

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 4
AMENDED FIRE CODE**

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON §

WHEREAS, the Board of Emergency Services Commissioners (“Commissioners”) of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4 (“District”) are authorized, pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code § 775.036, and other applicable law, to adopt, amend, and enforce a fire code; and

WHEREAS, the District has previously adopted a Fire Code and amendments thereto; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to amend its Fire Code by updating the Fire Code to the 2024 International Fire Code requirements and provisions with some local amendments in order to provide for Fire Code enforcement to protect the health and safety of those residing within the territory of the District and to help prevent fires and medical emergencies.

It is, therefore, ORDERED that the District’s Fire Code is amended as follows:

Section 1: Adoption of Fire Code

- (a) Except within the corporate limits of any municipality located in the territory of the District that has adopted a fire code the following are adopted as the Fire Code of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4 in the State of Texas, regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire, medical, and explosion hazards arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials, and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises as provided below, providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore, and each of all of the regulations, provisions, and penalties. The conditions and terms of the Fire Code on file in the office of the Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4 are referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this Order, with the additions, insertions, deletions, and changes, if any prescribed in Section 2 of this Order.
- (b) The Fire Code includes the following by reference:
 - 1. The 2024 International Fire Code (“IFC”), and appendices B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L, promulgated by the International Code Council, Inc., and
 - 2. The 2024 International Building Code (“IBC”) Chapters 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10, promulgated by the International Code Council, Inc., but only as necessary to interpret and enforce the Fire Code of the District.
- (c) The remaining provisions of this Order, together with all provisions incorporated in this Order by reference, constitute the Fire Code of the District ("Fire Code"). The Fire Code is adopted pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code Section 775.036, and other applicable law.

- (d) The District intends that this Order and the Fire Code will not conflict with any fire code adopted by the City of Liberty Hill. To the extent of any conflict between this Order and the Fire Code and any fire code adopted by the City of Liberty Hill, the fire code of the City of Liberty Hill will prevail within the City of Liberty Hill's territorial limits and this Order and the Fire Code will prevail in any areas of the District not within the territorial limits of the City of Liberty Hill.
- (e) This Order will, to the extent reasonable, be construed in a manner consistent with the IFC. If there is a conflict between this Order and the IFC, this Order prevails.

Section 2: Administration

- (a) The District's Fire Marshal is authorized to enforce this Order and the District's Fire Code, to take all actions required or authorized in provisions incorporated in this Order by reference, and to conduct all inspections, review all plans, and accept all applications for permits or approvals authorized or required by the terms of this Order. The Fire Marshal or their designee is also referred to as the Fire Code Official in this Fire Code.
- (b) The Fire Marshal shall submit monthly activity reports to the District, covering inspection, review, and enforcement activities conducted during the prior month. The Fire Marshal shall keep an accurate account of all fees, fines, and other funds collected and received pursuant to this Order, the names of the persons upon whose account the same were paid, the date and amount thereof, together with the location of the building or premises to which they relate.
- (c) The Fire Marshal shall maintain any approved plans, specifications, and other reports required by this Order for a period of not less than five years following the date such document was submitted to the District or prepared by the District, or as otherwise required by any statute, law, rule, or regulation of the State of Texas or the District, as applicable.
- (d) The Fire Marshal may provide for inspection and other activities necessary to carry out the intent of this Order or the Fire Code, including hiring employees, retaining contractors, or entering into any necessary agreements with any individual or entity to implement and enforce the Fire Code adopted and amended herein.
- (e) The Fire Marshal is authorized to designate other assistants or agents to administer and enforce this Order and the Fire Code as required by this section and to take any action that the Fire Marshal is authorized to take by this Order or the Fire Code.

Section 3: Right of Entry

- (a) In addition to those rights and authority authorized under the 2024 IFC (Section 104.4), whenever necessary to make an inspection to enforce any of the provisions of this Order or the Fire Code for the prevention of fires and medical emergencies, or whenever the Fire Marshal has reasonable cause to believe that there exists in any building or upon any premises any condition in violation of this Order or the Fire Code, the Fire Marshal may enter such building or premises at all reasonable times to inspect same or to perform any duty imposed on the Fire Marshal by the Fire Code; provided that if such building or premises is occupied, the Fire Marshal shall first present proper credentials and request

entry; and, except during construction of the improvement to be inspected, if such building or premises are unoccupied, the Fire Marshal shall make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other person(s) having charge or control of the building or premises and request entry. If such entry is refused, the Fire Marshal shall have recourse to every remedy provided by law to secure entry.

