



**Local Amendments to the
2018 Virginia Statewide
Fire Prevention Code**



INTRODUCTION

The 2018 Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) is hereby adopted as if fully set out herein, pursuant to the authority in § 27-97 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and Chesapeake City Code § 34-1. Where specific sections are called out in these local amendments, they shall be interpreted as replacing the identified portions of the 2018 SFPC in their entirety.

References to the “written standards of the City of Chesapeake” shall refer to the Chesapeake Public Facilities Manual (PFM) unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

CHAPTER 1 PERMITS

SECTION 107: PERMITS AND FEES

107.2.1 Required operational permits. The Fire Code Official is authorized to issue operational permits for the operations set forth in Sections 107.2.1 through 107.2.1.53. Issued permits shall be kept posted on the premises designated therein at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the Fire Code Official.

107.2.1.1 Aerosol products. An operational permit is required to manufacture, store or handle an aggregate quantity of Level 2 or Level 3 aerosol products in excess of 500 pounds (227 kg) net weight.

107.2.1.2 Amusement buildings. An operational permit is required to operate a special amusement building.

107.2.1.3 Aviation facilities. An operational permit is required to use a Group H or Group S occupancy for aircraft servicing or repair, and aircraft fuel-servicing vehicles. Additional permits required by other sections of this code include, but are not limited to, hot work, hazardous materials and flammable or combustible finishes.

107.2.1.4 Carnivals and fairs. An operational permit is required to conduct a carnival or fair.

107.2.1.5 Cellulose nitrate film. An operational permit is required to store, handle, or use cellulose nitrate film in a Group “A” occupancy.

107.2.1.6 Combustible dust-producing operations. An operational permit is required to operate a grain elevator, flour starch mill, feed mill, or a plant pulverizing aluminum, coal, cocoa, magnesium, spices or sugar, or other operations producing combustible dusts as defined in Chapter 2.

107.2.1.7 Combustible fibers. An operational permit is required for the storage and handling of combustible fibers in quantities greater than 100 cubic feet (2.8 m³).

Exception: An operational permit is not required for agricultural storage.

107.2.1.8 Commercial Cooking. An operational permit is required for the operation of commercial food preparation appliances in occupancies or special events.

Exception: Mobile food vendors to include tents, vehicles, carts, and trailers.

107.2.1.9 Compressed gases. An operational permit is required for the storage, use or handling at normal temperature and pressure (NTP) of compressed gases in excess of the amounts listed in Table 107.2 of the SFPC.

Exception: Vehicles equipped for and using compressed gas as a fuel for propelling the vehicle.

107.2.1.10 Covered and open mall buildings. An operational permit is required for:

1. The placement of retail fixtures and displays, concession equipment, displays of highly combustible goods and similar items in the mall.
2. The display of liquid- or gas-fired equipment in the mall.
3. The use of open-flame or flame-producing equipment in the mall.

107.2.1.11 Cryogenic fluids. An operational permit is required to produce, store, transport on site, use, handle or dispense cryogenic fluids in excess of the amounts listed in Table 107.2 of the SFPC.

Exception: Permits are not required for vehicles equipped for and using cryogenic fluids as a fuel for propelling the vehicle or for refrigerating the lading.

107.2.1.12 Cutting and welding. An operational permit is required to conduct cutting or welding operations within the jurisdiction.

107.2.1.13 Dry cleaning plants. An operational permit is required to engage in the business of dry cleaning or to change to a more hazardous cleaning solvent used in existing dry-cleaning equipment.

107.2.1.14 Energy Storage Systems. An operational permit is required for the installation, operation and/or maintenance of an energy storage system within city limits. In addition to the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code as adopted, Chapter 12, Energy Systems for permitting purposes shall also conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake and as approved by the Fire Code Official.

107.2.1.15 Exhibits and trade shows. An operational permit is required to operate exhibits and trade shows.

107.2.1.16 Explosives, fireworks, and pyrotechnics. An operational permit is required for the storage, handling, sale or use of any quantity of explosive, explosive materials, fireworks, pyrotechnic special effects, or pyrotechnic special effects material with the scope of Chapter 56.

Exception: Storage in Group R-3 or R-5 occupancies of smokeless propellant, black powder and small arms primers for personal use, not for resale, and in accordance with the quantity limitations and conditions set forth in Section 5601.1, exception numbers four and twelve.

107.2.1.17 Explosives, restricted manufacture. An operational permit is required for the restricted manufacture of explosives within the scope of Chapter 56.

107.2.1.18 Explosives, unrestricted manufacture. An operational permit is required for the unrestricted manufacture of explosives within the scope of Chapter 56.

