

**TRAVIS COUNTY  
EMERGENCY SERVICES  
DISTRICT NO. 12**



**Administrative Rules**



## Table of Contents

101.1 Title .....	6
102.1 Construction and design provisions.....	6
102.2 Administrative, operational and maintenance provisions.....	7
104.1 General.....	7
104.7.2 Technical assistance.....	8
104.7.3 Third party plan review.....	8
105.3.3 Occupancy prohibited before approval.....	9
109.4 Violation penalties.....	9
110.1 General.....	10
111.4 Failure to comply.....	10
201.4 Terms not defined.....	11
202 General Definitions .....	11
“2009 Fire Code” .....	11
“2015 Fire Code” .....	11
“Applicant” .....	11
“Beginning of Construction” .....	11
“Beginning of a Substantial Improvement” .....	12
“Building” .....	12
“Building Permit” .....	12
“Commercial Establishment” .....	12
“Fire Marshal” .....	12
“Person” .....	12
“Public Building” .....	12
“Residential Group R” .....	13
“Substantial Improvement” .....	13
“System” .....	13
“Vacant” .....	13
307.2 Permit required.....	14
Outdoor Burning Procedure .....	14
307.2.1 Authorization.....	15
307.4 Location.....	16
308.1.4 Open-flame cooking devices.....	16



311.1 General.....	17
403.12.2 Public safety plan for gatherings. ....	17
503.1.1 Buildings and facilities.....	18
503.2.1 Dimensions.....	18
503.6 Security gates.....	19
505.1 Address identification. ....	19
509.3 Main Electrical Disconnect.....	20
605.5.1 Power supply.....	20
807.5.2.3 Artwork in classrooms. ....	20
807.5.5.3 Artwork in classrooms. ....	21
901.4.6 Pump and riser room size. ....	21
903.2.9 Group S-1. ....	22
903.3.1.2.1 Balconies and decks. ....	22
903.4.2 Alarms. ....	23
906.1 Where required.....	23
1009.1 Accessible means of egress required.....	24
2305.5 Fire extinguishers.....	24
Chapter 31 Tents.....	25
B105.1 One- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses. ....	25
B105.2 Buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses.....	25
C102.2 Installation .....	26
C103.1 Hydrant spacing. ....	26
D103.3 Turning radius.....	27
D103.5 Fire apparatus access road gates. ....	27
D103.6 Signs.....	28
D107.1 One- or two-family dwelling residential developments.....	28



The following amendments are the supplement to the adopted code per Travis County Emergency Services District No. 12's (ESD12) Order No. 03-12-13-v.i. and ESD12 Order No. 16-05-10-v.i.

- **Order No. 03-12-13-v.i.** was effective from March 12, 2013 to May 9, 2016.
- **Order No. 16-05-10-v.i.** if effective from May 10, 2016 to current date.

Any newly added administrative rules after February 22, 2018 shall have an effective date listed after the amended section, example: "Section 1234 is amended as follows effective: (date of enforcement)."

### **104.1 General.**

The *fire code official* is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this code and shall have authority to render interpretations of this code, and to adopt policies, procedures, rules and regulations in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies, procedures, rules and regulations shall comply with the intentions and purposes of this code and shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in this code.

*Section 104.1 is amended as follows:*

#### **Section 104.1.1 Administrative Rules (Authority)**

The *fire code official* is authorized to develop administrative rules to supplement the requirements of this code and adopted standards referenced by this code. Should a conflict occur between this code, a reference standard, or an administrative rule adopted by the *fire code official*, the requirements of the administrative rule shall govern.



## **THE ESD12 ADOPTED ADMINISTRATIVE RULES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

### 101.1 Title.

These regulations shall be known as the *Fire Code* of [NAME OF JURISDICTION], hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

*Section 101.1 Title is amended as follows:*

**Section 101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of **Travis County Emergency Services District No. 12**, hereinafter referred to as “this code” or “Fire Code.”

---

### 102.1 Construction and design provisions.

The construction and design provisions of this code shall apply to:

1. Structures, facilities and conditions arising after the adoption of this code.
2. Existing structures, facilities and conditions not legally in existence at the time of adoption of this code.
3. Existing structures, facilities and conditions where required in Chapter 11.
4. Existing structures, facilities and conditions that, in the opinion of the *fire code official*, constitute a distinct hazard to life or property.

