

## 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)