- (b) No owner or occupant or any other person having authority to control access to any building or premises shall fail or neglect, after a request for entry is made, to promptly permit entry therein by the Fire Marshal for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to the Fire Code. The Fire Marshal may take any action, at law or in equity, available under the Fire Code to enforce this section and any other applicable section as set forth herein or otherwise allowed under any applicable statute, law, rule, ordinance, or regulation.

Section 4: Stop Work Orders

In addition to any rights, remedies, or authority provided under this Order and the Fire Code, whenever any work or construction is being done contrary to the provisions of this Order and the Fire Code or without any permit or approval by the Fire Code, the Fire Marshal may order the work or construction stopped by written notice served on any person(s) engaged in performing or causing such work to be performed. Whenever work or construction is stopped in accordance with this Order and the Fire Code, a written notice to stop work issued by the District shall be posted on the property in a manner reasonably visible to any person who may perform any work on the property. All persons shall cease all work or construction on the property until authorized to proceed by the Fire Marshal. Any person who fails to comply with a notice to stop work, or removes any notice to stop work from any property without permission of the Fire Marshal, is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor, as defined in §12.23, Texas Penal Code, and/or is subject to civil penalties as provided for in this Order and the Fire Code. A culpable mental state for any criminal offenses set forth in this Order and Fire Code is specifically waived and dispensed with as provided for in §6.02, Texas Penal Code, or other applicable law.

Section 5: Identification of District, Commissioners, and Appellate Body

- (a) Whenever the terms "jurisdiction," "authority having jurisdiction," "department," or "bureau of fire prevention," or other such terms are used in the IFC, that term is a reference to the District, as appropriate. All regulatory authority established by the provisions of the IFC incorporated in this Order is established for the District.
- (b) Any reference in the provisions of the IFC incorporated in this Order to the "executive body," "governing body," or other such terms, or a reference to "Commissioners" in this Order is a reference to the Board of Emergency Services Commissioners of the District.
- (c) Any reference in the provision of the IFC incorporated in this Order to the "board of appeals" or other appellate body established by the IFC is a reference to the Board of Appeals of the District established by this Order in Section 6, below.

Section 6: Board of Appeals

Section 112 of the IFC is hereby deleted and the following provisions are substituted in its place:

- (a) If applicable, the Commissioners shall appoint by resolution three residents or owners of businesses in the territory of the District to serve as members of the Board of Appeals, to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions, or determinations made by the Fire Marshal relative to the application and interpretation of this Order and the Fire Code and/or decide the complaint of any person allegedly aggrieved by a decision of the Fire Marshal regarding any request for a permit or approval, any decision to stop work, or stop use, and any decision to abate, repair, modify, rehabilitate, demolish, or remove an unsafe structure or premises. All members of the Board of Appeals must be present for a quorum. Any Commissioner may serve as a member of the Board of Appeals. Members of the Board of Appeals serve and hold office at the District's pleasure, and such members may not be employees of the District.
- (b) The Board of Appeals shall hear the timely appeal of any decision of the Fire Marshal. A request to appeal such a decision shall be submitted in writing addressed to the President of the District and delivered to the District's central administrative offices not more than 30 days after the date of the decision or action that is the subject of the appeal. A request to appeal shall include the appellant's mailing address, telephone number, and the address of the property subject to the appeal for the purpose of receiving notice of a hearing on the appeal. A request of appeal does not stay the decision or action from which the appeal is taken.
- (c) If the Commissioners have not appointed a Board of Appeals, the Commissioners shall appoint an appellate panel to serve as the Board of Appeals and hear an appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting held not less than five days and not more than 35 days after receipt of the request to appeal. The hearing of such appeal shall be scheduled not later than 21 days following the meeting of the Commissioners at which the Board of Appeals is appointed to hear the appeal. If no meeting of the Commissioners occurs during the period of time after a request for appeal is submitted as required by this subsection, the President of the Commissioners shall appoint an appeal panel to serve as the Board of Appeals and hear the appeal and shall schedule the appeal hearing. The appointment of the Board of Appeals under this subsection may include alternate appointments in the event that one or more appointees are unable to serve at the place and time scheduled for the appeal hearing.
- (d) Except as otherwise provided, the Commissioners, or the President of the Commissioners, as applicable, shall serve written notice of the date, time, and place of the appeal hearing on the appellant not less than 10 days prior to the date of the hearing.
- (e) An appellant may present evidence in support of the appeal and cross-examine opposing witnesses. The Fire Chief or their designee may present evidence in support of a decision or action made under the Fire Code and cross-examine witnesses. The Board of Appeals shall make all determinations regarding the admissibility of evidence and credibility of witnesses and may make reasonable rulings regarding the conduct of the hearing and the manner the evidence is presented. The Board of Appeals may be assisted by legal counsel for the District in making evidentiary rulings and determining reasonable procedures for the conduct of the hearing.

