

Sec. 12-2. - Fire prevention code—Adopted.

The city, by and through its city council, hereby adopts the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code in its entirety, save and except such portions as are hereinafter deleted, modified supplemented or amended; and the same is hereby adopted and incorporated herein as fully as if set out at length; and from the date on which this section shall take effect, the provisions of the International Fire Code, 2018 edition, and this section shall [be] controlling within the corporate limits of the city.

One (1) copy of which is on file at the Fire Department Administrative Building of the City of Laredo, being marked and designated as the International Fire Code, 2018 edition, including Appendix Chapters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I.

(Ord. of 6-16-81, § 1; Ord. No. 89-124, § 1, 7-5-89; Ord. No. 94-235, § 1, 12-5-94; Ord. No. 2001-O-080, § 1, 4-23-01; Ord. No. 2006-O-232, pt. 1, 9-18-06; Ord. No. 2010-O-001, §§ 1, 3, 1-4-10; Ord. No. 2012-O-183, §§ 1, 2, 11-5-12; Ord. No. 2021-O-200, § 1, 10-4-21)

Editor's note— Inclusion of the provisions of §§ 1—5 of an ordinance adopted June 16, 1981, as §§ 12-2—12-4 was at the discretion of the editor, the ordinance being nonamendatory of the Code.

Sec. 12-3. - Same—Amendments.

The following sections of the 2018 International Fire Code are hereby modified to be specifically tailored to the City of Laredo:

Section 507.5.1. Where required. Fire hydrants shall be provided along new public and new private streets at every 300 feet for commercial development and every 500 feet for residential development, and where a portion of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 400 feet (122m) from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the fire code official.

Exceptions:

1. Fire Group R-3 and Group U occupancies, the distance requirement shall be 600 feet (183M). 2. For buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the distance requirement shall be 600 feet (183m).

Section 507.5.7. Marking of fire hydrant locations. Raised blue pavement markers shall be provided on public and private streets to indicate the locations of fire hydrants. These markers shall be placed just off center to the side the fire hydrant is located.

Section 903.2 Where required. Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in any building regardless of occupancy type in which the total fire areas within the exterior walls exceed 12,000 square feet, and shall also be provided in the locations described in Sections 903.2.1 through 903.2.12.

Exceptions: Spaces or areas in telecommunications buildings used exclusively for telecommunications equipment, associated electrical power distribution equipment, batteries and standby engines, provided that those spaces or areas are equipped throughout with an automatic smoke detection system in accordance with Section 907.2 and are separated from the remainder of the building by not less than 1-hour fire barriers constructed in accordance with Section 707 of the International Building Code or not less than 2-hour horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711 of the International Building Code, or both.

903.2.8.5 Group R-2. An automatic sprinkler system shall be required in all Group R-2 occupancies (apartment houses) that have three units or more per building.

5610 Possession, sale, use of fireworks restricted.

5610.1 Prohibited. No person shall possess, cast, throw or fire any squib, rocket, cracker, torpedo, grenade, or other combustible fireworks of any kind in the city.

5610.2 Possession. No person shall possess or have in his possession with the intent to give away or sell or offer for sale or sell within the city any squib, rocket, cracker, torpedo, grenade, or other combustible fireworks of any kind in the city; provided, however, that, this paragraph of this section shall not apply to the sale of any such article or articles by wholesalers to each other, or to the sale of any such article or articles at wholesale to merchants conducting business outside the city or to the sale by wholesalers for public demonstrations as hereinafter provided.

5610.3 Public Demonstration. A public demonstration or display of fireworks of any kind may be conducted under proper police supervision after application is made and a permit is issued by the Fire Chief for such demonstration. Such permit shall not be granted unless such demonstration or display shall be of such a character, and so located, discharged or fired, as in the opinion of the Fire Chief shall not be hazardous to property or endanger any person. When a permit is issued by the Fire Chief, it shall not be valid for a period exceeding three (3) month, and each permit shall be valid for only one (1) public display or demonstration.

5610.4 Review. Prior to the issuance of a permit by the Fire Chief, the Fire Chief may request the Fire Marshal of the department to inspect the premises and report to the Fire Chief whether or not, in the opinion of the Fire Marshal of the Fire Department, a display upon such premises would be dangerous to life or property, and such report shall not be binding upon the Fire Chief but shall be advisory only.

5610.5 Exempt. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to sale, storage, or used of railroad track torpedoes or other signaling devices used by railroads, nor to the sale, storage or use of flashlight compositions by photographers or dealers in photographic supplies, nor to signal flares or rockets for military or police use.

3211.1 Scope. This chapter shall apply all new and existing used clothing stores

3211.2 Approval Required. A person must have a valid certificate of occupancy and an approved fire inspection from the Fire Department to operate a used clothing store.

3211.3 Display and Storage. A used clothing store shall use no more than (50) percent of its floor space for the storage of combustible materials. Used clothing and other combustible materials shall be displayed and stored on ground floors (no upper floors or basements). Used clothing and other combustible materials shall be displayed for sale, handling or distribution, to the public from tables at least (3) feet from the floor, on hangers, racks or shelves. At no time may the sale or display of used clothing or combustible materials be from piles on the floor. Storage of loose or baled used clothing and other combustible materials or high-pile combustible storage shall be conducted as required by chapter 32 of this Code as applicable.

3211.4 Smoking. Smoking shall be prohibited in all areas except in specified, safe locations designated by the fire official. No-smoking signs shall be posted throughout all the building except in the specified, designated safe locations.

3211.5 Open Flames. The used of open flame or flame producing devices within the occupancy shall be prohibited.

(Ord. of 6-16-81, §§ 2—4; Ord. No. 94-235, §§ 1—4, 12-5-94; Ord. No. 2001-O-080, § 1, 4-23-01; Ord. No. 2002-O-090, §§ 1, 2, 5-20-02; Ord. No. 2007-O-248, § 1, 12-3-07; Ord. No. 2010-O-001, § 2, 1-4-10; Ord. No. 2021-O-200 , § 1, 10-4-21)

Note— See the editor's note to § 12-2.

Sec. 12-4. - Same—Penalty for violation.

Penalty for violation of any provision of article I (i.e. sections 12-1 to 12-6) shall be a fine of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. of 6-16-81, § 5; Ord. No. 99-248, § 1, 8-23-99; Ord. No. 2006-O-232, pt. 3, 9-18-06)

Note— See the editor's note to § 12-2.