

CHAPTER VII. FIRE

Article 1. Fire Department

Article 2. Fire Prevention

Article 3. Fireworks

ARTICLE 1. FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 7-101. CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED. The fire department of the city is hereby established and the department shall be organized to consist of a fire chief, an assistant fire chief and not less than 12 nor more than 24 firefighters.
(Code 1987, 11-17:19; 1999)
- 7-102. MEMBERSHIP; FIRE DRILL; COMPENSATION. (a) Members of the fire department shall all be volunteers. They shall meet at least once each month for practice and drill. The chief of the fire department shall keep a record of attendance of such meetings. Any member who shall fail to attend four consecutive meetings shall automatically become expelled from membership.
(b) Volunteer firefighters of the city shall receive as compensation for their services as such voluntary firefighters the following amounts, to-wit:
Fire runs where small hose is used - \$11 per fire run;
Fire runs where large hose is used - \$16 per fire run;
Report - \$6 per fire run;
Volunteer firefighters shall receive a monthly stipend of \$25.
The Fire Chief shall receive a monthly salary of \$375.
The Assistant Fire Chief shall receive a monthly salary of \$285.
(Ord. 946, Sec. 2:3, Ord. 1157, Ord. 1158; Code 2005)
- 7-103. SUPERVISION OF DEPARTMENT. (a) The chief, assistant chief and members of the fire department shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council.
(b) The chief of the fire department shall be under the supervision of the city administrator and shall have immediate superintendency and control over and be responsible for the care and condition of the fire apparatus and equipment. It shall be the chief's duty to see that all such apparatus and equipment is ready at all times for immediate use. It shall also be the chief's duty to submit a written report as to the condition of all fire apparatus and equipment to the city administrator at their first meeting in February of each year.
(Code 1999)
- 7-104. FIRE CHIEF; POWERS. (a) The fire chief shall be responsible for the discipline of the members and is hereby given authority to suspend or expel any member for refusal to obey orders or for misconduct or failure to do his or her duty at a fire.

(b) The chief shall also have the right to summon any and all persons present to aid in extinguishing a fire or to aid in removing personal property from any building on fire or in danger thereof and in guarding the same.

(c) At fires the chief shall have full power, control and command of all persons present and shall direct the use of the fire apparatus and equipment, and command the firefighters in the discharge of their duties. He or she shall take such measures as he or she shall deem proper and necessary in the preservation and protection of property and extinguishing of fires.
(Code 1999)

7-105. SAME; RECORDS. The chief of the fire department shall keep in convenient form a complete record of all fires. Such information shall include the time and location, construction of building, owner, occupancy, how extinguished, value of building and contents, loss on building and contents, insurance on building and contents, members responding to the alarm, and any other information deemed advisable. (Code 1999)

7-106. ASSISTANT CHIEF. In the absence of the chief, the assistant fire chief shall perform all the duties and have all the authority and responsibility of the chief as conferred by this chapter. (Code 1999)

7-107. PRIVATE USE OF FIRE EQUIPMENT. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to take away or use any fire apparatus or equipment for any private purpose or for any person willfully and without proper authority to remove, take away, keep or conceal any tool, appliance, equipment or other article used in any way by the fire department. (Code 1999)

7-108. FIRE EQUIPMENT; EMERGENCY RIGHT-OF-WAY AND USE. (a) All fire apparatus and equipment is hereby given and granted the exclusive right-of-way over and through all streets, avenues, alleys and public thoroughfares in the city while en-route to fires or in response to any alarm, and it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to in any manner obstruct or hinder the apparatus or equipment.
(b) All emergency vehicles of the fire department, while proceeding on official business, shall be operated in strict accordance with the requirements of the Kansas Statutes regarding the operation of emergency vehicles, and each departmental member assigned to the operation of emergency vehicles shall familiarize himself or herself with the requirements of the law and govern himself or herself accordingly. Any operator violating the provisions of the state law shall be liable for disciplinary action.
(Code 1999)

7-109. RESERVED.