107.2.1.19 Fire hydrants and valves. An operational permit is required to use or operate fire hydrants or valves intended for fire suppression purposes that are installed on water systems and accessible to a fire apparatus access road that is open to or generally used by the public.

Exception: An operational permit is not required for authorized employees of the water company that supplies the system or the fire department to use or operate fire hydrants or valves.

107.2.1.20 Flammable and combustible liquids. An operational permit is required:

1. To use or operate a pipeline for the transportation within facilities of flammable or combustible liquids. This requirement shall not apply to the off-site transportation in pipelines regulated by the Department of Transportation (DOT) nor does it apply to piping systems.
2. To store, handle, or use Class I liquids in excess of 5 gallons (19 L) in a building or in excess of 10 gallons (37.9 L) outside of a building, except that a permit is not required for the following:
 - 2.1. The storage or use of Class I liquids in the fuel tank of a motor vehicle, aircraft, motorboat, mobile power plant or mobile heating plant, unless such storage, in the opinion of the Fire Code Official, would cause an unsafe condition.
 - 2.2. The storage or use of paints, oils, varnishes or similar flammable mixtures when such liquids are stored for maintenance, painting or similar purposes for a period of not more than 30 days.
3. To store, handle or use Class II or Class IIIA liquids in excess of 25 gallons (95 L) in a building or in excess of 60 gallons (227 L) outside a building, except for fuel oil used in connection with oil-burning equipment.
4. To remove Class I or Class II liquids from an underground storage

tank used for fueling motor vehicles by any means other than the approved, stationary, onsite pumps normally used for dispensing purposes.

5. To operate tank vehicles, equipment, tanks, plants, terminals, wells, fuel-dispensing stations, refineries, distilleries, and similar facilities where flammable and combustible liquids are produced, processed, transported, stored, dispensed, or used.
6. To install, alter, remove, abandon, place temporarily out of service (for more than 90 days) or otherwise dispose of an underground, protected above-ground or above-ground flammable or combustible liquid tank.
7. To change the type of contents stored in a flammable or combustible liquid tank to a material which poses a greater hazard than that for which the tank was designed and constructed.
8. To manufacture, process, blend or refine flammable or combustible liquids.
9. To engage in the dispensing of liquid fuels into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles at commercial, industrial, governmental, or manufacturing establishments.
10. To utilize a site for dispensing of liquid fuels from tank vehicles into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles at commercial, industrial, governmental, or manufacturing establishments.

107.2.1.21 Floor finishing. An operational permit is required for floor finishing or surfacing operations exceeding 350 square feet (33 m²) using Class I or Class II liquids.

107.2.1.22 Fruit and crop ripening. An operational permit is required to operate a fruit- or crop-ripening facility or conduct a fruit-ripening process using ethylene gas.

107.2.1.23 Fumigation thermal, and insecticidal fogging. An operational permit is required to operate a business of fumigation or thermal insecticidal fogging and to maintain a room, vault, or chamber in which a toxic or flammable fumigant is used.

107.2.1.24 Hazardous materials. An operational permit is required to store, transport on site, dispense, use, or handle hazardous materials in excess of the amounts listed in Table 107.2 of the SFPC.

107.2.1.25 HPM facilities. An operational permit is required to store, handle or use hazardous production materials.

107.2.1.26 High-piled storage. An operational permit is required to use a building or portion thereof as a high-piled storage area exceeding 500 square feet (46 m²).

107.2.1.27 Hot work operations. An operational permit is required for hot work including, but not limited to:

1. Public exhibitions and demonstrations where hot work is conducted.
2. Use of portable hot work equipment inside a structure.

Exception: Work that is conducted under a construction permit.

3. Fixed-site hot work equipment such as welding booths.
4. Hot work conducted within a hazardous fire area.
5. Application of roof coverings with the use of an open flame device.
6. When *approved*, the Fire Code Official shall issue a permit to carry out a Hot Work Program. This program allows *approved* personnel to regulate their facility's hot work operations. The *approved* personnel shall be trained in the fire safety aspects denoted in this chapter and shall be responsible for issuing permits requiring compliance with the requirements found in this chapter. These permits shall be issued only to their employees or hot work operations under their supervision.

107.2.1.28 Industrial ovens. An operational permit is required for operation of industrial ovens regulated by Chapter 30.

107.2.1.29 Lumber yards and woodworking plants. An operational permit is required for the storage or processing of lumber exceeding 100,000 board feet (8,333 ft³) (236 m³).