*Section 102.1 is amended as follows:*

**102.1 Constructions and design provisions.** The construction and design provisions of this code shall apply to:

1. Structures, facilities, and conditions arising after the effective date of the 2015 code;
  2. Existing structures and facilities that are the subject of the Substantial Improvement as a Commercial Establishment or a Public Building or a multifamily residential dwelling consisting of more than three units in Unincorporated Travis County after the effective date of the 2015 code; and
  3. Existing structures, facilities, and conditions where required by Chapter 11 of this code, entitled “Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings.”
  4. Existing structures, facilities and conditions not legally in existence at the time of adoption of this code.
  5. Existing structures, facilities and conditions that, in the opinion of the *fire code official*, constitute a distinct hazard to life or property.
- 



## 102.2 Administrative, operational and maintenance provisions.

The administrative, operational and maintenance provisions of this code shall apply to:

1. Conditions and operations arising after the adoption of this code.
2. Existing conditions and operations

*Section 102.2 is amended as follows:*

**102.2 Administrative, operational, and maintenance provisions.** This administrative, operational, and maintenance provisions of the 2015 code shall apply to:

1. Structures, facilities, operations, and conditions arising after the effective date of the 2015 code;
2. Existing structures and facilities that are the subject of a Substantial Improvement as a Commercial Establishment or a Public Building or a multifamily residential dwelling consisting of more than three units in Travis County ESD No. 12 after the effective date of the 2015 Code; and
3. Existing structures, facilities, operations, and conditions where required by Chapter 11 of this code, entitles "Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings."

---

## 104.1 General.

The *fire code official* is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this code and shall have the authority to render interpretations of this code, and to adopt policies, procedures, rules and regulations in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies, procedures, rules and regulations shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code and shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in this code.

*Section 104.1 is amended as follows:*

**104.1 General.** The *fire code official* is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this code and shall have authority to render interpretations of this code, and to adopt policies, procedures, rules and regulations in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies, procedures, rules and regulations shall comply with the intentions and purposes of this code and shall not have the effect of waiting requirements specifically provided for in this code.

### 104.1.1 Administrative Rules

The *fire code official* is authorized to develop administrative rules to supplement the requirements of this code and adopted standards referenced by this code. Should a conflict occur between this code, a reference standard, or an administrative rule adopted by the *fire code official*, the requirements of the administrative rule shall govern.



---

### 104.7.2 Technical assistance.

To determine the acceptability of technologies, processes, products, facilities, materials and uses attending the design, operation or use of a building or premises subject to inspection by the *fire code official*, the *fire code official* is authorized to require the *owner* or owner's authorized agent to provide, without charge to the jurisdiction, a technical opinion and report. The opinion and report shall be prepared by a qualified engineer, specialist, laboratory or fire safety specialty organization acceptable to the *fire code official* and shall analyze the fire safety properties of the design, operation or use of the building or premises and the facilities and appurtenances situated thereon, to recommend necessary changes. The *fire code official* is authorized to require design submittals to be prepared by, and bear the stamp of, a registered design professional.

*104.7.2 is amended as follows:*

**104.7.2 Technical Assistance.** To determine the acceptability of technologies, processes, products, facilities, materials, and uses attending the design, operation or use of a building or premises subject to inspection by the *fire code official*, the *fire code official* is authorized to require the *owner* or agent to provide, without charge to the jurisdiction, a technical opinion and report. The opinion and report shall be prepared by a qualified engineer, specialist, and laboratory or fire safety specialty organization acceptable to the *fire code official* and shall analyze the fire safety properties of the design, operation or use of the building or premises and the facilities and appurtenances situated thereon, to recommend necessary changes. The *fire code official* is authorized to require design submittals to be prepared by, and bear the stamp of, a registered design professional. The *fire code official* is authorized to require that reports include a certification that the design, operation or use of the building or premises complies with applicable codes, including International Electric Code, International Fuel Gas Code, International Mechanical Code, International Plumbing Code or Texas Accessibility Standards.

---

### 104.7.3 Third party plan review.

*104.7.3 Has been **added** and reads as follows:*

**Section 104.7.3 Third party plan review.** The *fire code official* is authorized to require the owner or agent to provide, without charge to the jurisdiction and at the sole cost and expense of the owner or agent, a Third-Party Review for permits, approvals, inspections, or plans submitted to the District for approval. Any Third-Party Review required by the District will be conducted by an entity of the *fire code official's* choice.





### 105.3.3 Occupancy prohibited before approval.

The building or structure shall not be occupied prior to the *fire code official* issuing a permit and conducting associated inspections indicating the applicable provisions of this code have been met.

*Section 105.3.3 is amended as follows:*

**105.3.3 Occupancy prohibited before approval.** The building or structure shall not be occupied prior to the *fire code official* issuing a permit that indicates that applicable provisions of this code have been met for any new structure or a change in existing occupancy.

---

### 109.4 Violation penalties.

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 *fire code official*, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a [SPECIFY OFFENSE], punishable by a fine of not more than [AMOUNT] dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding [NUMBER OF DAYS], or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

*Section 109.4 is amended as follows:*

**109.4 Violation penalties.** 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 *fire code official*, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a **Class C Misdemeanor, as defined in the Texas Penal Code 12.23**. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense. The District shall be entitled to bring a civil action for the enforcement of this code in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any violation of this code or to impose a civil penalty in an amount of **\$2,000 per day** that a violation of this Code continues.



## 110.1 General.

If during the inspection of a premises, a building or structure, or any building system, in whole or in part, constitutes a clear and inimical threat to human life, safety or health, the *fire code official* shall issue such notice or orders to remove or remedy the conditions as shall be deemed necessary in accordance with this section, and shall refer the building to the building department for any repairs, *alterations*, remodeling, removing or demolition required.

