

## TITLE 7

### FIRE PROTECTION AND FIREWORKS<sup>1</sup>

#### CHAPTER

1. FIRE CODE.
2. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.
3. FIRE SERVICE OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

#### CHAPTER 1

#### FIRECODE<sup>2</sup>

#### SECTION

- 7-101. Fire code adopted. *Updated 4/25/2023*
- 7-102. Enforcement.
- 7-103. Modifications.
- 7-104. Gasoline trucks.
- 7-105. Variances.
- 7-106. Violations and penalties.

**7-101. Fire code adopted.** Pursuant to authority granted by Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 6-54-501 through 8-54-509, and for the purpose of providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures, and premises, and to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations the International Fire Code,<sup>3</sup> 2018 edition, as recommended by the International Code Council, is hereby adopted by reference and included as a part of this code. Pursuant to the requirement of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 6-54-502, one (1) copy of the international fire code has been filed with the city recorder and is available for public use and inspection. Said international fire code is adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein and shall be controlling within the corporate limits.

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<sup>1</sup> Municipal code reference  
Building, utility and housing codes: title 12.

<sup>2</sup> Municipal code reference  
Building, utility and housing codes: title 12.

<sup>3</sup>Copies of this code are available from the International Code Council, 900 Montclair Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35213-1206.

**7-102. Enforcement.** The international fire code herein adopted by reference shall be enforced by the chief of the fire department. He shall have the same powers as the state fire marshal.

**7-103. Modifications.** The International Fire Code adopted in § 7-101 above is modified by including Appendix A, B, C, D (see *International Fire Code* Section 101.2.1, 2018 edition).

**7-104. Gasoline trucks.** No person shall operate or park any gasoline tank truck within the central business district or within any residential area at any time except for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in, the expeditious delivery of gasoline.

**7-105. Variances.** The chief of the fire department may recommend to the board of mayor and aldermen variances from the provisions of the international fire code upon application in writing by any property owner or lessee, or the duly authorized agent of either, when there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the strict letter of the code, provided that the spirit of the code shall be observed, public safety secured, and substantial justice done. The particulars of such variances when granted or allowed shall be contained in a resolution of the board of mayor and aldermen.

**7-106. Violations and penalties.** It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter or the International Fire Code herein adopted, or fail to comply therewith, or violate or fail to comply with any order made thereunder; or build in violation of any detailed statement of specifications or plans submitted and approved thereunder, or any certificate or permit issued thereunder, and from which no appeal has been modified by the board of mayor and aldermen or by a court of competent jurisdiction, within the time fixed herein. The violation of any section of this chapter shall be punishable by a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code. Each day a violation is allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense. The application of penalty shall not be held to prevent the enforced removal of prohibited conditions.

## CHAPTER 2

### VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT<sup>1</sup>

#### SECTION

7-201. Establishment, equipment, and membership.

7-202. Objectives.

7-203. Organization, rules, and regulations.

7-204. Records and reports.

7-205. Tenure and compensation of members.

7-206. Chief responsible for training and maintenance.

7-207. Chief to be assistant to state officer.

**7-201. Establishment, equipment, and membership.** There is hereby established a volunteer fire department to be supported and equipped from appropriations of the board of mayor and aldermen. Any funds raised by the volunteer fire department as a whole, or by any individual or group of volunteer firemen in the name of the volunteer fire department, and any gifts to the volunteer fire department shall be turned over to and become the property of, the town and the town shall use such funds in the equipping of the volunteer fire department. All other apparatus, equipment, and supplies of the volunteer fire department shall be purchased by or through the town and shall be and remain the property of the town. The volunteer fire department shall be composed of a chief appointed by the board of mayor and aldermen, and such number of subordinate officers and firemen as the fire chief shall appoint. [Subject to approval by the board of mayor and aldermen.]

**7-202. Objectives.** The volunteer fire department shall have as its objectives:

- (1) To prevent uncontrolled fires from starting
- (2) To prevent the loss of life and property because of fires.
- (3) To confine fires to their places of origin.
- (4) To extinguish uncontrolled fires.