107.2.1.30 Liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings. An operational permit is required to park, display, operate or demonstrate liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings.

107.2.1.31 LP-Gas. An operational permit is required for:

1. Storage and use of LP-gas.

Exception: An operational permit is not required for individual containers with a 500-gallon (1893 L) water capacity or less or multiple container systems having an aggregate quantity not exceeding 500 gallons (1893 L), serving occupancies in Group R- 3.

2. Operation of cargo tankers that transport LP-gas.

107.2.1.32 Magnesium. An operational permit is required to melt, cast, heat treat or grind more than 10 pounds (4.54 kg) of magnesium annually.

107.2.1.33 Miscellaneous combustible storage. An operational permit is required to store in any building or upon any premises in excess of 2,500 cubic feet (71 m³) gross volume of combustible empty packing cases, boxes, barrels or similar containers, rubber tires, rubber, cork, or similar combustible materials.

107.2.1.34 Mobile food vendors. A permit is required for mobile food vendors conducting business from a tent, vehicle, trailer, and/or cart.

Exception: Recreational vehicles used for private recreation.

107.2.1.35 Open Burning. An operational permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground. Instructions and stipulations of the permit shall be adhered to.

Exception: Recreational fires.

107.2.1.36 Open flames and candles. An operational permit is required to use open flames or candles in connection with assembly areas, dining areas of restaurants or drinking establishments.

107.2.1.37 Open flames and torches. An operational permit is required to remove paint with a torch, or to use a torch or open flame device in a wildfire risk area.

107.2.1.38 Organic coatings. An operational permit is required for any

organic-coating manufacturing operation producing more than 1 gallon (4 L) of an organic coating in one day.

107.2.1.39 Places of assembly. An operational permit is required to operate a place of assembly or educational occupancy, to include outdoor events.

107.2.1.40 Plant extraction systems. An operational permit is required to use plant extraction systems

107.2.1.41 Private fire hydrants, water tanks, and valves. An operational permit is required to use, operate, remove, or alter: (i) private fire hydrants, (ii) water tanks, and (iii) valves intended for fire suppression purposes which are installed on water systems and accessible to a fire apparatus access road that is open or generally used by the public.

Exception: An operational permit is not required for private industry with trained maintenance personnel, private fire brigades, or fire departments to maintain, test, and use private hydrants.

107.2.1.42 Pyrotechnic special effects material. An operational permit is required for use and handling of pyrotechnic special effects material.

107.2.1.43 Pyroxylin plastics. An operational permit is required for storage or handling of more than 25 pounds (11 kg) of cellulose nitrate (pyroxylin) plastics and for the assembly or manufacture of articles involving pyroxylin plastics.

107.2.1.44 Refrigeration equipment. An operational permit is required to operate a mechanical refrigeration unit or system regulated by Chapter 6.

107.2.1.45 Repair garages and service stations. An operational permit is required for operation of repair garages and automotive, marine, and fleet service stations.

107.2.1.46 Rooftop heliports. An operational permit is required for the operation of a rooftop heliport.

107.2.1.47 SRCF's. An operational permit is required for the operation of a State-Regulated Care Facility where inspection by the fire official is required by state licensing regulations.

107.2.1.48 Special Event. An operational permit is required to conduct a pre-planned activity with an anticipated attendance number of five hundred (500) or more persons that is open to the public, or charges admission, or materially differs from the scope of a presently issued Fire Code Operational Permit.

107.2.1.49 Spraying or dipping. An operational permit is required to conduct a spraying or dipping operation utilizing flammable or combustible liquids or the application of combustible powders regulated by Chapter 24.

107.2.1.50 Storage of scrap tires and tire byproducts. An operational permit is required to establish, conduct, or maintain storage of scrap tires and tire byproducts that exceeds 2500 cubic feet and for any indoor storage of tires and tire byproducts.

107.2.1.51 Temporary membrane structures, tents, and canopies. An operational permit is required to operate an air-supported temporary membrane structure or a tent.

Exceptions:

- a. Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
- b. Tents and air-supported structures that cover an area of 900 Square Feet (84 m²) or less, including all connecting areas or spaces with a common means of egress or entrance, and with an occupant load of 50 or less.

107.2.1.52 Tire-rebuilding plants. An operational permit is required for the operation and maintenance of a tire rebuilding plant.

107.2.1.53 Waste handling. An operational permit is required for the operation of wrecking yards, junk yards, and waste material-handling facilities.

107.2.1.54 Wood products. An operational permit is required to store chips, hogged material, lumber, or plywood in excess of 200 cubic feet (6 m³).