*Section 110.1 amended as follows:*

**110.1 General.** If during the inspection of a premises, a building or structure, or any building system, in the whole or in part, constitutes a clear and inimical threat to human life, safety or health, the *fire code official* shall issue such notice or orders to remove or remedy the conditions as the *fire code official* deems necessary in accordance with this section.

---

## 111.4 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 less than [AMOUNT] dollars or more than [AMOUNT] dollars.

*Section 111.4 amended as follows:*

**111.4 Failure to comply.** Any person who shall continue any work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as the person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, **shall be guilty of a Class C Misdemeanor**, as defined in the Texas Penal Code 12.23, with a penalty **not to exceed \$500.00**, and a culpable mental state is hereby explicitly waived for any offense hereunder. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense. The District shall also be entitled to bring a civil action for the enforcement of this code to any court competent jurisdiction to enjoin any violation of this code or to impose a civil penalty in an amount **of \$2,000 per day** that a violation of this Code continues. Each day a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense hereunder.



## 201.4 Terms not defined.

Where terms are not defined through the methods authorized by this section, such terms shall have ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies. *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition*, shall be considered as providing ordinarily accepted meanings.

*Section 201.4 amended as follows:*

**201.4 Terms not defined.** Where terms are not defined through this order or the methods authorized by this section, such terms shall have ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies. *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*, shall be considered as providing ordinarily accepted meanings.

---

## 202 General Definitions are revised as follows:

### **The 2009 Fire Code, and the 2015 Fire Code**

“2009 Fire Code” means

- the codes and standards, known as the International Fire Code. 2009 Edition, including Appendix Chapters B, C, D, E, F, and I as published by the International Code Council, except for the portions deleted, modified, or amended by the Travis County ESD No. 12 Board of Commissioners in 2013.

“2015 Fire Code” means

- the codes and standards, known as the International Fire Code. 2015 Edition, including Appendix Chapters B, C, D and I as published by the International Code Council, except for the portions deleted, modified, or amended by the Travis County ESD No. 12 Board of Commissioners.

“Applicant” means

- any person who is listed as an applicant or an application for a Building Permit or a System permit or their designee.

“Beginning of Construction” means

- 1) The date on which ground is broken for a building, or
- 2) If no ground is broken, the date on which the first of the following occurs:
  - a. The first materials are added to the original property, or
  - b. Foundation pilings are installed on the original property, or



- c. A manufactured building or relocated structure is placed on the site

“Beginning of a Substantial Improvement” means

- the date on which:
  1. The repair, restoration, reconstruction, improvement, or remodeling starts, or
  2. The change in occupancy classification starts, or
  3. Materials are first delivered for any purpose in (1) or (2).

“Building”

- includes a Commercial Establishment, Public Building, or multifamily building consisting of more than three units.

“Building Permit” means

- the written authority issued by the Travis County ESD No. 12 Fire Marshal’s Office to begin construction in a manner that complies with this Chapter and the applicable Fire Code and any reasonable accommodation that has been granted by the *fire code official*.

“Commercial Establishment” means

- any place in which any phase of commercial or business activity occurs but does not include the following:
  1. A multifamily residential dwelling consisting of less than four units, or
  2. Private garages, carports, sheds.

“Fire Marshal” means

- the Fire Marshal of Travis County ESD No. 12, Texas or his duly authorized representative.

“Person” means

- an individual, trust, estate, partnership, limited partnership, association, company, or corporation.

“Public Building” means any structure:

- 1) That is open to the public during normal business hours or
- 2) To which there is public access as a result of the possession, use, or the nature of the property, without regard to whether access is for business, pleasure, religious worship, the gratification of curiosity or similar purposes, and
- 3) Includes all structures made open by the occupation of them as government buildings, public schools, taverns, inns, or in any other way.



## “Residential Group R”

*“Residential Group R” occupancies are revised as follows:*

**R-2** Residential occupancies containing *sleeping units* or more than three *dwelling units* where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, including:

- Apartment houses
- *Boarding houses* (non-transient)
- *Convents*
- Dormitories
- Fraternities and sororities
- Hotels (non-transient)
- Live/work units
- Monasteries
- Motels (non-transient)
- Vacation timeshare properties
- Congregate living facilities with 16 or fewer occupants are allowed to be constructed in accordance with the construction requirement for Group R-3.

“Substantial Improvement” means

- 1) the repair, restoration, reconstruction, improvement or remodeling of a building for which the cost exceeds:
  - a. 50% of the building’s value according to the certified tax appraisal roll for Travis County for the year preceding the year, or
  - b. \$50,000; or
- 2) A change in occupancy classification involving a change in the purpose or level of activity in a building, including the renovation of a warehouse into more than three loft apartments.

“System” means

- a fire alarm, fire extinguishing, or smoke control system

“Vacant” means

- a property that is being without content or occupant and free from activity or work.

