

**LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO THE
2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE**

The following represents local amendments to the 2018 Edition of the International Fire Code, adopted by the City Council of the City of La Porte on September, 28, 2020; in Ordinance 2020-3804. References are to additions, deletions, amendments, or replacement of 2018 Edition of the International Fire Code sections. Section numbers correspond to the numbering in the 2018 Edition of the International Fire Code.

CHAPTER 1 - ADMINISTRATION

110.4 Violation penalties.

Amend by deleting this section and adding a new paragraph.

Persons who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the code official, shall be guilty of a violation and punishable by a fine. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

112.4 Failure to comply.

Any person who shall continue any work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be liable to a fine of not more than \$500.00 dollars. Each and every day shall constitute a separate violation. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

CHAPTER 3 - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 307 Open Burning, Recreational Fires and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces.

Amend by deleting this section and adding a new paragraph.

307.1 General. A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with the following Sections.

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

- 307.3 Prohibited open burning.** Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous and the following is prohibited at all times from being burned in the City of La Porte.
- 307.3.1 Yard Waste** (defined as, but not limited to: leaves/pine straw, rakings, shrub trimmings, grass clippings, palm fronds, and/or brush).
 - 307.3.2 Tree and Tree Cutting Debris** (defined as, but not limited to: trees, Christmas trees, tree stumps, and/or tree limbs).
 - 307.3.3 Land Clearing Debris** (defined as, but not limited to: uprooted or cleared vegetation in connection with construction for buildings and rights-of-way; land development; or mineral operations).
 - 307.3.4 Bonfires** are not permitted without a permit from the fire code official in accordance with Section 105.6 prior to kindling.
- 307.4 Open Burning not requiring a Permit.** Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. The following is permitted to be burned in the City of La Porte without a permit from the fire code official.
- 307.4.1 Recreational fires.** Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 15 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
 - 307.4.2 Portable outdoor fireplaces and Fire Pits.** Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.
 - 307.4.3 Recreational and Portable outdoor fireplace size.** The fire pit area shall not exceed a total of 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height and all burning material and flame is to be contained inside of the fire pit area.
- 307.5 Authorization.** Where required by state or local law or regulations, open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed.
- 307.6 Extinguishment authority.** Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.
- 307.6.1** The burning must not cause a nuisance to surrounding people, properties and / or roadways. Any and all Fires used for Recreation, Ceremonies, Cooking and / or Warmth shall be promptly and completely extinguished once notified to do so by any Fire Code Official, Police Officer, Code Enforcement Officer and / or Fire Fighter. Said fires shall remain extinguished for no less than 24-hours.
- 307.7 Location.** The location for open burning shall be not less than 15 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 15 feet of any structure.
- 307.8 Attendance.** Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended by a responsible, non-impaired adult until the fire is extinguished. Not fewer than 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.

CHAPTER 5 - FIRE SERVICE FEATURES

503.3 Marking

Amend paragraph 503.3 Marking, to read as follows:

- A. The Fire Marshal of the City of La Porte or designee is hereby authorized to designate fire lanes/fire zones on the property of shopping centers, nursing homes, hospitals, apartment complexes, town home complexes, schools and any other locations that he has deemed necessary to have fire lanes/fire zones.
- B. The designation by the Fire Marshal of such lanes/fire zones shall never be held to make the City of La Porte responsible for the maintenance of such lanes on private property, but the owner of such property shall continue to be responsible for the maintenance for such areas.
- C. Upon designation of such fire lane/fire zones pursuant to this code, the Fire Marshal shall give notice of such designation to the owner of such property, directing the owner to cause signs to be posted and/or curbs to be painted and/or stenciled.
- D. The required signs and/or painted curb shall read "FIRE LANE" or, "FIRE ZONE". The letter size should be not less than 3" in height and 1/2" in width.
- E. The sign shall be a metal sign of standard size, with a weather resistant white background with red letters. The mounting and height information can be obtained from the City of La Porte Public Works and/or City of La Porte Police Department. The sign shall be installed not less than every 20 feet.
- F. The curb shall be painted "Red" in color and/or the stenciled information, "FIRE ZONE" and/or "FIRE LANE" shall be stenciled in "White" colored letters. The stencil should not be less than 20 feet, apart on the curb.
- G. It is hereby declared to be unlawful to obstruct in any manner, including parking or standing any attended or unattended vehicle in any fire lane/fire zone as defined hereof, where the signs have been erected or the curbs have been painted and stenciled including pre-existing fire lane/fire zones with visibly erected signs and/or stenciled curbs reading "FIRE LANE" or "FIRE ZONE"

