

Background:

The International Fire Code that is enforced in the City of Spokane is adopted by the State of WA. By state law, local jurisdictions may adopt more stringent provisions of the Fire Code, but cannot reduce the requirements of the fire code adopted by the State.

The model Fire Code is adopted at the State Level with amendments under the State Building Code Council. There is a considerable process in review of model code language and proposals at the State level. These are reviewed by Technical Action Groups assigned to each Code and then the proposals are open to comment at two public hearings. All of the meetings are open to the public.

The current edition of the International Fire Code has 13 Appendices. An additional Appendix is adopted by the State for a total of the State Fire Code of 14. The purpose of the Appendices is to provide guidance and details to some provisions identified in the body of the adopted Fire Code. Over the years, the State has chosen not to adopt the Appendices of the Fire Code, but rather, leave the determination to do so to local jurisdictions. Many of the larger jurisdictions in WA and around the US have adopted the Appendices as written, in their entirety. Others, including Spokane, have modified some provisions of the Appendices and adopted them as local provisions.

Below is a list of the Appendices. Spokane adopts 10 Appendices and has made local modifications to 3 of the 10, Appendix B, C, and D. The purpose of each Appendix is listed in Attachment B.

[Appendix A - Board of Appeals](#)

[Appendix B - Fire-Flow Requirements for Buildings – amended](#)

[Appendix C - Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution - amended](#)

[Appendix D - Fire Apparatus Access Roads – amended](#)

[Appendix E - Hazard Categories](#)

[Appendix F - Hazard Ranking](#)

[Appendix G - Cryogenic Fluids - Weight and Volume Equivalents](#)

[Appendix H - Hazardous Materials Management Plan \(HMMP\) and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement \(HMIS\) Instructions](#)

[Appendix I - Fire Protection Systems-Noncompliant Conditions](#)

[Appendix J – Building Information Sign](#)

The other 4 appendices are not recommended for adoption as they would create restrictive requirements that our jurisdiction is not ready to meet:

[Appendix K – Construction Requirements for Existing Ambulatory Care Facilities](#)

[Appendix L – Requirements for fire Fighter Air Replenishment Systems](#)

[Appendix M – High-Rise Buildings – Retroactive Automatic Sprinkler Requirement](#)

[Appendix N – Wildland Urban Interface Code](#)

The Fire Department has reviewed the provisions of the locally adopted Appendices to evaluate possible changes that would not substantially cause a negative impact on public safety, but could provide some greater flexibility in development of Business. While there is not a large number of proposed changes, and even though many locations around the State and country will not make language changes to the Appendices due to Risk exposure, we believe these can be safely modified.

There are also several sections of the appendixes and the SMC where new language is necessary to clarify the intent of the provisions.

Attached are the recommended changes and an explanation of each.

Proposed Changes to Locally Adopted Fire Code

17F.080.010 Adoption of International Fire Code

- A – Changed the adopted version from 2012 to 2015
- B.7 and B.8 – Revised reference
- B.10 – Added clarification of the intent of the amendment is not to replace the paragraph, but to add to it.
- B.12, B13, and B14 – Revised reference
- B.13 – Removed first part of amended sentence to accommodate change to model language
- B15, B.16, B17, B18 – Revised reference

Discussion:

The changes made to this appendix are not significant and reflect more of the reorganization of the code.

17F.080.030 Appendixes Adopted

- Appendix B – Deleted amendment

Discussion:

Removed local amendment in favor of the model code language that is less restrictive.

- Appendix C – Revise Table numbers to match model code changes; remove the sentence in C.1 for maximum distance of 750 feet; removed the model code reference for footnote g.

Discussion:

This change revises the reference numbers for Table C105.2.1 to match the revisions done the model code.

The removal of the sentence regarding the seven hundred fifty feet distance is made to accommodate the model code now using the same dimension. Previously the model code restricted the distance to 500 feet and we had amended it to 750. The model code now is the same as what we have adopted locally.

Footnote g of Table C102.1 is revised to be consistent with what we have been doing with local projects, and we are less restrictive than the model code which only allows a 25% increase in spacing.50%

- SMC 17F.080.070. Flammable or Combustible Liquids: Revise reference section number.