*Note: If a word or phrase is defined in the 2015 Fire Code, the definitions in that code apply to that word or phrase when it is used in this chapter.*



---

## 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 upon which the fire is to be kindled.

*Section 307.2 amended as follows:*

**307.2 Open Burning – Notification, permission, or permit required.** For any burning other than residential maintenance 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, a bonfire, or any other outdoor burning within the District. All outdoor burning authorized with the District shall be conducted in full compliance with all applicable statutes, rules, or regulations, including this Ordinance, and in the case of conflict between any other applicable statute, rule, or regulation and this Ordinance, the more stringent provision shall prevail.

---

## Outdoor Burning Procedure

**Residential Maintenance** – All outdoor burning conducted within the ESD12 District must be authorized and may require an on-site visit prior to initiating any outdoor burning. The individual responsible for the outdoor burning shall contact the **ESD12 Office of the Fire Marshal at 512-272-4502, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5p.m** for notification and instructions.

After the burn request is received, a *fire code official* or on duty fire department officer may conduct an on-site inspection, if required, and permission may be granted to conduct the burn if said burn can be conducted in a safe manner and such burn is in compliance with all applicable statutes, laws, rules, or regulations, including the Texas Clean Air Act and the Texas Outdoor Burning Rule, Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Sections 111.201-111.221. Open Burning as described above is to be intended for **residential maintenance (restrictions apply) and does not require a permit or permit fee**, given burning is occasional and not commercial in nature.

Any Open Burning other than that intended for residential maintenance described above, i.e. Lot Clearing, Prescribed Burning, or if the code official's opinion any request that exceeds acceptable height, size or frequency, shall require **prescribed burn (Open Burn) permit** and/or associated permit fees. Application for such approval(s) shall only be issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.



### Open Burning site requirements (All):

- Site inspected or approved by a Fire Department Official.
- Phone available on site, at all times, to contact 9-1-1.
- Burn site is at least **50** feet from any structure.
- Wind and/or other environmental conditions are favorable.
- Cannot burn prohibited items.
- Proposed burn site is manageable size and height. (10' x 10')
- Approved water source or extinguishing equipment/agent available, at all times, on burn site.
- Burn site is downwind or at least **300** feet from any occupants that might be sensitive to smoke.
- Applicant to be informed of burn regulations.
- Applicant must abide by any additional requirements provided by code official.
- When issued, all permits shall be kept on the premises designated therein, at all times, and shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises or shall be kept on the premises location designated by the *fire code official*.

---

### 307.2.1 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

*Section 307.2.1 amended as follows:*

**307.2.1 Authorization.** All **outdoor burning** shall be done in accordance with Texas Outdoor Burning Rule Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC) Sections 111.201-111.221. If a conflict should arise between this code and the Texas Outdoor Burning Rule, Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Sections 111.201-111.221, then the more stringent rule shall apply. Where required by state or local law or this code, open burning shall only be authorized with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority or other authorities having jurisdictions, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed. If issued, permits may be revoked at any time by the *fire code official* if any conditions or limitations set forth in the permit have been violated. This action, if taken, may result in fines, penalties as set forth herein, or additional fees issued by the District.



---

### 307.4 Location.

The location for *open burning* shall be not less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of any structure.

**Exceptions:**

1. Fires in *approved* containers that are not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) from a structure.
2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet (7620 mm) where the pile size is 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height.

*Section 307.4 amended as follows:*

**307.4 Location.** The location for *open burning* shall be not less than 50 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure.

Exceptions:

1. Fires in *approved* containers that are not less than 25 feet from a structure.

---

### 308.1.4 Open-flame cooking devices.

Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

**Exceptions:**

1. One- and two-family *dwellings*.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an *automatic sprinkler system*.
3. LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2½ pounds [nominal 1-pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity].

*Section 308.1.4 amended as follows:*

**308.1.4 Open-flame cooking devices.** Charcoal burners and other flame cooking devices shall not be operated on balconies or within 10 ft. of combustible construction. Such cooking devices shall not be stored on balconies.

Exception:

1. One-and Two-family dwellings.





## 311.1 General.

Temporarily unoccupied buildings, structures, premises or portions thereof, including tenant spaces, shall be safeguarded and maintained in accordance with Sections 311.1.1 through 311.6.

*Section 311.1 is amended by **adding** the following:*

**311.1.3** Any property that is vacant for a period of greater than 180 days shall not be considered as grandfathered and meet the requirements of the currently adopted code for Change of Use or Occupancy 102.3

---

## 403.12.2 Public safety plan for gatherings.

Where the *fire code official* determines that an indoor or outdoor gathering of persons has an adverse impact on public safety through diminished access to buildings, structures, fire hydrants and fire apparatus access roads or where such gatherings adversely affect public safety services of any kind, the *fire code official* shall have the authority to order the development of or prescribe a public safety plan that provides an *approved* level of public safety and addresses the following items:

1. Emergency vehicle ingress and egress.
2. Fire protection.
3. Emergency egress or escape routes.
4. Emergency medical services.
5. Public assembly areas.
6. The directing of both attendees and vehicles, including the parking of vehicles.
7. Vendor and food concession distribution.
8. The need for the presence of law enforcement.
9. The need for fire and emergency medical services personnel.