- (f) The Board of Appeals may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision from which an appeal is taken. The decision of the majority of the Board of Appeals is the decision of the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals may reverse a decision only if, in the opinion of the majority: (a) the decision appealed is manifestly unjust; or (b) special circumstances make strict application of the rule that is the basis of the original decision impractical and the reversal of the decision is in conformity with the intent and purpose of this Order and the Fire Code, and such reversal would not result in a greater threat of danger to the life or safety.
- (g) A request to appeal shall be based on a claim that the intent of this Order, the Fire Code, or the rules legally adopted hereunder, have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of this Order or the Fire Code do not fully apply, or an equivalent method of protection or safety is proposed. The Board of Appeals has no authority to waive the requirements of this Order or the Fire Code.
- (h) If the Fire Marshal determines in a written order served on the owner of the property that a structure constitutes an imminent threat to the life or safety of any persons, the Fire Marshal may require the demolition or removal of such structure not later than ten days following the date notice of the order is served on the owner of the affected property. The owner may request an emergency appeal of the order in writing delivered to the central administrative offices of the District at any time prior to the expiration of such ten-day period. In such event, if a Board of Appeals was not previously appointed or is unavailable, the President of the Commissioners may appoint an appellate panel to serve as a Board of Appeals and schedule a hearing of such appeal as soon as practicable and also serve notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing on the owner not less than two days prior to the date of the hearing.

Section 7: Permits and Fees

The fees applicable for permits, approvals, and inspections shall be established from time to time by the Commissioners by resolution therefor. The District may require an owner or agent who applies to the District for any permits, approvals, or inspections to pay any additional costs related to any reviews of said permits, approvals, or inspections by third parties or otherwise.

Section 8: Penalties

- (a) A violation of any provision of this Order or the Fire Code is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500.00 as set forth in §12.23, Texas Penal Code. A separate violation occurs each day that a violation of this Order or the Fire Code continues. A culpable mental state for any criminal offenses set forth in this Order and the Fire Code is specifically waived and dispensed with as provided for in §6.02, Texas Penal Code, or other applicable law.
- (b) In addition to the criminal enforcement provisions of this section, the District may bring a civil action for the enforcement of this Order or the Fire Code in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any violation of this Order or the Fire Code or to impose a civil penalty in an amount of \$500.00 per day that a violation of this Order or the Fire Code continues. A separate violation occurs each day that a violation of this Order or the Fire Code continues.

Section 9: Amendments to the International Fire Code

The following sections are hereby amended as follows:

- (1) **Section 101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4, hereinafter referred to as "this code."
- (2) **Section 104.1.1 Enforcement.** The Fire Marshal, or a designee, also known herein as the "Fire Code Official" is hereby authorized to issue notices of violations of and enforce this code.
- (3) **Section 104.2.1.1 Plan review.** The Fire Code official is authorized to require the owner or agent to provide, without charge to the District and at the sole cost and expense of the owner or agent, a third-party review for permits, approvals, inspections, or plans submitted to the District for approval. Any third-party review required by the District shall be conducted by an individual or entity of the Fire Code Official's choice.
- (4) **Section 105.3.3 Occupancy prohibited before permit approval.** The building or structure shall not be occupied prior to the Fire Code Official issuing a permit that indicates that applicable provisions of this code have been met for any new structure or change in an existing occupancy or use of the occupancy.
- (5) **Section 112 Board of Appeals.** This section is deleted in its entirety, and Section 6 above is substituted in its place.
- (6) **Section 113.4 Violation penalties.** This section is deleted in its entirety, and Section 8 above is substituted in its place.
- (7) **Section 114.4 Failure to comply.** This section is deleted in its entirety, and Section 4 above is substituted in its place.
- (8) **Section 202, Definitions,** is hereby amended to include the following amended or added defined terms:

Animal Housing or Care Facility. Animal Housing or Care Facility means facilities used for temporary or permanent housing of animals for the purpose of providing a service, participating in a sport, or providing general board and care. Animal housing or care facilities do not include animal or pet care by pet owners caring for their own animals at their owned or rented residential property, horse stables, facilities used for equestrian purposes, and these facilities do not include Group U agricultural uses for the care and feeding of the agricultural business owner's own livestock.