7-110. OBSTRUCTION OF FIRE HYDRANT. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to place or cause to be placed upon or about any fire hydrant any rubbish, building material, fence or other obstruction of any character, or in any manner obstruct, hinder, or delay the fire department in the performance of its duties in case of fire. Nor shall any person fasten to any fire hydrant any guy rope or brace, nor stand any vehicle within 15 feet of any such hydrant.

(b) No person, except the proper officers of the waterworks system shall take water from any public or private fire hydrant, except for fire purposes or for the use of the fire department in case of fire.
(Code 1999)

7-111. FEES FOR RESCUE CALLS OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS. The city will hereafter levy a fee whenever the city fire department responds to a rescue call involving any individual(s) whose primary place of residence is outside the corporate city limits. The city clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a bill to each property owner on whose land or property the city fire department extinguishes or helps extinguish a fire. (Ord. 873, Sec. 1; Code 1999)

ARTICLE 2. FIRE PREVENTION

- 7-201. INCORPORATING INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE. There is hereby adopted by the governing body of the city, for the purpose of prescribing regulations, governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion, that certain code and standards known as the International Fire Code, edition of 2003, including all the Appendix chapters, save and except such portions as hereinafter deleted, modified or amended by section 7-203 of this article. One copy shall be marked or stamped "Official Copy as Incorporated by the City of Columbus," and shall be filed in the office of the city clerk to be open to inspection and available to the public at all reasonable hours of business (Ord. 1172, Sec. 1; Code 2005)
- 7-202. SAME; ENFORCEMENT. The code hereby adopted shall be enforced by the chief of the fire department. (Code 1999)
- 7-203. SAME; AMENDMENTS. (a) Wherever the word municipality is used in the code hereby adopted, it shall be held to mean the City of Columbus.
(b) All sections of the International Fire Code relating to fireworks are hereby deleted in their entirety. (Code 1999)
- 7-204. OPEN BURNING. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to burn rubbish, trash, paper, cartons, boxes, barrels, wood or any other combustible material within the city limits, except leaves and yard and garden debris may be burned within the corporate limits of the city at times to be designated by motion of the governing body; provided, however, that these restrictions shall not apply to residential fireplaces or charcoal burners or broilers used in preparation of food.
(b) The City Administrator, upon advisement of the Fire Chief and the Chief of Police, may designate periods permitting, restricting or prohibiting the burning of leaves and yard and garden debris within the corporate limits of the city. Upon determination of periods of burning or restrictions thereof, the city administrator shall cause to be published, a general notice to the public in the official city newspaper and other local media, informing the public of such permissions, restrictions or prohibitions. The notice shall contain the nature of burning determination, the dates involved and burning regulations established by the Fire Chief. (Ord. 1063, Sec. 2; Code 2005)
- 7-205. ACCUMULATION OF RUBBISH AND TRASH. It shall be unlawful for any person to allow to accumulate or to keep in any part of any building or outside of and adjacent to any building or in any alley, sidewalk, street or premises within 30 feet of any building any rubbish, trash, waste paper, excelsior, empty boxes, barrels or other combustibles which shall constitute a fire hazard. (Code 1999)
- 7-206. KEEPING OF PACKING MATERIALS. It shall be unlawful to keep excelsior or other packing material in any other than metal or wood metal line boxes or bins having self-closing or automatic covers. All refuse and trash from rooms where packing or unpacking is done shall be removed daily. (Code 1999)