*Section 403.12.2 amended as follows:*

**403.12.2 Public safety plan.** Where the *fire code official* determines that an indoor or outdoor gathering of *persons* has an adverse impact on public safety through diminished access to buildings, structures, fire hydrants and fire apparatus access roads, or were such gatherings adversely affect public safety services of any kind, the *fire code official* shall have the authority to order the development of, or prescribe a plan for, the provision of an *approved* level of public safety.



### 503.1.1 Buildings and facilities.

*Approved* fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirements of this section and shall extend to within 150 feet (45 720 mm) of all portions of the facility and all portions of the *exterior walls* of the first story of the building as measured by an *approved* route around the exterior of the building or facility.

**Exceptions:**

1. The *fire code official* is authorized to increase the dimension of 150 feet (45 720 mm) where any of the following conditions occur:
  - 1.1. The building is equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3.
  - 1.2. Fire apparatus access roads cannot be installed because of location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades or other similar conditions, and an *approved* alternative means of fire protection is provided.
  - 1.3. There are not more than two Group R-3 or Group U occupancies.
2. Where approved by the *fire code official*, fire apparatus access roads shall be permitted to be exempted or modified for solar photovoltaic power generation facilities.

*Section 503.1.1 amended as follows:*

**503.1.1 Buildings and facilities.** Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into of within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirements of this section and Appendix D of this code. Access roads shall extend to within 150 feet (45 720mm) of all portions of the facility and all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility.

**Exceptions** were removed.

---

### 503.2.1 Dimensions.

Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm), exclusive of shoulders, except for *approved* security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches (4115 mm).

*Section 503.2.1 amended as follows:*

**503.2.1 Dimensions.** Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 25 feet, except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 14 feet.

**Exception:** Widths less than 25 feet as approved in writing by the Fire Chief.



---

## 503.6 Security gates.

The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus access road shall be *approved* by the fire chief. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an *approved* means of emergency operation. The security gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be *listed* in accordance with UL 325. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F 2200.

*Section 503.6 amended as follows:*

**503.6 Security Gates.** The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus road shall be approved by the *fire code official*. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation, including a means of operation without power and a means of operation with a Knox Box. The security gates and emergency operation shall be maintained at all times. A single gate serving two-way traffic shall be 25 feet in clear open width. When two gates are installed an each only serves one direction of travel, they shall be 15 feet in clear open width each. This code pertains to new and existing gates.

---

## 505.1 Address identification.

New and existing buildings shall be provided with *approved* address identification. The address identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property. Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall not be spelled out. Each character shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 1/2 inch (12.7 mm). Where required by the *fire code official*, address identification shall be provided in additional *approved* locations to facilitate emergency response. Where access is by means of a private road and the building cannot be viewed from the *public way*, a monument, pole or other sign or means shall be used to identify the structure. Address identification shall be maintained.

*Section 505.1 amended as follows:*

**505.1 Address identification.** New and existing buildings shall be provided with *approved* address and building identification. The address and building identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property. Address and building identification characters shall contrast with their background. Address and building numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall not be spelled out. Each character shall be not less than 6 inches high with a minimum stroke width of 1/2 inch. Where required by the *fire code official*, address and building identification shall be provided in additional *approved* locations to facilitate emergency response. Where access is by means of a private road and the building cannot be viewed from the *public way*, a monument, pole or other sign or means shall be used to identify the structure. Address and building identification shall be maintained.



---

## 509.3 Main Electrical Disconnect.

*Section 509.3 added and amended as follows:*

**509.3 Main Electrical Disconnect.** The main electrical disconnect for each building shall be installed on the exterior of the building in an approved location. In lieu of the main disconnect, a remote shunt trip may be installed to disconnect electrical service when approved by the *fire code official*. **(This was added to section 509 for Firefighter safety)**

---

## 605.5.1 Power supply.

Extension cords shall be plugged directly into an *approved* receptacle, power tap or multiplug adapter and, except for *approved* multiplug extension cords, shall serve only one portable appliance.

*Section 605.5.1 amended as follows:*

**605.5.1 Power Supply.** Extension cords shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap or multi-plug adapter proved with surge protection and, except for approved multi-plug extension cords, shall serve only one portable appliance.

---

## 807.5.2.3 Artwork in classrooms.

Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 50 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached.

*Section 807.5.2.3 amended as follows:*

**807.5.2.3 Artwork in classrooms.** Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 20 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached. The amount of wall area covered can be increased to 50 percent in buildings protected throughout by an automatic fire sprinkler system.

---



### 807.5.5.3 Artwork in classrooms.

Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 50 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached.

*Section 807.5.5.3 amended as follows:*

**807.5.5.3 Artwork in classrooms.** Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 20 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached. The amount of wall area covered can be increased to 50 percent in buildings protected throughout by an automatic fire sprinkler system.