Constant supervision. For Group B Animal Housing or Care Facilities, Constant Supervision means 24-hour on-site staff that is capable of responding to problems or emergencies that could impact the safety or lives of the animals being housed or cared for.

Business Group B (BG). Business Group B occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for office, professional or service- type transactions, including storage of records and accounts. Business occupancies shall include, but not be limited to the following:

Airport traffic control towers
Ambulatory care facilities
Animal Housing or Care Facilities, including shelters, breeding, grooming, daycare, hospitals, kennels, and pounds [...the balance of the definition to remain unchanged.]

Townhouse. A single-family dwelling unit that is constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from the foundation to the roof. Each unit must have a separate means of egress, the building cannot exceed three stories above grade plane, there is not a common attic, and each unit shall have open space on at least two sides.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS), also referred to as Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE). See definition below.

Charging Station. Charging Station shall mean all electrical and mechanical equipment, hardware, and software installed by the Contractor, electrical wiring and/or cabling, equipment infrastructure, the Contractor's signage, and all supporting equipment, including without limitation, concrete pads, that are used to provide, restore, or replenish power.

Electric Vehicle (EV). Electric Vehicle means a vehicle using one or more electric motors for propulsion. For the purposes of this specification, this will include both battery (BEV) and plug- in hybrid (PHEV) electric vehicles.

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE). Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment supplies electric energy used to recharge Electric Vehicles.

Section 307.2.1 Authorization. All outdoor burning shall be done in accordance with the Texas Outdoor Burning Rule, Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, Sections 111.201 - 111.221. If a conflict should arise between this code and the Texas Outdoor Burning Rule, then the more stringent rule shall apply. Where required by state or local law or this code, open burning is only allowed with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed. If issued, outdoor burning permits may be revoked at any time by the Fire Code Official if any conditions or limitations outlined in the permit have been violated. This action, if taken, may result in fines or additional fees issued by the District. All outdoor burning conducted within the District must be authorized and may require an on-site visit prior to initiating any outdoor burning. The individual responsible for the outdoor burning shall call Williamson County Emergency Communications, or other entities as directed by the District, for notification and instructions. After the request is received, a Fire Code Official or fire department officer may conduct an on-site inspection. If required, and the

site inspection is satisfactory, permission will be granted to conduct the burn. Open burning within the District as described above that is intended for residential maintenance does not require a permit fee, given burning is occasional and not commercial in nature. The burning of domestic waste is specifically excluded from this code in the unincorporated areas of the District. Any open burning other than that intended for residential maintenance or the burning of domestic waste in unincorporated areas within the District as described above, i.e., lot clearing, prescribed burning, or if in the Fire Code Official's opinion, a request that exceeds acceptable height, size or frequency, requires a commercial burn permit and payment of fees. Application for such approval(s) shall be presented by and permits shall be issued only to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

Open burning is not permitted within the city limits of Liberty Hill per city ordinance except when permitted by the Fire Code Official.

- (9) **Section 308.1.6.1 Open-flame cooking devices.** Charcoal burners/grills and other similar flame-cooking devices shall not be operated/used on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. Such cooking devices shall not be stored on combustible balconies. This provision does not apply to one- and two-family dwellings.
- (10) **Section 311.2.2 Fire Protection.** Fire alarm, sprinkler, and standpipe systems shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times. Any impairment or malfunction of the fire alarm, sprinkler, or standpipe system shall be reported immediately to the District.
- (11) **Section 315.7.3 Storage Height.** Outdoor pallet storage shall not exceed 10 feet in height.
- (12) **Section 321 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS).** Where provided, EVCS shall be installed not less than 10 feet from any building or structure, have a means of emergency power disconnect (Knox Remote Power Box), and all charging equipment shall be located a minimum of 36 inches behind the face of the curb.
- (13) **Section 321.1 Requirements.** EVCS, where provided, shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 70. Electric vehicle charging equipment shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2022. Electrical supply equipment shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2594 or its equivalent.
- (14) **Section 403.1.1 Public Safety Plan.** The Fire Code Official is authorized to require an approved public safety plan where the Fire Code Official determines that an indoor or outdoor gathering of persons may have an adverse impact on public safety. An adverse impact may be caused by diminished access to buildings, structures, fire hydrants, fire apparatus access roads or an event which adversely affects delivery of public safety of any kind.
- (15) **Section 501.4 Timing of Installation.** Where fire apparatus access roads or a water supply for fire protection is required to be installed for any structure or

development, they shall be installed, tested, and approved prior to the time at which construction has progressed beyond the completion of the foundation phase of any structure. The only approved all-weather surface for fire apparatus access roads is concrete or asphalt paving.