EXCEPTIONS:

- 1) Any authorized emergency vehicle conducting official emergency business.
- 2) Any marked vehicle of the United States Postal Service officially dispatching mail or any marked vehicle of a Parcel Post Delivery Service officially dispatching Parcel Post.
- 3) Any armored vehicle officially dispatching or picking up currency.

503.7 Violations

Amend by adding a new subsection 503.7 to read as follows:

It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person, without lawful authority of the Fire Marshal to attempt to or in fact alter, deface, injure, knock down, or remove any sign and/or painted curb designating a fire lane/fire zone that has been erected and/or stenciled under the term of this code.

The Fire Marshal, any duly authorized representative, and/or any peace officer of the State of Texas may issue a summons or notice to appear in answer to a charge of any violation of this code. Such summons shall be issued on an official form (ticket book) acceptable to the City of La Porte.

Any person found guilty of a violation of this code shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine ranging from one dollar to two thousand dollars, as set by the City of La Porte Municipal Court. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

No owner, manager or person in charge of any premises served by a required fire lane/fire zone shall abandon or close any such fire lane/fire zone without permission of the Fire Marshal or designee.

507.5.1 Where Required

Amend by deleting the existing paragraph and replace with the following paragraph:

All required water mains and fire hydrants shall be installed as follows:

Residential area fire hydrants shall be installed on a 6-inch or larger approved water main and placed so that no building is over 500 feet from a fire hydrant. Distance for hydrant placements shall be measured at curb line and/or access corridor.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. When in the opinion of the fire chief and fire marshal a water main and/or fire hydrant is not necessary due to the existence of built-in fire protection system(s); or
- B. When the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal have been notified in writing that pending water mains and fire hydrants are being installed in the vicinity, consistent with the terms of this code.

Commercial and industrial area fire hydrants shall be installed on an 8-inch or larger approved water main and shall be placed so that no part of any building is over 300 feet from a fire hydrant. Distance for hydrant placements shall be measured at curb line and/or access corridor and shall follow the Fire Apparatus route.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. When in the opinion of the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal a water main and/or the fire hydrant is not necessary due to the existence of built-in fire protection system(s); or
- B. When the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal have been notified in writing that pending water mains and fire hydrants are being installed in that vicinity, consistent with the terms of this code.

CHAPTER 6 - BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

Amend by adding new subsection

607.2.5 Plan Submittal Requirements

Pre-Engineered Systems - Plan submittal shall comply with the following requirements for Pre-Engineered Systems;

- a. Be planned by a Type PL licensee or a Texas Registered Professional Engineer. All shop drawings must bear the signature of a Type PL licensee, his license number, and the certificate-of-registration number of the registered firm or a Texas Registered Professional Engineer seal.
 - ❖ If a PE is used, the PE shall provide written documentation to this office as to his knowledge that he has reviewed the Pre-Engineered System and that the system meets all applicable City of La Porte Fire Codes and any applicable State Codes.
- b. Designer shall provide this office with written documentation (**Certification**) from the manufacturer stating you have been trained by the manufacturer and that they certify you in the Design of said equipment and are current with the certification.
- c. Installer shall provide this office with written documentation (**Certification**) from the manufacturer stating you have been trained by the manufacturer and that they certify you in the Installation of said equipment and are current with the certification.