- 7-207. STORAGE OF ASHES. It shall be unlawful to store ashes inside of any nonfireproof building unless they are stored in a noncombustible container or receptacle, and a clearance of at least five feet shall be maintained between such container or receptacle and any combustible materials not placed therein. Ashes shall not be stored outside of any building in wooden, plastic, or paper product receptacles or dumped in contact with or in close proximity to any combustible materials. (Code 1999)
- 7-208. FILLING GASOLINE TANKS OF MOTOR VEHICLES. The engines of motor vehicles shall be stopped when the gasoline tanks of such vehicles are being filled with gasoline at service stations or other places where gasoline is supplied to motor vehicles. The driver or person in control of such vehicle when the gasoline tank of same is being filled who refuses, neglects or fails to stop the engine of such vehicle shall likewise be guilty of a violation of this code. (Code 1999)
- 7-209. FIRE HAZARDS GENERALLY. It is unlawful for any person to cause or create anywhere within the city, or to permit on any premises under his or her control, any situation or condition that is conducive to or likely to cause or permit the outbreak of fire or the spreading of fire. Any situation or condition conducive to the outbreak of or spreading of fire, is declared to be a fire hazard. The violation of or failure to comply with any law pertaining to the storage, handling or use of inflammable oils, explosives, liquefied petroleum gases, or fertilizers and all wires and other conductors charged with electricity, is declared to be a fire hazard. The placing of stools, chairs or any other obstruction in the aisles, hallways, doorway, or exit of any theater, public hall, auditorium, church or other place of indoor public assemblage, or the failure to provide any such place of public assemblage with sufficient, accessible and unobstructed fire exits and escapes is also declared to be a fire hazard. The obstruction of any street, avenue, alley, fire hydrant or any other condition that might delay the fire department in fighting fire is declared to be unlawful. (Code 1999)
- 7-210. SAME; INSPECTIONS TO DISCOVER. It shall be the duty of the fire chief to inspect or cause to be inspected by fire department officers or members, as often as may be necessary all buildings, particularly all mercantile buildings, manufacturing plants, warehouses, garages, hotels, boarding houses, rooming houses, theaters, auditoriums and all places of public assemblage, for the purpose of discovering the violation of any fire preventive law or any fire hazard and ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable to cause fires and to see that all places of public assemblage, hotels and rooming houses have sufficient and unobstructed facilities for escape therefrom in case of fire.
(Code 1999)
- 7-211. ABATEMENT OF FIRE HAZARDS; ISSUING ORDER. Whenever any officer or member of the fire department shall find or discover any fire hazard or shall find in any building or upon any premises combustible or explosive material or dangerous accumulation of rubbish or unnecessary accumulation of paper, boxes, shavings or any other inflammable material, so situated as to endanger property by the probability of fire, or shall find or discover any violation of this chapter or any other law hazardous to public safety from fires, the fire chief shall order the fire hazard or danger from the fire forthwith abated and remedied and such order shall be complied with immediately by the owner or occupant of such buildings or premises.

If the hazard or condition ordered abated and remedied is a violation of, or a failure to comply with any law, the fire chief shall report the matter to the city attorney and he or she shall, if he or she deems it advisable, prosecute the offender.
(Code 1999)

- 7-212. SAME; SERVICE OF ORDER; RECORDS. Any order made under section 7-211 shall be in writing and may be served personally upon the owner or occupant of the premises or by leaving it with any person in charge of the premises or if the premises are unoccupied and the owner is a nonresident of the city, then by mailing a copy to the owner's last known post-office address. One notice to either the occupant or owner shall be sufficient. The fire chief shall keep a record of and copies of all such orders and notices and shall follow up such notices at the expiration of the time for compliance therewith and when complied with make proper entry, and if not complied with, file complaint with the municipal court against the property owner and/or occupant. (Code 1999)
- 7-213. ABOVE STORAGE TANKS FOR FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS; WHEN REQUIRED. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or store, or cause to be kept or stored, aboveground on any premises within the city, any fuel oil, coal oil, kerosene, gasoline, naphtha, benzine, lubricating oil, or any other light product of crude petroleum, or any other flammable liquids, in quantities exceeding 60 gallons, except in tanks meeting the requirements of this article. (Code 1987, 11-42)
- 7-214. SAME; SPECIFICATIONS. Tank required by section 7-213 shall be constructed of steel, free from leaks, equipped with screened vents of ample size, and the foundation or supports of all such tanks shall be constructed of concrete or steel. (Code 1987, 11-43)
- 7-215. SAME; PROHIBITED LOCATIONS. No aboveground tank containing any of the flammable liquids listed in section 7-213 shall be located within the fire limits, or within 600 feet of any school, church, hospital or industrial or manufacturing plant within the city. (Code 1987, 11-44)
- 7-216. APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION AND LOCATION. The construction and location of tanks required by this article shall be subject to the approval of the chief of the fire department and the governing body. (Code 1987, 11-45)
- 7-217. COVERING AND MAINTENANCE OF GROUND UPON WHICH LOCATED. The ground under all tanks required by this article, and in the surrounding area for a distance of 20 feet from the outer edge of such tanks, shall be covered with gravel or concrete, and shall be kept free from all rubbish, trash, grass, weeds, paper, wood and all other combustible material. (Code 1987, 11-46)

