

FIRE PREVENTION

Chapter 9

Article 1. General

Sec.9-1. National Fire Codes Adopted.

The National Fire Codes, Volumes 1-16, published by the National Fire Protection Association in 1981, are hereby adopted by the city council of the City of Big Spring for the purpose of prescribing regulations governing the conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion. Not less than two copies of said National Fire Codes have been and are now filed in the office of the city secretary of the City of Big Spring and the same are hereby adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein. (See section 12-5 for penalty).

Sec. 9-2 to 9-11. Reserved.

Article 2. Fire Marshal

Sec. 9-12. Office created independent of other departments.

The office of city fire marshal is hereby created, and such office shall be independent of other city departments, the fire marshal reporting directly to the city manager. (Ord. of 4-14-31, §1)

Sec. 9-13. Appointment, qualifications and removal.

The fire marshal shall be appointed by the city manager, subject to the approval of the city council. The fire marshal shall be properly qualified for the duties of his office and shall be removed only for cause. (Ord. of 4-14-31, §1)

Sec. 9-14. Duty to investigate fires.

The fire marshal shall investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring within this city by which property has been destroyed or damaged, and shall especially make investigation as to whether such fire was the result of carelessness or design. (Ord. of 4-14-31, §2)

Sec. 9-15. Inspection of Premises, etc.

The fire marshal, upon complaint of any person having an interest in any building or property adjacent, or without complaint, shall have the right, at all reasonable hours, for the purpose of examination, to enter into and upon all buildings and premises within the city, and it shall be his duty, monthly or more often to enter upon and make or cause to be entered upon and made, a thorough examination of all mercantile, manufacturing and public buildings, together with the premises belonging thereto.

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Whenever he shall find any building or other structure which, for want of repair, or by reason of age or dilapidated condition, or for any cause, is especially liable to fire, and which is so situated as to endanger other buildings or property, or so occupied that fire would endanger persons or property therein, and whenever he shall find an improper or dangerous arrangement of stoves, ranges, furnaces or other heating appliances of any kind whatsoever, including chimneys, flues and pipes with which the same may be connected, or a dangerous arrangement of lighting devices or system, or a dangerous or unlawful storage of explosives, compounds, petroleum, gasoline, kerosene, dangerous chemicals, vegetable products, ashes, combustible, inflammable and refuse materials, or other conditions which may be dangerous in character or liable to cause or promote fire or create conditions dangerous to firemen or occupants, he shall order the same to be removed or remedied, and such order shall be forthwith complied with by the owner or occupant of the building or premises. If the owner or occupant deems himself aggrieved by such order he may, within five (5) days, appeal to the city council, which shall investigate the cause of the complaint and, unless by its authority the order is revoked, such order shall remain in force and be forthwith complied with by the owner or occupant. Any owner or occupant who fails to comply with such order shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. (Ord. of 4-14-31, §8-11)

Sec. 9-16. Right of entry.

The fire marshal shall have the authority, at all times of day or night, when necessary in the performance of the duties imposed upon him by the provisions of this article, to enter upon and examine any building or premises where any fire has occurred, and other buildings and premises adjoining or near the same, which authority shall be exercised only with reason and good discretion. (Ord. of 4-14-31, §7)

Sec. 9-17. Record of fires.

The fire marshal shall keep in his office a record of all fires, together with all facts, statistics and circumstances, including the origin of the fires and the amount of the loss, which may be determined by the investigation required by this article. (Ord. of 4-14-31, §2)

Sec. 9-18 to 9-32. Reserved.