---

### 901.4.6 Pump and riser room size.

Where provided, fire pump rooms and *automatic sprinkler system* riser rooms shall be designed with adequate space for all equipment necessary for the installation, as defined by the manufacturer, with sufficient working space around the stationary equipment. Clearances around equipment to elements of permanent construction, including other installed equipment and appliances, shall be sufficient to allow inspection, service, repair or replacement without removing such elements of permanent construction or disabling the function of a required fire-resistance-rated assembly. Fire pump and *automatic sprinkler system* riser rooms shall be provided with a door(s) and an unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal of the largest piece of equipment.

*Section 901.4.6 amended as follows:*

**901.4.6 Pump and riser room.** A dedicated room shall be provided for fire pumps and automatic sprinkler system risers. Pump and riser rooms shall be provided with exterior access and the exterior access door shall face an access drive marked as a fire lane. Pump rooms shall comply with the construction requirements specified in NFPA Standard 20. Where provided, fire pump rooms and *automatic sprinkler system* riser rooms shall be designed with adequate space for all equipment necessary for the installation, as defined by the manufacturer, with sufficient working space around the stationary equipment. Clearances around equipment to elements of permanent construction, including other installed equipment and appliances, shall be sufficient to allow inspection, service, repair or replacement, without removing such elements of permanent construction or disabling the function of a required fire-resistance-rated assembly. Fire pump and *automatic sprinkler system* riser rooms shall be provided with a door(s) and an unobstructed passageway large enough to allow remove of the largest piece of equipment.

---



## 903.2.9 Group S-1.

An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided throughout all buildings containing a Group S-1 occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

1. A Group S-1 *fire area* exceeds 12,000 square feet (1115 m<sup>2</sup>).
2. A Group S-1 *fire area* is located more than three stories above grade plane.
3. The combined area of all Group S-1 *fire areas* on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 24,000 square feet (2230 m<sup>2</sup>).
4. A Group S-1 *fire area* used for the storage of commercial motor vehicles where the *fire area* exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m<sup>2</sup>).
5. A Group S-1 occupancy used for the storage of upholstered furniture or mattresses exceeds 2,500 square feet (232 m<sup>2</sup>).

*Section 903.2.9 amended as follows:*

**903.2.9 Group S-1.** A 903.2.99 automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings containing a Group S-1 occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

1. A Group S-1 fire area exceeds 12,000 square feet (1115 m<sup>2</sup>).
2. A Group S-1 fire area is located more than three stories above grade plane.
3. The combined area of all Group S-1 fire areas on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 24,000 square feet (2230 m<sup>2</sup>).
4. A Group S-1 fire area used for the storage of commercial motor vehicles or aircraft where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m<sup>2</sup>).
5. A Group S-1 occupancy used for the storage of upholstered furniture or mattresses exceeds 2,500 square feet (232 m<sup>2</sup>).

---

### 903.3.1.2.1 Balconies and decks.

Sprinkler protection shall be provided for exterior balconies, decks and ground floor patios of *dwelling units* and *sleeping units* where the building is of Type V construction, provided there is a roof or deck above. Sidewall sprinklers that are used to protect such areas shall be permitted to be located such that their deflectors are within 1 inch (25 mm) to 6 inches (152 mm) below the structural members and a maximum distance of 14 inches (356 mm) below the deck of the exterior balconies and decks that are constructed of open wood joist construction.

*Section 903.3.1.2.1 amended as follows:*

**903.3.1.2.1 Balconies and decks.** Sprinkler protection shall be provided for all exterior balconies and ground floor patios, including closets or storage areas accessed from the balconies and patios, of dwelling units where the building is of Type V construction provided there is a roof or deck above. Sidewall sprinklers that are used to protect such areas shall be permitted to be located such that their deflectors are within 1 inch (25mm) to 6 inches (152mm) below the structural members, and a maximum distance of 14 inches (356mm) below the deck of the exterior balconies that are constructed of open wood joist construction.



---

## 903.4.2 Alarms.

An approved audible device, located on the exterior of the building in an *approved* location, shall be connected to each *automatic sprinkler system*. Such sprinkler waterflow alarm devices shall be activated by water flow equivalent to the flow of a single sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed in the system. Where a fire alarm system is installed, actuation of the *automatic sprinkler system* shall actuate the building fire alarm system.

*Section 903.4.2 is amended as follows:*

**903.4.2 Alarms.** An approved audible device, located on the exterior of the building in an *approved* location, shall be connected to each *automatic sprinkler system*. In addition, an approved audible device shall be located in each occupancy of a multi-tenant building to provide notification to all occupancies in an *approved* location determined by the *fire code official*. Such sprinkler waterflow alarm devices shall be activated by water flow equivalent to the flow of a single sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed in the system. Where a fire alarm system is installed, actuation of the *automatic sprinkler system* shall actuate the building fire alarm system.