SECTION 108: OPERATIONAL PERMITS

108.1.4 Failure to obtain a permit. When the Fire Code Official finds that work in any structure or premise is being performed without an Operational Fire Code Permit, contrary to the provisions of the SFPC, or following the revocation of an Operational Code Permit, or is in violation of any pertinent laws and ordinances, or in a manner endangering the public, an order may be issued to stop such work, operation, processes, or occupancy immediately. This order must be in writing. It shall be given to the owner, occupant, the owner's agent, or to the person doing the work, operation, or process. It shall state the conditions under which work, operation, processes, or occupancy shall be continued after issuance, except under the conditions stated in the order.

SECTION 111: VIOLATIONS

111.2 Service. The written Notice of Violation of this code shall be served upon the owner, a duly authorized agent, or upon the occupant or other person responsible for the conditions under violation. Such notice shall be served either by delivering a copy of same to such persons by mail to the last known post office address; by electronic mail to the e-mail address collected during the most recent Fire and Life Safety Inspection, where the owner indicates a preference for this form of service by providing an e-mail address; by delivering in person or by delivering it to and leaving it in the possession of any person in charge of the premises; or in the case such person is not found upon the premises, by affixing a copy thereof in a conspicuous place at the entrance door or avenue of access. Such procedure shall be deemed the equivalent of personal notice.

CHAPTER 2
DEFINITIONS

MOBILE FOOD VENDORS. Vehicles, tents, covered trailers, carts, and enclosed trailers, or other moveable devices used for cooking operations or food/beverage preparation that contain cooking equipment for the purpose of preparing and serving food to the public. Vehicles used for private recreation shall not be considered a mobile food vendor.

CHAPTER 3

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 301: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

301.4 Cost of Firefighting, Nuisance Abatement, False Alarms and Emergency Response. Any person violating any provision of this code shall, in addition to any penalty imposed by the court, be liable up to (but not to exceed) the full amount of all expenses incurred by the Fire Department in responding to and/or suppressing such fire, out of control or illegal open burning, false fire alarms, technical rescue incidents or mitigating a hazardous materials incident. Whenever a violation of this code shall create a public nuisance, the City may maintain an action to compel the responsible party to abate, raze, or remove the public nuisance. If the public nuisance presents an immediate and imminent threat to life or property, then the City may abate, raze or remove such nuisance, and bring an action against the responsible party to recover the necessary costs incurred for the provision of public emergency services reasonably required to abate the nuisance. This expense restitution shall be deposited into a fund as designated by the Fire Chief and as approved by the City Manager.

SECTION 307: OPEN BURNING, RECREATIONAL FIRES, AND PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

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 sections 307.1.1 through 307.1.11.

307.1.2 Prohibited materials. Burning shall not include the burning of waste, trash, rubbish, insulation on wire, tires, processed wood materials, asphalt materials, automobile bodies, used crankcase oil, chemically impregnated wood, animal waste, or similar materials which produce dense, odorous or highly toxic smoke when subject to open burning; nor shall salvage or

demolition operation by burning be permitted. Open fires may only be utilized on property for the disposal of leaves, grass, straw, vines, or other growing wood with approval of the Fire Code Official.

307.1.3 Burning on residential property. Open fires may be utilized on residential property for the disposal of leaves, grass, straw, vines, or other growing wood.

307.1.4 Cancellation of Permit. A burning permit may be canceled, suspended or revoked upon a determination by the Fire Code Official that a violation of any stipulations of the burning permit, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations, or other State or local law, has been committed in the performance of the activity for which the permit was issued.

307.6 Responsible Party. Open burning allowed under this section shall not exempt or excuse any person from responsibility for any damages or injuries which may result from such conduct, nor shall it excuse or exempt any person from complying with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and orders of the Fire Code Official, Virginia Department of Environment Quality, the State Forester, and others having jurisdiction.

307.7 Open burning by public health or safety officer. Open fires may be set in performance of an official duty of any public health or safety officer, if the fire is necessary for one or more of the following reasons or purposes:

1. For the prevention of a fire hazard which cannot be abated by other means.
2. For the instruction of public firefighters or industrial employees under supervision and with approval of the Fire Code Official.
3. For the protection of public health.

307.8 Allowed Open Burning. Open fires without an open burning permit may be used for occupational/recreational purposes such as:

1. Plaster warming.
2. Warming laborers at outdoor work sites.
3. Cooking food.

4. Ceremonial occasions.
5. In the course of agricultural operations for growing crops or raising fowl or animals; and
6. As an agricultural tool in forestry management provided that such burning is done in accordance with the Virginia Department of Forestry guidelines.