Discussion:

The referenced section number changed in the model code.

- SMC 17F.080.090. Additional Definitions – Section 202: Remove definition of “guest room”.

Discussion:

The definition is now in the model code.

- SMC 17F.080.110. Fire Alarm System Requirements: Revisions to Chart 907:

Discussion:

There are several changes to the table to match the State amendments for fire alarm. In addition, B.2 has been revised as the description of the travel distance was not the same as in the model code.

- SMC 17F.080.150. Installation Requirements: Change reference of Chapter 47 to 80.

Discussion:

Corrects the reference to the new Chapter due to the reorganization of the code.

- SMC 17F.080.270. Fire Equipment Servicer Registration: Added “Private Fire Hydrants”.

Discussion:

We have been for some time requiring that contractors conducting testing for private fire hydrants to be registered with the Fire Department. It was recently discovered that it had not been codified. This corrects that oversight.

- SMC 17F.080.321. Fire Hydrant Proximity to Residential Infill Properties: Section is repealed.

Discussion:

The language of the ordinance is not included in the model code.

- SMC 17F.080.370, 380, 390: Revised reference to title of the Director of Water and Wastewater.

Discussion:

Corrected the title for the Director of Water and Wastewater to be consistent with the current organizational structure.

- SMC 17F.080.400. Inspection Reports of Private Hydrants: Revised language for responsibility of hydrant report submission.

Discussion:

Language has been revised to address an issue in which we have not been receiving the reports. The owner is responsible for verifying that the reports are submitted, even if it is to be done by a contractor.

- SMC 17F.080.480. Combined Standpipes: Revised language further clarifying the threshold for when fire pumps would be required for buildings.

Discussion:

The original language refers to the threshold at 5 floors. We have come across some buildings with high floors, so the actual height exceeded the capacity of fire apparatus to get water to that level with adequate pressure. The distance of 55 feet is inserted to be able to address that condition.

- SMC 17F.080.490. Licensed Marijuana Processor Extraction Requirements: Revise the title to better match the industry name and revise language in B to accommodate changes to the cannabis industry.

Discussion:

The revisions are made to facilitate the changing industry and how they are creatively extracting the hash oil from the plant. There are several methods of extraction that do not need review and inspection. This revision supports both the non-hazardous and hazardous systems.

Attachment A
Draft Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON _____

Council President

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

Assistant City Attorney

Mayor

Date

Effective Date

Attachment B
Purpose of Fire Code Appendices

Below is a short explanation of the purpose of each Appendix:

Appendix A - Board of Appeals – This appendix contains criteria for administrative procedures of the board of appeals and board member qualifications.

Appendix B - Fire-Flow Requirements for Buildings – This appendix establishes the City’s policy on fire flow to provide a consistent way of choosing the appropriate fire flow for buildings throughout the City.

Appendix C - Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution – This appendix establishes the City’s methodology for determining fire hydrant locations and spacing for new buildings, additions and change of use situations.

Appendix D - Fire Apparatus Access Roads – This appendix establishes criteria for basic access requirements to structures.

Appendix E - Hazard Categories – This appendix contains guidance in the classifying of hazardous materials so proposed designs can be evaluated accurately.

Appendix F - Hazard Ranking – This appendix is intended to be a companion to the specific requirements of Chapters 51 through 67 of the Fire Code which regulates the storage, handling and use of hazardous materials and it lists the various hazardous materials categories that are defined in the Fire Code.

Appendix G - Cryogenic Fluids - Weight and Volume Equivalents – This appendix is intended to be a companion to the provisions of Chapter 55 of the Fire Code and to provide a ready reference tool for the conversion of the liquid weight and volume of cryogenic fluid to their corresponding volume of gas and vice versa.

Appendix H - Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP) and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement (HMIS) Instructions – This appendix is intended to be a companion to IFC sections 407.5 and 407.6 which provide the requirements for HMMPs and HMISs.

Appendix I - Fire Protection Systems-Noncompliant Conditions – This appendix is intended to identify unsafe and non-compliant conditions for fire protection systems.

Appendix J - Emergency Responder Radio Coverage – This appendix includes design, construction, maintenance and testing criteria for emergency responder communications systems required by the Fire Code.