---

## 906.1 Where required.

Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in all the following locations:

1. In new and existing Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-2, R-4 and S occupancies.  
**Exception:** In Group R-2 occupancies, portable fire extinguishers shall be required only in locations specified in Items 2 through 6 where each *dwelling unit* is provided with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum rating of 1-A:10-B:C.
2. Within 30 feet (9144 mm) of commercial cooking equipment.
3. In areas where flammable or *combustible liquids* are stored, used or dispensed.
4. On each floor of structures under construction, except Group R-3 occupancies, in accordance with Section 3315.1.
5. Where required by the sections indicated in Table 906.1.
6. Special-hazard areas, including but not limited to laboratories, computer rooms and generator rooms, where required by the *fire code official*.

*Section 906.1 amended as follows:*

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

1. In all Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, and S occupancies.
2. Within 30 feet (9144mm) of commercial cooking equipment.
3. In areas where flammable or combustibile liquids are stored, used or dispensed.
4. On each floor of structures under construction, except R-3 occupancies, in accordance with Section 1415.1.
5. Where required by the section indicated on Table 906.1.
6. Special-hazard areas, including but not limited to laboratories, computer rooms and generator rooms, where required by the *fire code official*.



---

## 1009.1 Accessible means of egress required.

*Accessible means of egress* shall comply with this section. Accessible spaces shall be provided with not less than one *accessible means of egress*. Where more than one *means of egress* is required by Section 1006.2 or 1006.3 from an accessible space, each accessible portion of the space shall be served by not less than two *accessible means of egress*.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Accessible means of egress* are not required to be provided in existing buildings
2. One *accessible means of egress* is required from an accessible *mezzanine* level in accordance with Section 1009.3, 1009.4 or 1009.5.
3. In assembly areas with ramped *aisles* or stepped *aisles*, one *accessible means of egress* is permitted where the common path of travel is accessible and meets the requirements in Section 1029.8.

*Section 1009.1 amended as follows:*

**1009.1 Accessible means of egress required.** *Accessible means of egress* shall comply with this section. *Accessible means of egress* shall be provided with not less than one *accessible means of egress*. Where more than one *means of egress* are required by Section 1006.2 or 1006.3 from any *accessible* space, each *accessible* portion of the space shall be served by not less than two *accessible means of egress*. *Accessible means of egress* shall comply with both this section and the Architectural Barriers Act, Article 9102, of the Texas Civil Statutes (Texas Accessibility Standards or TAS). The *fire code official* is authorized to require the owner, applicant or agent to provide a technical report from a qualified *person* certifying TAS compliance.

---

## 2305.5 Fire extinguishers.

*Approved* portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 with a minimum rating of 2-A:20-B:C shall be provided and located such that an extinguisher is not more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) from pumps, dispensers or storage tank fill-pipe openings.

*Section 2305.5 amended as follows:*

**2305.5 Fire extinguishers.** Approved portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum rating of 4A:40BC shall be provided and located such that an extinguisher is not more than 75 feet (22860mm) from pumps, dispensers, or storage tank fill-pipe openings.





## Chapter 31 Tents

*Chapter 31 of the IFC is amended as follows:*

**Chapter 31 Tents.** Canopies, other membrane structures, and portable or mobile kitchens and or trailers used as such.

---

### B105.1 One- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses.

The minimum fire-flow and flow duration requirements for one- and two-family *dwellings*, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses shall be as specified in Tables B105.1(1) and B105.1(2).

*Section B105.1 amended as follows:*

**B105.1 One- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses.** The minimum fire-flow and flow duration requirements for one- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses shall be 1,000 gallons per minute for 1 hour. Fire-flow and flow duration for dwellings having a fire-flow calculation area in excess of 3,600 square feet shall not be less than the flow specified in Table B105.1(2).

**Exception:** The *fire code official* is authorized to approve a reduction in required fire-flow when the building is equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system. The amount of fire flow reduction permitted with be determined by the *fire code official*.

---

### B105.2 Buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses.

The minimum fire-flow and flow duration for buildings other than one- and two-family *dwellings*, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses shall be as specified in Tables B105.2 and B105.1(2).

*Section B105.2 amended as follows:*

**B105.2 Buildings and other than one- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses.** The minimum fire-flow and flow duration for buildings other than one- and



two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses shall be as specified in Table B105.1(2)

**Exception:** The *fire code official* is authorized to approve a reduction in required fire-flow when the building is equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system. The amount of fire flow reduction permitted will be determined by the *fire code official*.

---

## C102.2 Installation

*Section C102.2 added and amended as follows:* this is not in the “C” appendix and has been added

**C102.2 Installation.** Fire hydrants must be installed with the center of the 4.5-inch steamer opening at least 18 inches above finished grade. The 4.5-inch opening must face the driveway or street and must be totally unobstructed to the street. Set back from the face of the hydrant to the back of the curb shall be in accordance with City of Austin Standards except that on private property, set back shall be three (3) to six (6) feet to avoid vehicular damage, unless specifically approved by the Fire Chief.