All such listed open burning shall be in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and orders of the Fire Code Official, Virginia Department of Environment Quality, the State Forester, and others having jurisdiction.

307.9 Open Burning Prohibited. The Fire Code Official may ban all open burning and suspend any valid permits for open burning in the City of Chesapeake, when in the opinion of the Fire Code Official, conditions have become so dry, or environmental conditions so dangerous, as to create a serious fire or health hazard endangering lives and property. The Fire Code Official or designee shall order the fire extinguished by the responsible party, the permit holder, or the Fire Department, of any open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

307.10 Preventing the Spread of Fire. It shall be a violation of this code for any owner or lessee, or the employee of any owner or lessee of land, to set fire to, or to procure another to set fire to, any woods, brush, logs, leaves, grass, debris, or other flammable/combustible materials upon such land, unless they have previously taken all reasonable care and precaution, by having cut and piled the same or carefully cleared around the same, to prevent the spread of such fire to lands other than those owned or leased by them or their employer.

SECTION 311: VACANT PREMISES

311.2.2 Fire Protection. Fire alarm, sprinkler, standpipe, dry hydrant, fire hydrant, or other required fire protection or alarm systems shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times.

Exceptions:

1. When the premises have been cleared of all combustible materials and debris, and in the opinion of the Fire Code Official, the type of construction, fire separation distance and security of the premises does not create a fire hazard, and when approved by the Fire Code Official.
2. Where buildings will not be heated and fire protection systems will be exposed to freezing temperatures, fire alarm and sprinkler systems, when approved by the Fire Code Official, are permitted to be placed out of service, and standpipes are permitted to be maintained as dry systems (without an automatic water supply), provided the building has no contents or storage, and windows, doors, and other openings are secured to prohibit entry by unauthorized persons.
3. Where approved by the fire code official, fire alarm and sprinkler systems are permitted to be placed out of service in seasonally occupied buildings as follows: that will not be heated; where fire protection systems will be exposed to freezing temperatures; where fire areas do not exceed 12,000 square feet; and that do not store motor vehicles or hazardous materials.

SECTION 315: GENERAL STORAGE

315.4 Outside storage. Outside storage of combustible materials shall not be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of a lot line or building on the site.

Exceptions:

1. The separation distance is allowed to be reduced to 3 feet for storage not exceeding 6 feet in height.

2. The separation distance is allowed to be reduced when the fire official determines that hazard to the adjoining property does not exist.

315.8 Obstructions. Ramps, aisle ways, and exit stairways (both internal and external), shall be free from obstructions that would prevent its use, including the accumulation of snow and ice.

SECTION 320

MOBILE FOOD PREPARATION VENDORS

320.1 General. Mobile Food Preparation Vendors are any food/beverage vendor as defined under Chapter 2.

320.1.1 Wheel Chocks/Locks. Wheel chocks or locks shall be used to prevent Mobile Food Preparation wheeled units from moving.

320.1.2 Separation. Mobile Food Preparation Vendors shall be separated from buildings or structures, combustible materials, vehicles, and other cooking operations by a minimum of 10 feet.

320.2 Permit Required. Permit shall be required as set forth in section 107.2.

320.3 Fire Extinguisher. Portable fire extinguisher shall be provided in accordance with Section 906.1.

320.3.1 Maintenance. Portable fire extinguishers shall be properly inspected and maintained in accordance with Chapter 9.

320.4 Gas fuel fired (LP/CNG Gas) Systems. Where gas systems provide fuel for cooking appliances, such systems shall comply with applicable NFPA standards, Chapter 58 and 61, and sections 320.4.1 and 320.4.2.

320.4.1 Protection of container. LP/CNG gas containers shall be installed or placed in such a manner to prevent movement, tampering, and contact.

320.4.2 Gas Fuel Fired (LP/CNG) System Supply lines. LP gas system supply line to include valves and fittings, shall be adequately protected to prevent tampering, impact damage, and damage from vibration

CHAPTER 4

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

401.1 Scope. Reporting of emergencies, coordination with emergency response forces, emergency plans, and procedures for managing or responding to emergencies shall comply with the provisions of this section.

Exception: Firms that are approved by the Fire Code Official and have on premises firefighting organizations and that comply with approved procedures for fire reporting.

401.3.1 Fire Events. In the event an unwanted fire or release of hazardous materials occurs on property, the owner or occupant shall immediately report such condition to the Fire Department. Building employees and tenants shall implement the appropriate emergency plans and procedures. No person shall, by verbal or written directive, require any delay in the reporting of a fire or release of a hazardous materials to the Fire Department.

