

CHAPTER 4 Fire Protection and Prevention

ARTICLE 1

Fire Department

Section 4.1	Organization.
Section 4.2	Duties of Chief.
Section 4.3	Same; duties as Fire Inspector.
Section 4.4	General authority at fires.
Section 4.5	Following fire equipment.
Section 4.6	Interfering with firemen or fire apparatus.
Section 4.7	Only firemen may ride on trucks without permission.
Section 4.8	Interfering with fire alarm apparatus.
Section 4.9	Giving false alarm of fire forbidden.
Section 4.10	Protection of fire hose.
Section 4.11	Fire protection outside of Town.

ARTICLE 2

Fire Hazards

Section 4.12	Encumbrances before or on fire exit.
Section 4.13	Passageways in places of public assemblage to be kept open, exit doors not to be fastened.
Section 4.14	Lots kept free from fire hazard.
Section 4.15	Buildings constituting fire hazards.

ARTICLE 3

Fire Limits

(Reserved)

ARTICLE 1

Fire Department

Section 4.1 Organization.

The department may from time to time adopt its own rules and regulations governing the department. However, any such rules and regulations shall include provisions for at least one training period each month.

Section 4.2 Duties of Chief.

The duties of the Chief:

(1) General control of the department, the personnel, apparatus and fire alarm systems.

(2) To command the department and supervise the fire-fighting and extinguishing of all fires and to have the authority to keep away from the vicinity of all fires, any and all idle, disorderly or suspicious persons.

(3) He shall inspect or cause to be inspected all trucks and other equipment of the fire depart-

ment each and every week to ascertain that such equipment is being kept in proper condition.

Section 4.3 Same; duties as Fire Inspector.

(1) The Chief is to assume the functions of Fire Inspector. As such, he (or his designated agent) shall have authority to enter any and all premises, at a reasonable time, for purposes of inspection.

(2) *Routine Inspections:* He shall make annual inspections of all structures located within the fire district.

(3) *Inspections Upon Complaint.* He shall, upon receipt of a complaint, forthwith investigate.

(4) He shall investigate the causes of fires and shall keep records of his findings as to origin, location, owner, extent of damage, injury, and amount of insurance carried. The findings must be reported to the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner at regular intervals.

(5) He shall cause the removal of fire hazards by serving proper order to owner or agent of premises in question, such order to state a reasonable time limit. Failure to comply with such order shall be considered a misdemeanor.

Section 4.4 General authority at fires.

(1) The officer in command shall have authority to summon aid and no citizen so summoned may refuse help in extinguishing the fire or in protecting exposed property.

(2) During the continuance of a fire, the fire chief, or his assistant shall have authority to call upon any citizen to render assistance in pulling down or demolishing any building or in removing goods or furniture from a building on fire or in danger of fire, but not without the consent of the officer of the fire department or the police department who may be in charge.

(3) It shall be unlawful to congregate on the streets or alleys near a fire in a manner which would interfere with the activities of the fire department.

(4) In the event of an alarm of fire the apparatus of the fire department, responding to it, shall have the right-of-way in and upon all streets, lanes, alleys, and other public ways.

(5) The drivers of vehicles, upon the approach of fire apparatus, shall immediately bring their vehicle to a stop on the right hand side of the

street in the direction in which they are facing and shall not move their vehicle until such apparatus has passed.

Section 4.5 Following fire equipment.

It shall be unlawful to follow any fire apparatus which is responding to a call, by automobile or any other vehicle, unless such is used for transporting firemen to the scene of fire, at a distance closer than one city block, or to pass such apparatus or to park within the same block in which fire is in progress.

Section 4.6 Interfering with firemen or fire apparatus.

No person shall interfere with a fireman in the discharge of his duty, or hinder him in the performance of said duty; nor shall any person other than members of the fire department loiter about any fire station, or change, handle, or meddle in any manner with any fire engine or any other fire apparatus.

Section 4.7 Only firemen may ride on trucks without permission.

No person other than a bona fide member of the fire department shall mount any fire engine, wagon or apparatus before it leaves the station or while on its way to or from a fire, or at any other time, unless by permission of the driver or officer in command of such engine, wagon or other apparatus.

Section 4.8 Interfering with fire alarm apparatus.

No person shall interfere carelessly or willfully with the fire alarm system or injure the poles, wires, boxes, or other apparatus connected therewith.

Section 4.9 Giving false alarm of fire forbidden.

No person shall give or cause to be given any false alarm of fire by means of the fire alarm system or otherwise.

Section 4.10 Protection of fire hose.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to drive over, or in any way damage or mutilate any fire hose while in use at a fire or otherwise.

Section 4.11 Fire protection outside of Town.

In the event that the Town agrees with the

county, or the owners of property outside the Town, to provide fire protection therefor, any employee of the fire department, while engaged in any duty or activity outside the corporate limits of the Town pursuant to orders of the Fire Chief or Board, shall have all of the jurisdiction, authority, rights, privileges, and immunities, including coverage under the workmen's compensation laws, which they have within the corporate limits of the Town. (See G.S. 160A-293)

ARTICLE 2**Fire Hazards****Section 4.12 Encumbrances before or on fire exit.**

No person shall at any time, place any encumbrances of any kind whatsoever before or upon any fire escape, balcony or ladder intended as a means of escape from fire. It shall be the duty of every member of the police department who shall discover any fire escape encumbered in any manner to immediately notify the owner or owners, their agent or agents, tenant or tenants, to remove such encumbrance and encumbrance shall thereupon be immediately removed.

Section 4.13 Passageways in places of public assemblage to be kept open, exit doors not to be fastened.

All doors, aisles and passageways within and leading into or out of the theatres, churches and all other places of public assemblage, shall, during the entire time which any show, performance, service, exhibition, lecture, concert, ball or other assemblage may be held therein, be kept adequately lighted and free from easels, signs, standards, campstools, chairs, sofas, benches and any other article or articles that might obstruct or delay the exit of the audience, congregation or assemblage; and doors of such buildings while occupied shall not be fastened so that they cannot easily be opened by anyone from within. No person shall sit or stand or remain seated or standing, nor shall the owner or operator of such place allow any person to remain seated or standing, nor shall the owner or operator of such place allow any person to remain, in any such place of public assemblage in any aisle under any circumstances, or in any exit, or passage required for the safe exit of the assemblage. Clear passage from all exits and on outside sidewalks of all theatres and other places of public assemblage shall be maintained at all times. No aisle, passageway or stairway in any store shall be obstructed with tables, show cases or other obstructions during the hours such store is open to the public.

Section 4.14 Lots kept free from fire hazard.

It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or suffer rubbish, refuse or articles of combustible or inflammable nature to accumulate or remain on any lot or premises.

Section 4.15 Buildings constituting fire hazards.

It is hereby declared unlawful for any person or persons owning a building in the Town to allow such building to become in such bad repair or condition as to endanger from fire a neighboring building, and any person owning any such building in bad repair, who shall fail to repair the same within thirty days after notice to repair from the Board, then in such event the Board shall condemn such building and cause same to be torn down and removed.