

**To:** Mayor Dodgen and Council Members  
City Manager Steve Parker

**From:** Dale Skinner, Fire Chief

**Date:** February 13, 2024

**Re:** Fire Code Amendments

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The Fire Department has evaluated several of the existing section of the adopted 2018 International Fire Code and have made the following amendments to clarify and improve the adopted code.

The first item addressed is to define and set a fee for excessive nuisance fire alarms. Over the last several years the Fire Department has seen a dramatic increase in nuisance fire alarms. Many times the building owners do not want to spend money to have an alarm technician come out and correct the underlying issue. A defined fee for four or more nuisance alarms in a 12 month period, will allow staff ensure the building owners understand the importance of making the necessary repairs.

The second amendment defines when a self storage building will require a fire sprinkler system to be installed. Self-Storage buildings can be extremely dangerous when they catch fire. While the building owners do regulate what items are allowed to be stored, there is no way for them to enforce these regulations. Renters simply put whatever they want inside the units when the storage staff are not watching. The majority of items inside a storage unit are combustible. This amendment protects occupants from harm if the storage building has interior access for renters and also limits all self storage buildings from exceeding 12,000 sq. ft. regardless of the type of access.

The third amendment clarifies what occupancy classifications are regulated by the fire sprinkler system requirement that is already in place. The occupancies that were removed are covered by other existing sections of the fire code. This amendment also clarifies the fire separation definition.

The fourth amendment adds a requirement for all multi-family dwellings to install an automatic suppression stove extinguishing system if the building does not already have a fire sprinkler system installed. The suppression system specified in the amendment requires no physical modifications to the existing stoves or exhaust hoods. This system attaches to the exhaust hood with a magnet. If there is a microwave above the stove there is either a magnetic or a wall mount version. The price per stove starts at \$60 and goes up to \$120 for the newest model. The

purpose of this amendment is to protect our citizens who live in multi-family occupancies with three or more living units. According to NFPA, stovetops are among the most dangerous appliances in any household, causing 62 percent of all house fires and 87 percent of household fire deaths. It is the intention of staff to give the building owners until the end of 2024 to come into compliance with this ordinance.

The final amendment adjusts the height requirement of a Knox Box from 8 feet to 6 feet. When the boxes are mounted 8 feet above the ground, most of the time a ladder is required to be able access the keys inside.

Staff is available should you have any questions regarding this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Skinner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dale Skinner  
Fire Chief