401.3.2 Alarm activations. Upon activation of a fire alarm signal, employees or staff shall immediately notify the Fire Department and evacuate the structure or follow the approved Fire Evacuation Plan or Fire Safety Plan.

403.11.2.1 High-rise building preplans. A pre-incident plan consistent with NFPA 1620 is required and shall be submitted to the fire official prior to issuance of the CO for all high-rise buildings greater than 75 feet in height

measured from the lowest level of fire department vehicle access to the floor of the highest occupiable story and shall include any connecting structures or complexes within the same corporate/business umbrella.

SECTION 404: FIRE SAFETY, EVACUATION, AND LOCKDOWN PLANS

404.1 General. Fire safety, evacuation, and lockdown plans, fire watch and associated drills shall comply with the requirements of Section 404.2 through 404.5.

404.5 Fire Watch Requirements. If authorized or required by the Fire Code Official, minimum requirements must be followed before a Fire Watch will be approved. Minimum requirements shall be in accordance with written guidelines established by the Fire Code Official.

SECTION 405: EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS

405.7 Initiation. Where a fire alarm system is provided, emergency evacuation drills shall be initiated by activating the fire alarm system. This evacuation drill utilizing the fire alarm system shall only be conducted after the necessary measures are taken to notify the alarm monitoring company prior to the drill and prevent the transmittal of a false alarm to the Fire Department. The official in charge of conducting the evacuation drill must take all necessary steps to ensure the alarm system is placed back into service immediately after the evacuation drill is concluded.

SECTION 406 EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES

406.4 Fire Alarm Response. Where a fire alarm system is provided, a responsible party must respond immediately to assist the Fire Department in the investigation of all alarms received from that occupancy.

CHAPTER 5

FIRE SERVICE FEATURES

SECTION 501: GENERAL

501.3 Construction documents. Construction documents for proposed or existing structures as requested by the Fire Code Official, fire apparatus access, location and construction features of fire lanes and construction documents and hydraulic calculations for fire hydrant systems shall be submitted to the Fire Department for review and approval prior to construction, or as required by the Fire Code Official, to ensure continued compliance with required accessibility or water supply requirements, and shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

503.3.1 Designation of Fire Lanes. The Fire Code Official shall require and designate public or private fire lanes for new or existing structures and site facilities for the efficient and effective operation of fire ground operations. A fire lane shall be provided:

1. At the entrance to drive aisles and direction of travel to buildings including circulation within the site.
2. In areas directly in front of main doorways or other access openings to buildings or where parking deemed by the Fire Code Official may create potential obstructions to emergency access and/or fire protection equipment.
3. As deemed necessary by the Fire Code Official.

Marking of fire lanes shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake or as designated and approved by the Fire Code Official.

SECTION 503
FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

503.4.2 Towing/Removal of obstructions to fire lanes, Fire Department Connections, or fire hydrants. The Fire Code Official may order the immediate removal of all vehicles and other obstructions in a fire lane or blocking any fire department connection or fire hydrant. If the obstruction is not moved per the order, the Fire Code Official is authorized to have the obstruction removed at the owner's expense.

SECTION 506
KEY BOXES

506.1 Key Boxes - When required. Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured or blocked openings, security gates, barricades or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or firefighting purposes, or if the structure has an alarm or fire suppression system, the Fire Code Official is authorized to require a Knox key box or alternative Knox padlock as may be applicable and approved, to be installed in an accessible location. The key box shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys to gain access as required by the Fire Code Official.

SECTION 507
FIRE PROTECTION WATER SUPPLIES

507.2.1 Private Fire Service Mains. Private Fire Service mains and appurtenances shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 24 and shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake. Private Fire Service mains and appurtenances for dry hydrant systems shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 1142 and shall also conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

507.3 Fire flow. Fire flow requirements for buildings or portions of buildings and facilities shall be determined by an approved method in accordance with written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

507.5 Fire hydrant systems. Fire hydrant systems shall comply with the Sections 507.5.1 through 507.5.7, the International Fire Code (IFC) Appendix C, and the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

507.5.7 Fire Department Connections, post indicator valves, Identification. Private fire hydrants and other types of Fire Department Connections shall be painted and identified as required by the Fire Code Official and shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

CHAPTER 6

BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

SECTION 604: ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, WIRING, AND HAZARDS

604.12 Diversion of Utilities. Tampering with any electrical, water, gas or hazardous materials metering device or otherwise intentionally preventing such a metering device from properly registering the degree, amount or quantity of service supplied, or diverting such service, without authorization from the owner of the facility furnishing the service to the public, shall not be permitted. The Fire Code Official shall order the immediate action necessary to eliminate the hazard and ensure the safety of the public.

