shall be 2½ inch national Standard Threads.

*903.3.8 Fire Department Connections.* Where sprinkler systems are installed and are required by code to have an (FDC) Fire Department Connection, all F.D.C.'s shall be 2½ inch national Standard Threads.

*903.4.2 Alarms.* An approved audible and visual device, located on the exterior of the building in an approved location, shall be connected to each automatic sprinkler system. Such sprinkler water-flow 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.

*904.13.5.3.1 Commercial Hoods with Fire Suppression Systems.* All systems shall be installed and maintained in accordance with applicable codes and standards. All new installations and annual services (and when required by code or manufacturer recommendations) shall install new fusible links and CO2 cartridges with devices dated and stamped by the manufacturer, with the same year date as the installation or service is taking place.

*2306.2.2 Above-ground tanks located inside buildings.* Above-ground tanks for the storage of class I, II, IIIA liquid fuels are prohibited within the entire City.

*2306.2.3 Above-ground tanks located outside buildings.* Above-ground tanks for the storage of class I, II, IIIA liquid fuels outside of buildings are prohibited except in the following locations. Above-ground storage tanks shall be allowed at the Prattville Airport and in properties zoned M2 and such storage is used in conjunction with those facilities and is necessary for manufacturing and/or processing for those facilities. In M2 properties, aboveground storage shall be allowed only in Protected above Ground Tanks as defined in NFPA 30 and in accordance with 2306.2.3 and 2306.2.4.

The applicant shall provide to the City Planning/Building Department, City Engineer, Fire Chief, and Director of County Emergency Management Agency detailed plans and specifications showing compliance to the most current edition of NFPA 30 and compliance with the currently adopted International Fire Code as well as any other state and/or federal laws that may apply. Inspections by the above stated departments shall be conducted to verify code compliance before storage tanks may be filled with any product.

Appendix B is amended as follows:

**Section B105 FIRE-FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS**

**B105.1 One- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses.**

The minimum fire-flow and flow duration requirements for one- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses shall be specified in Chapter 26 - FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, Sec. 26-100. - Installation requirements of the City ordinance.

Delete Table B105.1(1).

Appendix D is amended as follows:

**Table D103.4 – REQUIREMENTS FOR DEAD-END FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS and FIGURE D103.1 – DEAD-END FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROAD TURNAROUND**

Table D103.4 and Figure D103.1 – The minimum diameter of a cul-de-sac shall be not less than 80 feet.

**Section D107 ONE- OR TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS**

**D107.2 Remoteness.** Where two fire apparatus access roads are required, they shall be placed a distance apart equal to not less than one-half of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the property or area to be served, measured in a straight line between accesses.

Exception: Where a condition exists that the remoteness requirements in D107.2 cannot be met, approval will be at the discretion of the Planning Commission.

**Sec. 26-43. Modifications.**

The Fire Chief shall have power to modify any of the provisions of the fire prevention code adopted by this article upon application in writing by the owner or lessee, or duly authorized agent of the owner or lessee, when there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the strict letter of the code; provided that the spirit of the code shall be observed, public safety secured, and substantial justice done. The particulars of such modification, when granted or allowed, and the decision of the Fire Chief thereon shall be entered upon the records of the fire department and a signed copy shall be furnished to the applicant.

**Sec. 26-44. Appeals.**

Whenever the Fire Chief shall disapprove an application or refuse to grant a license or permit applied for, or when it is claimed that the provisions of the fire prevention code adopted by this article do not apply or that the true intent and meaning of the code have been misconstrued or wrongly interpreted, the applicant may appeal the decision of the Fire Chief to the City Council within 30 days from the date of the decision.

**Sec. 26-45. Investigation of fires.**

The Fire Marshal's office of the fire department shall investigate the cause, origin, and circumstance of every fire occurring in the City which is of suspicious nature or which involves loss of life or injury to persons or by which property has been destroyed or substantially damaged. Such investigation shall begin immediately upon the occurrence of such fire and the Fire Chief shall be immediately notified of the facts. The Fire Chief shall take charge immediately of the physical evidence and shall notify the proper law enforcement officials and the State Fire Marshal, if needed.

**Sec. 26-46. Building permits and plan checking.**

Prior to the issuance of any building permit for building construction, building modification, building alteration, etc., a member of the fire department and/or the Fire Marshal, as delegated by the Fire Chief, shall review all plans submitted to evaluate the same for fire safety features, such as vertical separation, exits, exit corridors and stairs, combustibility of materials to be used, fire extinguishing apparatus and exit lights, and exit ways and entranceways to and from such property. Single-family residences shall be exempt from this requirement, unless the owner or builder requests a fire department evaluation.