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<sup>1</sup> Municipal code reference

Special privileges with respect to traffic: title 15, chapter 2

- (5) To prevent loss of life from asphyxiation or drowning.
- (6) To perform such rescue work as its equipment and/or the training of its personnel makes practicable.

**7-203. Organization, rules, and regulations.** The chief of the volunteer fire department shall set up the organization of the department, make definite assignments to individuals, and formulate and enforce such rules and regulations as shall be necessary for the orderly and efficient operation of the volunteer fire department. [Under such rules and regulations as the board of mayor and aldermen may prescribe.]

**7-204. Records and reports.** The chief of the volunteer fire department shall keep adequate records of all fires, inspections, apparatus, equipment, personnel, and work of the department. He shall submit such written reports on those matters to the mayor or to the board of mayor and aldermen as they may require.

**7-205. Tenure and compensation of members.** The fire chief shall have the authority to suspend or discharge any other member of the volunteer fire department when he deems such action to be necessary for the good of the department. The fire chief may be suspended for up to thirty (30) days by the mayor, but may be dismissed only by the board of mayor and aldermen.

All personnel of the volunteer fire department shall receive such compensation for their services as the board of mayor and aldermen may from time to time prescribe.

**7-206. Chief responsible for training and maintenance.** The chief of the fire department shall be fully responsible for the training of the firemen and for maintenance of all property and equipment of the fire department, under the direction and subject to the requirements of the board of mayor and aldermen.

**7-207. Chief to be assistant to state officer.** Pursuant to requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 68-102-108, the fire chief is designated as an assistant to the state commissioner of commerce and insurance and is subject to all the duties and obligations imposed by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 68, chapter 102, and shall be subject to the directions of the commissioner in the execution of the provisions thereof.

## CHAPTER 3

### FIRE SERVICE OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

#### SECTION

7-301. Fire service outside city limits.

**7-301. Fire service outside city limits.** The board of mayor and aldermen shall have full power and authority to authorize the use of the town's fire-fighting equipment and personnel outside the corporate limits to suppress and extinguish fires subject to such conditions and limitations of such action as the board may impose pursuant to the authority of:

(1) Tennessee Code Annotated, § 58-8-101, et seq., the Mutual Aid and Emergency Disaster Assistance Agreement Act of 2004, which authorizes municipalities to respond to requests from other governmental entities affected by situations in which its resources are inadequate to handle. The act provides procedures and requirements for providing assistance. No separate mutual aid agreement is required unless assistance is provided to entities in other states, but a municipality may, by resolution, continue existing agreements or establish separate agreements to provide assistance. Assistance to entities in other states is still provided pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 12-19-101, et seq. "Assistance" is defined in the act as the "the provision of personnel, equipment, facilities, services, supplies, and other resources to assist in firefighting, law enforcement, the provision of public works services, the provision of emergency medical care, the provision of civil defense services, or any other in response to a request for assistance in a municipal, county, state, or federal state of emergency."

(2) Tennessee Code Annotated, § 12-9-101, et seq., the Interlocal Cooperation Act, which authorizes municipalities and other governments to enter into mutual aid agreements of various kinds.

(3) Tennessee Code Annotated, § 6-54-601, which authorizes municipalities to:

(a) Enter into mutual aid agreements with other municipalities, counties, privately incorporated fire departments, utility districts and metropolitan airport authorities which provide for firefighting service, and with industrial fire departments, to furnish one another with firefighting assistance.

(b) Enter into contracts with organizations of residents and property owners of unincorporated communities to provide such communities with firefighting assistance.

(c) Provide fire protection outside their city limits to either citizens on individual contractual basis, or to citizens in an area without individual contracts, whenever an agreement has first been entered into between the municipality providing the fire service and the county or counties in which the fire protection is to be provided. (Counties may compensate municipalities for the extension of fire services.)