CHAPTER 9 - FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

901 General

Amend by adding new subsections

901.5.2 Required attendance for Installation acceptance testing.

A person who is employed by the Registered Firm to which the plans have been approved and issued too and holds a current Responsible Managing Employee (RME) License by the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office shall be onsite during all phases of installation and during the Fire Marshal's inspection. The onsite RME shall only operate under the appropriate "Type" of RME License issued by the State.

901.5.3 Required Documentation for Installation acceptance testing.

The Fire Marshal's Office approved set of Fire Sprinkler Plans, manufacture's product data sheets on all equipment being installed, and the installation permit are to be on site for all Fire Marshal's Office inspections. The On-Site Installer shall have a current State license, on his person, while on the job site.

901.5.3 Required Actions for Installation acceptance testing.

The fire sprinkler piping shall not be covered up prior to the Fire Marshal's Office visual inspections of the piping. If the piping is covered, and the inspectors cannot inspect as is required by Fire Code, all of the obstructions will be required to be removed.

903.2.3 Group E.

Delete paragraph and substitute with the following:

An automatic sprinkler system must be provided throughout all Group E occupancies. The use of fire walls does not establish a separate building for purposes of this section.

Exceptions:

1. Buildings with E occupancies having an occupant load of 49 or less.

903.2.6 Group I.

Delete paragraph and substitute with the following:

An automatic sprinkler system must be provided throughout all Institutional Group occupancies. The use of fire walls does not establish a separate building for purposes of this section.

Exceptions:

1. Buildings with I occupancies having an occupant load of less than 5.

903.2.8 Group R

Delete paragraph and substitute with the following:

An Automatic sprinkler system or a residential sprinkler system installed in accordance with section 903.3 must be provided throughout all buildings with a group R fire area. Group R shall have 100% automatic sprinkler coverage throughout all buildings and spaces to include, but not limited to: bathrooms, closets, porches, porte-cocheres and/or attics.

Exceptions:

1. One-family dwellings (single family) Group R occupancies.
2. Two-family dwellings (townhouse) occupancies with no more than two attached units that are divided by 2-hour fire walls.

907.2.3 Group E

Delete paragraph and substitute with the following:

An automatic Fire Alarm system must be provided throughout all Group E occupancies. The use of fire walls does not establish a separate building for purposes of this section.

Exceptions:

1. Buildings with E occupancies having an occupant load of 49 or less.

CHAPTER 11 - CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

Delete Section

1103.5.1 Group A-2. Where alcoholic beverages are consumed in a Group A-2 occupancy having an occupant load of 300 or more, the fire area containing the Group A-2 occupancy shall be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

Appendix A; Board of Appeals

Adopt and Delete section in its entirety and substitute with the following:

The Board of Appeals shall be governed and formed in accordance to the La Porte, Texas, Code of Ordinances, Subpart A - General Ordinances, Chapter 38 - Fire Prevention and Protection, Article V. Fire Code Review Board.

Appendix B; Fire Flow Requirements for Buildings

Adopt section in its entirety

Appendix C; Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution

Delete section in its entirety

Appendix D; Fire Apparatus Access Roads

Adopt section in its entirety

Appendix E; Hazard Categories

Adopt section in its entirety

Appendix F; Hazard Ranking

Adopt section in its entirety

Appendix G; Cryogenic Fluids—Weight and Volume Equivalents

Adopt section in its entirety

Appendix H; Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP) and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement (HMIS) Instructions

Adopt section in its entirety

Appendix I; Fire Protection Systems - Noncompliant Conditions

Adopt section in its entirety

Appendix J; Building Information Sign

Delete section in its entirety

Appendix K; Construction Requirements for Existing Ambulatory Care Facilities

Adopt section in its entirety

Appendix L; Requirements for Fire Fighter Air Replenishment Systems

Delete section in its entirety

Appendix M; High-Rise Buildings—Retroactive Automatic Sprinkler Requirement

Delete section in its entirety

Appendix N; Indoor Trade Shows and Exhibitions

Adopt section in its entirety