CHAPTER 8

INTERIOR FINISH, DECORATIVE MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS

SECTION 806: DECORATIVE VEGETATION IN BUILDINGS

806.1.1 Restricted Occupancies. The use of natural cut trees shall be prohibited in all occupancies.

Exceptions: Natural Cut Trees shall be allowed within individual dwelling units of use Groups R-2, R-3 and R-5 occupancies.

CHAPTER 9

FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

SECTION 901 GENERAL

901.6.3 Copy of Records. Records of all system inspections, tests, and maintenance requirements required by the referenced standards shall be maintained. A complete, legible copy of all fire protection system inspections, tests, and maintenance records that are required by referenced standards in the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) and local amendments as adopted by the City of Chesapeake, shall be submitted to the Fire Code Official via a method approved by the Fire Marshal within 10 days of completion by the inspecting company. The responsible party shall notify the fire code official immediately of any non-compliant system.

It shall be unlawful for any person to submit any fraudulent, falsified, or inaccurate test results.

901.7 Systems out of service. Where a required fire protection system is out of service, the Fire Department and the Fire Code Official shall be notified immediately, and where required by the Fire Code Official, the building shall either be evacuated, or an approved fire watch shall be provided, in accordance with section 404.5, for all occupants left unprotected by the shutdown, until the fire protection system has been returned to service.

Where utilized, fire watches shall be provided with at least one approved means for notification of the Fire Department, and their only duty shall be to perform constant patrols of the protected premises and keep watch for fires.

SECTION 906: PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

906.1 Where required. Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in all of the following locations:

1. In Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-4 and S occupancies.

Exceptions:

1. In Groups A, B, and E occupancies equipped throughout with quick response sprinklers, portable fire extinguishers shall be required only in locations specified in Items 2 through 6.
2. In Group I-3 occupancies, portable fire extinguishers shall be permitted to be located at staff locations and the access to such extinguishers shall be permitted to be locked.
3. Within 30 feet (9144 mm) of commercial cooking equipment.
2. In areas where flammable or combustible liquids are stored, used or dispensed.
3. On each floor of structures under construction, except Group R-3 occupancies, in accordance with Section 3315.1.
4. Where required by the sections indicated in Table 906.1.
5. Special-hazard areas, including but not limited to laboratories, computer rooms and generator rooms, where required by the fire code official.
6. In areas where mobile food vendors are using generators, gel chafing fuel cups, or other electrical or gas fired equipment.

Note: In existing buildings, whether fire extinguishers are needed is determined by the USBC or other code in effect when such buildings were constructed.

CHAPTER 12

ENERGY SYSTEMS

SECTION 1201: GENERAL

1201.1.1 Energy Systems. In addition to the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code as adopted, Chapter 12, Energy Systems shall also conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake and as approved by the Fire Code Official.

CHAPTER 23

MOTOR FUEL-DISPENSING FACILITIES AND REPAIR GARAGES

SECTION 2304: DISPENSING OPERATIONS

2304.3.1 General. Unattended self-service stations open to the general public are not allowed unless approved by the Fire Code Official in advance of the commencement of operations. Unattended self-service motor fuel dispensing facilities shall comply with Section 2304.3. As a condition of approval, the owner or operator shall provide and be accountable for daily site visits, regular equipment inspection, maintenance, and any other requirements as deemed necessary by the Fire Code Official, to meet the intent of the code in regard to fire and life safety of the occupants and emergency personnel, as well as the health, safety and welfare of the community.

CHAPTER 24

FLAMMABLE FINISHES

SECTION 2404: SPRAY FINISHING

2404.1.1 Location of outdoor spray-finishing operations. Spray-finishing utilizing over 1/2 gallon of flammable product per day, shall not be permitted in any outdoor open area or property, unless approved by the Fire Code Official.

CHAPTER 34

TIRE REBUILDING AND TIRE STORAGE

SECTION 3405: OUTDOOR STORAGE

3405.8 Covering of outdoor tire storage. The Fire Code Official may require that any outdoor storage of tires that is determined to be a fire or other hazard, be covered to prohibit the accumulation of waste materials or water within the tire pile. Any outdoor tire storage that is determined to be a public nuisance by the Public Health Department shall be immediately covered or corrected.