**Secs. 26-47—26-75. Reserved**

***DIVISION 2. FIRE SCENE***

**Sec. 26-76. Delay by citizens in reporting fires.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to delay reporting immediately any fire or emergency discovered to the fire department (911) or the police department so that emergency vehicles may be dispatched.

**Sec. 26-77. Report of fire injury or death.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to notify or delay the notification to the Fire Chief of a fire injury or death.

**Sec. 26-78. Certain acts prohibited at or near fires or emergencies.**

It shall be unlawful to commit any of the following acts at the burning of a building or at any other incident, time and place where any employee of the fire department is discharging or attempting to discharge an official duty:

- (1) To possess any flammable, explosive or combustible material or substance, or any device in an arrangement or preparation with intent to willfully and maliciously use such material to set fire to or burn any building or property.
- (2) To possess, manufacture or dispose of a fire bomb containing a flammable liquid with a flashpoint of 150 degrees Fahrenheit or less having a wick or similar device capable of being ignited, excluding commercial manufactured devices primarily for the purpose of illumination.

**Secs. 26-79—26-99. Reserved**

***DIVISION 3. FIRE HYDRANTS***

**Sec. 26-100. Installation requirements.**

- (a) All residential subdivisions, commercial developments, shopping centers and apartment developments shall have fire hydrants installed by the developer in accordance with the following requirements:
  - (1) Fire hydrant spacing shall be installed according to the fire flow demand as outlined in accordance with the insurance service office grading schedule for municipal fire protection.
  - (2) Fire hydrants shall be of the type recommended by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Standard 24 and approved by the public water system supplying such hydrants and the City Fire Department.
  - (3) Fire hydrants shall be equipped with not less than one 4½-inch outlet and two 2½-inch outlets with national standard threads. All outlets shall be male, with the direction of the discharge parallel to the street served by the hydrant.
  - (4) All fire hydrants shall be connected to and supplied by water mains of not less than six inches in size. The water mains shall meet the specifications established by the American Water Works Association and approved by the public water system supplying the hydrants.
  - (5) For all apartment and residential developments, the fire hydrants shall be placed at each street intersection and spaced intermittently not more than 800 feet apart with additional fire hydrants located as necessary to permit all portions of the buildings to be accessed by hose lays of not more than 400 feet.

- (6) In shopping centers and other commercial developments, fire hydrants shall be spaced not more than 500 feet apart with additional fire hydrants located as necessary so as to permit all portions of the building located therein to be accessed by hose lays of not more than 300 feet.
  - (7) In industrial parks or manufacturing developments that are developed with streets, fire hydrants shall be placed at each intersection with intermittent hydrants between intersections spaced not more than 300 feet apart with additional hydrants located as necessary so as to permit all portions of the buildings located therein to be accessed by hose lays of not more than 300 feet.
  - (8) No fire hydrant shall be installed and deemed serviceable that has a fire flow of less than 500 gallons per minute and 20 pounds of residual pressure.
  - (9) The developer shall file with the planning and development department and with the fire department a map indicating the size of the mains, location of hydrants prior to the installation of the mains or the hydrants and prior to the construction of any buildings in any development, which map shall be approved by the Fire Chief or the chief's designated representative. Additionally, upon completion, the developer shall file with the appropriate City department three sets of as-built plans of fire hydrants and mains.
- (b) No building permit shall be issued in any area affected by this section for any development that has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of this section. All water mains and fire hydrants shall be installed under pressure, and ready for firefighting use, before any sheathing may be installed on walls and on roofs of any buildings in a development.

**Sec. 26-101. Breaking, defacing, etc.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to break, deface or carry away without lawful authority any part of any fireplug or hydrant.

**Sec. 26-102. Unauthorized tapping.**

It shall be unlawful for any person, except in case of a fire under the direction of the fire department or by direction of some officer or person legally authorized to so direct, to open any fireplug or hydrant and allow the water to escape.

**Secs. 26-103—26-132. Reserved.**

***DIVISION 4. FIRE LANES***

**Sec. 26-133. Creation and maintenance.**

It shall be the duty of the fire department or its authorized representative to create or establish and maintain, at the property owner's expense, such fire lanes as may be required for the protection of commercial properties within the City limits. It shall be unlawful to block or obstruct any designated fire lane when such lane is located on public property or private property dedicated to public use.