ARTICLE 3. FIREWORKS

- 7-301. FIREWORKS DEFINED. For purposes of this article, the term fireworks shall mean those items as defined by the rules and regulations of the Kansas state fire marshal, and shall include but not be limited to: firecrackers, torpedoes, sparklers, Roman candles, sky rockets, pin wheels, cap or toy pistols (except such pistols or any like device designed to discharge paper caps containing not more than .25 grains of explosive mixture), canes, bombs, cannons or other like devices and all classes of fireworks that may be shot into the air or propelled over the ground by explosive discharges or any device using blank cartridges. (Code 1999)
- 7-302. FIREWORKS PROHIBITED. (a) Except as provided in sections 7-303:306; it shall be unlawful for any person to keep, store, display for sale, fire, discharge or explode any fireworks.
- (b) Nothing in this article shall be construed as applying to:
- (1) Toy paper caps containing not more than .25 of a grain of explosive composition per cap;
 - (2) The manufacture, storage, sale or authorized use of signals necessary for the safe operation of railroads or other classes of public or private transportation;
 - (3) The military or naval forces of the United States or of this state while in the performance of official duty;
 - (4) Law enforcement officers while in the performance of official duty;
- or
- (5) The sale or use of blank cartridges for ceremonial, theatrical or athletic events.
- (Code 1999)
- 7-303. SAME: EXCEPTIONS; DISCHARGES. (a) Section 7-302 of this article shall not apply to the firing or discharge of fireworks in the city between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on June 27th through July 4th of each year.
- (b) The Governing Body of the City may, in its discretion, grant permission at any time for the public display of fireworks by responsible individuals or organizations when such display or displays shall be of such a character and so located, discharged and fired as shall not be a fire hazard or endanger persons or surrounding property.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to give any public display of fireworks without having first obtained a permit thereof.
(Ord. 1112, Sec. 1; Code 2005)
- 7-304. SAME: EXCEPTION; SALE OF FIREWORKS. Any person who has first obtained a valid permit to sell fireworks within the city may do so between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. commencing June 27th and through July 4th of each year. (Ord. 1073, Sec. 1; Code 2005)

7-305. PERMIT FOR SALE OF FIREWORKS REQUIRED; FEE; ISSUANCE. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, display for sell, offer to sell or give away any type of fireworks within the city without first paying a fee of \$10 per establishment or premises to the city clerk and applying for and securing a permit therefor on or before June 25th of the permit year.

(b) No permit shall be issued for any location where retail sales are not permitted under the zoning laws. Prior to the issuance of the permit, an inspection will be made of the applicant's facility for compliance with this chapter and other pertinent laws, and no permit shall be issued for any premises not in compliance with such laws. Upon qualifying for the permit, the permittee shall prominently display the same at the establishment or premises where fireworks are to be sold or displayed for sale. The permit fee shall not be refundable upon failure to qualify for the permit or withdrawal or cancellation of the application or permit.
(Code 1999)

7-306. PERMIT FOR PUBLIC FIREWORKS DISPLAY REQUIRED. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to give or provide a fireworks display for the public or for organized groups without first obtaining a permit to do so by making application at least 30 days in advance of the desired display. Approval of the permit shall be by the governing body. No permit shall be approved unless the applicant furnishes a certificate of public liability insurance for the display in a minimum amount of \$100,000, written by an insurance carrier licensed to do business in Kansas, conditioned as being non-cancellable except by giving 10 days advance written notice to the city clerk. In the event of cancellation of the insurance prior to the display, the permit shall automatically be revoked and void. The application for the permit shall clearly state:

- (1) The name of the applicant.
- (2) The group for which the display is planned.
- (3) The location of the display.
- (4) The date and time of the display.
- (5) The nature or kind of fireworks to be used.
- (6) The name of the person, firm or corporation that will make the actual discharge of the fireworks.
- (7) Anticipated need for police, fire or other municipal services.

(b) No permit shall be issued if the location, nature of the fireworks or other relevant factor is such as to create an undue hazard or risk of harm or damage to persons or property.
(Code 1999)

7-307. APPROVED FIREWORKS; BOTTLE ROCKETS PROHIBITED. (a) All fireworks offered for sale and discharged within the city shall be of a type that has been tested and approved for sale and use within the state by the state fire marshal.

(b) Bottle rockets and other similar self-propelled firework or fireworks devices consisting of a tube and attached guiding stock or rod shall not be sold or discharged in the city.
(Code 1999)

7-308. DISCHARGE ON STREETS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge, ignite or fire any fireworks upon any public street, alley or avenue or in any park, cemetery or public place within the city.
(Code 1999)

- 7-309. THROWING PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, cast or propel fireworks of any kind in the direction of or into the path of any animal, person or group of persons, or from, in the direction of or into any vehicle of any kind. (Code 1999)
- 7-310. SALE OF FIREWORKS; WHERE PROHIBITED. (a) It shall be unlawful for fireworks to be stored, sold or displayed for sale in a place of business where paint, oils, varnishes, turpentine or gasoline or other flammable substances are kept, unless such fireworks are in a separate and distinct section or department of the premises. All fireworks must be sold by an adult.
 (b) Where the fire chief deems there is a fire hazard, he or she is hereby authorized to have such hazard abated.
(Code 1999)
- 7-311. RETAIL DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS. (a) All retailers are forbidden to expose fireworks where the sun shines through glass on the merchandise displayed, except where such fireworks are in the original package.
 (b) All fireworks displayed for sale must remain in original packages, except where an attendant is on constant duty at all times where such fireworks are on display; provided, that fireworks in open stock may be kept in show cases or counters out of the reach of the public without an attendant being on duty.
 (c) Signs reading "Fireworks for Sale--No Smoking Allowed" shall be displayed in the section of a store or premises set aside for the sale of fireworks.
(Code 1999)
- 7-312. FIRE EXTINGUISHES REQUIRED. (a) Two functioning and approved fire extinguishers must be provided and kept in close proximity to the stock of fireworks in all permanent buildings where fireworks are stored, sold or displayed for sale.
 (b) Small stands, temporarily erected to be used as a place for storing and selling fireworks only, shall have one such fire extinguisher, or in lieu of the fire extinguisher, a pressurized water hose with nozzle end within five feet of the fireworks stand. (Code 1999)
- 7-313. RESTRICTIONS AS TO GASOLINE INSTALLATIONS. It shall be unlawful to store, keep, sell, display for sale or discharge any fireworks within 50 feet of any gasoline pump, gasoline filling station, gasoline bulk station or any building in which gasoline or volatile liquids are sold in quantities in excess of one gallon, except in stores where cleaners, paints and oils are handled in sealed containers only.
(Code 1999)
- 7-314. AUTHORITY OF FIRE CHIEF. The chief of the fire department is authorized to seize and confiscate all fireworks which may be kept, stored or used in violation of any section of this article, and all of the rules of the state fire marshal. He or she shall dispose of all such fireworks as may be directed by the governing body.
(Code 1999)
- 7-315. BANNING FIREWORKS. The Fire Chief shall have the authority and discretion to ban the discharge of all fireworks within the corporate limits of the City of Columbus if the weather conditions make discharge of fireworks in the City hazardous to persons or property. (Code 2014)