---

## C103.1 Hydrant spacing.

Fire apparatus access roads and public streets providing required access to buildings in accordance with Section 503 of the *International Fire Code* shall be provided with one or more fire hydrants, as determined by Section C102.1. Where more than one fire hydrant is required, the distance between required fire hydrants shall be in accordance with Sections C103.2 and C103.3.

*Section C103.1 amended as follows:*

**C103.1 Hydrant Spacing.** Where required by Section 507.5.1, a minimum of one (1) hydrant **within 300 feet** of all portions of exterior walls (lowest point of fire department access). This measurement is taken around the perimeter of the building and down the access road to the hydrant (MEASUREMENT NOT TAKEN AS A RADIUS).

**Exception:** The fire chief is authorized to accept an increase of up to 10 percent where existing fire hydrants provide all or a portion of the required fire hydrant service.

Regardless of the average spacing, fire hydrants shall be located such that all points on streets and access roads adjacent to a building that are within the distances listed in Table C102.1.



---

### D103.3 Turning radius.

The minimum turning radius shall be determined by the *fire code official*.

*Section D103.3 amended as follows:*

**D103.3 Turning Radius.** Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed with an appropriate 25 foot inside turning and 50-foot outside turning radius at turns to accommodate any operational fire department apparatus.

**Exception:** Radius less than 25 feet inside and 50 feet outside as approved in writing by the fire chief.

---

### D103.5 Fire apparatus access road gates.

Gates securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with all the following criteria:

1. Where a single gate is provided, the gate width shall be not less than 20 feet (6096 mm). Where a fire apparatus road consists of a divided roadway, the gate width shall be not less than 12 feet (3658 mm).
2. Gates shall be of the swinging or sliding type.
3. Construction of gates shall be of materials that allow manual operation by one person.
4. Gate components shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and replaced or repaired when defective.
5. Electric gates shall be equipped with a means of opening the gate by fire department personnel for emergency access. Emergency opening devices shall be *approved* by the *fire code official*.
6. Methods of locking shall be submitted for approval by the *fire code official*.
7. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be *listed* in accordance with UL 325.
8. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F 2200.

*Section D103.5 amended as follows:*

**D103.5 Fire apparatus road gates.** Gates securing fire apparatus access roads shall be approved by the *fire code official* prior to installation.

1. Gates shall be maintained in an operative condition and repaired or replaced when defective.
2. When required by the *fire code official*, defective gates shall be secured in the open position until repaired.
3. Gates shall be of the swinging or sliding type.
4. Construction of gates shall be of materials that allow manual operation by one person.



5. Electric gates shall be equipped with a means of opening the gate by fire department personnel for emergency access. Emergency opening devices shall be approved by the *fire code official*.
6. Methods of locking shall be submitted for approval by the *fire code official*.
7. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be listed in accordance with UL 325.
8. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM 2200.

---

### D103.6 Signs.

Where required by the *fire code official*, fire apparatus access roads shall be marked with permanent NO PARKING—FIRE LANE signs complying with Figure D103.6. Signs shall have a minimum dimension of 12 inches (305 mm) wide by 18 inches (457 mm) high and have red letters on a white reflective background. Signs shall be posted on one or both sides of the fire apparatus road as required by Section D103.6.1 or D103.6.2.

*Section D103.6 amended as follows:*

**D013.6 Signs.** Where required by the *fire code official*, fire apparatus access roads shall be marked as follows:

Where curb and guttering exist, all of the fire apparatus access roads shall be **painted red** and be conspicuously and legible marked with the warning **“FIRE LANE – TOW AWAY ZONE”** in **white letters** and at least three inches tall, at intervals **not exceeding 35 feet**.

Where no curb and guttering exist, fire apparatus access roads shall be marked with permanent **“FIRE LANE – TOW AWAY ZONE”** signs at intervals **not exceeding 50 feet**. Signs shall have a minimum dimension of **12 inches wide by 18 inches high** and have **red letters on a white reflective background**. Signs shall be posted on one side or both sides of the fire apparatus road as required by Section D103.6.1 or D103.6.2.

**Exception:** Ribbon striping is allowed with the approval of the *fire code official*.

---

### D107.1 One- or two-family dwelling residential developments.

Developments of one- or two-family dwellings where the number of *dwelling units* exceeds 30 shall be provided with two separate and *approved* fire apparatus access roads.

**Exceptions:**

1. Where there are more than 30 *dwelling units* on a single public or private fire apparatus access road and all *dwelling units* are equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* in



accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3 of the *International Fire Code*, access from two directions shall not be required.

2. The number of *dwelling units* on a single fire apparatus access road shall not be increased unless fire apparatus access roads will connect with future development, as determined by the *fire code official*.

*Section D107.1 amended as follows:*

**D107.1 One-or two-family dwelling residential developments.** Developments of one or two-family dwellings where the number of dwelling units exceed 30, shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus roads.

**Exception:**

1. The number of dwelling units on a single fire apparatus access road shall not be increased unless fire apparatus access roads will connect with future development, in an approved time frame, as determined by the *fire code official*.
- 