**Secs. 26-134—26-164. Reserved.**

***DIVISION 5. FIRE PRECAUTIONS***

**Sec. 26-165. Sale, purchase, possession and explosion of fireworks and pyrotechnics.**

(a) *Definition.* When used in this division, the term "fireworks" or "pyrotechnics" means and includes one or more of the following:

- (1) Sparklers;
- (2) Squibs;
- (3) Rockets;
- (4) Firecrackers;
- (5) Roman candles;
- (6) Fire balloons;
- (7) Signal lights;
- (8) Torpedoes;
- (9) Torpedo caps;
- (10) Railroad and track torpedoes;
- (11) Flashlight compositions;
- (12) Firecrackers of all kinds; or

(13) Other devices or compositions which are used to obtain visible or audible pyrotechnic displays.

- (b) *Possession.* It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession, keep, store, use, manufacture, sell, offer for sale, give away or handle any pyrotechnics within the corporate limits of the City; provided, however, nothing in this section shall be held to apply to articles manufactured for use as signaling devices and used as such in the operation of railroads, boats, airplanes or other required emergency purposes; and provided further, nothing in this section shall be held to apply to a normal supply of flashlight compositions in the hands of photographers or dealers in photographic supplies. Exceptions: This section shall be forever waived for the purpose of the annual Independence Day celebration sponsored by the City.

**Sec. 26-166. Barbeque grills and outdoor cooking.**

Barbeque grills and similar cooking equipment shall not be used or stored on balconies, terraces, or porches of multistory buildings. They shall be used only outside and at a safe distance, not less than ten feet, from the nearest building.

**Sec. 26-167. Discharge of sparks, cinders, etc.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or to cause, permit or allow the discharge, emission or escape into the open air in or upon any public place, public street or public avenue, or in or upon the premises or dwelling of another, of any live, hot or burning sparks, cinders or embers or other hot or burning material.

Open burning and recreational fires as defined by the adopted fire code and ADEM shall be regulated or permitted by the Fire Marshal.

Allowable fuels excluded from recreational fires, approved fire pits or outdoor fireplaces include leaves, grass clippings, construction or packing materials.

**Sec. 26-168. Threatening to burn, damage or destroy property.**

It shall be unlawful for any person, knowing the contents thereof to send, deliver or cause to be received by another, or post on the premises of another, any letter or writing or any verbal message threatening to burn, damage or destroy, conditionally or unconditionally, any house, store, shop, barn or other building, or any vehicle.

**Sec. 26-169. Storage of explosives and blasting agents, class I liquids and liquefied petroleum gas restricted.**

The limits referred to in the fire prevention code in which storage of explosives and blasting agents is prohibited, in which storage of class I liquids in outside aboveground tanks is prohibited, and in which bulk storage of liquefied petroleum gas is restricted, shall be the City limits and the police jurisdiction thereof.

**Sec. 26-170. Reserved**

**Sec. 26-171. Routes for transportation of explosives and blasting agents.**

The routes established for vehicles transporting explosives and blasting agents are hereby established as follows:

- (1) U.S. Highway 31;
- (2) U.S. Highway 82;
- (3) U.S. Highway 82 bypass;
- (4) Jensen Road;
- (5) County Road No. 4 from Jensen Road to U.S. Highway 31 south; and
- (6) Doster Road from U.S. Highway 31 south to the Doster Road cutoff.

**Sec. 26-172. Routes for transportation of hazardous chemicals, etc.**

The routes established for vehicles transporting hazardous chemicals and other dangerous articles are hereby established as follows:

- (1) U.S. Highway 31;
- (2) U.S. Highway 82;
- (3) U.S. Highway 82 bypass;
- (4) Jensen Road;
- (5) County Road No. 4 from Jensen Road to U.S. Highway 31 south; and
- (6) Doster Road from U.S. Highway 31 south to the Doster Road cutoff.

**ALL** other provisions of these Chapters of the Code of Ordinances not herein

amended shall remain in full force and effect.

**THIS** ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and execution as provided by law.

**ADOPTED THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2022.**

By: Gerald "Jerry" Starnes, President  
Prattville City Council

**AUTHENTICATED THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2022.**

By: Paula G. Barlow  
City Clerk

**APPROVED:**

By: Bill Gillespie, Jr.  
Mayor

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