SECTION 3407: FENCING

3407.3 Locking. All gates to the storage yard shall be locked when the storage yard is not staffed. The Fire Code Official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an accessible location. The key box shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys to gain access as required by the Fire Code Official.

CHAPTER 50

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS-GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 5003: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

5003.3.1.5 Site Assessment. In the event of a spill, leak or discharge of hazardous materials or hazardous waste, in any quantity, the responsible party shall complete a site assessment if the Fire Code Official determines that a potential hazard exists. Such site assessments shall be conducted by an individual or firm approved by the Fire Code Official. The assessment is to ascertain potential hazards and mitigation requirements and shall be submitted to the Fire Code Official within the time period established by the Fire Code Official.

5003.4 Safety Data Sheets. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) shall be readily available on the premises for hazardous materials regulated by this chapter. When a hazardous substance is developed in a laboratory, available information shall be documented.

Exception: Designated hazardous waste provided with a shipping manifest prepared in accordance with DOTn 49 CFR regulations.

5003.4.1 Repository Container. When Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are required on site, the owner or operator of any facility shall provide the required information at the facility site with a repository container (Knox Document Cabinet) or other means as approved by the Fire Code Official.

CHAPTER 56

EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS

SECTION 5601: GENERAL

5601.1.3 Fireworks. The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling and use of fireworks are prohibited.

Exceptions:

3. Storage and handling of fireworks as permitted in Section 5604.
4. Manufacture, assembly and testing of fireworks as permitted in Section 5605.
5. The use of fireworks for display as permitted in Section 5608.

5601.2.4 Financial responsibility. Before a permit is issued, as required by Section 5601.2, the applicant shall file with the jurisdiction a corporate surety bond in the principal sum of **\$1,000,000** or a public liability insurance policy for the same amount, for the purpose of the payment of all damages to persons or property which arise from, or are caused by, the conduct of any act authorized by the permit upon which any judicial judgment results. The City Attorney's Office may specify a greater amount is required. Government entities shall be exempt from this bond requirement.

5601.2.4.2 Fireworks display. The permit holder shall furnish a bond or certificate of insurance of no less than **\$1,000,000** for the payment of all potential damages to a person or persons, or to property by reason of the permitted display, and arising from any acts of the permit holder, the agent, employees or subcontractors. Fireworks displays shall be in accordance with guidelines established by the Fire Code Official.

SECTION 5602: DEFINITIONS

PERMISSIBLE FIREWORKS Paper caps for toy pistols, toy guns, toy canes or other devices which use such caps that contain less than .25 grains (16 mg) of explosive content per cap.

SECTION 5608: FIREWORKS DISPLAY

5608.11 Retail display and sale. Fireworks shall not be displayed for retail sale, sold or accessible to the public within the City of Chesapeake.

CHAPTER 57

FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS

SECTION 5704: STORAGE

5704.3.2.1.1 Materials. Cabinets shall be listed in accordance with UL 1275 or NFPA 30.

APPENDIX B

All of Appendix B of the International Fire Code (IFC), 2018 edition, entitled “Fire-flow Requirements”, is adopted with the following amendments and referenced local written standards.

SECTION B103: MODIFICATIONS

B103.3 Areas without water supply systems. For information regarding water supplies for firefighting purposes in rural and suburban areas, in which adequate and reliable water supply systems do not exist, the Fire Code Official is authorized to utilize NFPA 1142 and shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

SECTION B105: FIRE-FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS

B105.2 Buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings. The minimum fire flow and flow duration for buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings shall be in accordance with written standards of the City of Chesapeake as specified in Table B105.1 of the Public Facilities Manual (PFM) Appendix 18, and International Fire Code (IFC) Appendix B.

Exception: A reduction in fire flow of up to 75 percent, as approved, is allowed when the building is provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2. The resulting fire flow shall not be less than 1,000 gallons per minute (5678 L/min), unless approved by the Fire Code Official.

APPENDIX C

All of Appendix C of the IFC, entitled “Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution”, is adopted and shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

APPENDIX D

All of Appendix D of the IFC, entitled “Fire Apparatus Roads”, is adopted and shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

Exception: Fire lanes shall be marked in accordance with Section 503.1.4 as amended.

APPENDIX E

All of Appendix E of the IFC, entitled “Hazard Categories”, is adopted and shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

APPENDIX F

All of Appendix F of the IFC, entitled “Hazard Ranking”, is adopted and shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.

APPENDIX G

All of Appendix G of the IFC, entitled “Cryogenic Fluids-Weight and Volume Equivalents”, is adopted and shall conform to the written standards of the City of Chesapeake.