- (16) **Section 503.2.1 Dimensions.** Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 26 feet, face-of-curb to face-of-curb, except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches. Widths less than 26 feet may be approved by the Fire Marshal in special circumstances, provided that a reduced-width fire apparatus access road has markings and signage, as required by Section D103.6.1, related to roads 26 to 31 feet in width.
- (17) **Section 503.6 Security gates.** The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus road must be approved by the Fire Code Official. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation, including a means of operation without power and a means of operation with a Knox key switch, Knox Box® key box, or similar access device. The security gates and emergency operations shall be maintained at all times. A single gate serving two-way traffic shall be a minimum of 26 feet in clear open width. When two gates are installed and each only serves one direction of travel, they shall be at least 15 feet in clear open width each. This provision pertains to and applies to new and existing gates. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be listed in accordance with UL 325. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed, and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTMF 2200. When required by the Fire Code Official, defective gates shall be secured in the open position until repaired.
- (18) **Section 505.1 Address identification.** New buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers, or approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be a minimum of 6 inches high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inches. Where access is by means of a private road and the building is located more than 150 feet from the public street or road, the address number shall be posted at the street entrance by a monument, pole, or other sign or means.
- (19) **Section 506.1.1 Locks.** An approved Knox Box® padlock shall be installed on gates or similar barriers when required by the Fire Code Official.
- (20) **Section 506.1.3 Knox Box approved locations.** A key box shall be provided at the main building entrance for all new buildings and at the entrances to each sprinkler riser room/fire pump room of large buildings/facilities. The key box shall be identified with a sign stating, "KNOX BOX." The sign shall be red in color with white letters. The sign shall be a minimum of 6"x 6" in size.

- (21) **Section 506.1.4 Knox Remote Power Box.** A fire department emergency power disconnect shall be provided within 50 feet of the EVCS and supporting equipment, but no closer than 10 feet to any charger or cabinet and meet the following requirements: The power disconnect shall be a Knox Remote Power Box (Red). The disconnect shall be mounted at a height of 60 inches from grade and a reflective sign with a red background with a minimum of 2-inch lettering stating “FD Emergency Shutoff – EV Charging Station” shall be installed at each disconnect.
- (22) **Section 506.3 Document vaults.** Where a building or occupancy contains an occupancy or business that is required to maintain Safety Data Sheets (SDS), a lock box or key box document vault may be required to be installed by the Fire Code Official. The document vault shall be installed in an accessible location approved by the Fire Code Official. The document vault shall contain copies of the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) that are required to be on file within the building or occupancy as well as a floor plan or written description that indicates the location of the general area where these materials will be found within the building or occupancy. The Fire Code Official may authorize the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) information to be stored on a thumb-drive or similar electronic data storage device and placed inside the Knox Box® key box, but such device must be protected from any elements that may enter the key box.
- (23) **Section 506.4 Security Caps.** When a building is protected by an automatic sprinkler system or standpipe system, the Fire Code Official requires that Fire Department Connection Security Cap(s) be installed. The Fire Department Connection Security Cap(s) shall be of a type approved by the Fire Code Official.
- (24) **Section 507.5.1 Where required.** Where a portion of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 300 feet (91.5 m) 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. Every commercial occupancy located within the District shall be protected by a minimum of two (2) hydrants, one (1) within 300 feet and one (1) within 500 feet. For Group R-3 and Group U occupancies, the distance requirement shall be 500 feet (153 m).
- (25) **Section 507.5.1.2 Hydrant for any Fire Department Connection.** Buildings equipped with any fire department connections system installed in accordance with Section 903 and Section 905 shall have a fire hydrant within 100 feet (30.48 m) of the fire department connection. The distance may exceed 100 feet (30.48 m) when approved by the Fire Code Official.
- (26) **Section 509.3 Main Electrical Disconnect.** The main electrical disconnect for each building shall be installed on the exterior of the building in an approved location. In lieu of the main disconnect, a Knox remote power box may be installed to disconnect electrical service when approved by the Fire Code Official.

(27) **Section 901.4.7 Pump and riser room.** A dedicated room shall be provided for fire pumps and automatic sprinkler system risers and that room shall have a minimum fire resistive rating of 2 hours per 2024 IBC section 913.2.1. Pump and riser rooms shall be provided with exterior access and the exterior access door shall face an access drive marked as a fire lane. Pump rooms shall comply with the construction requirements specified in NFPA Standard 20. Where provided, fire pump rooms and automatic sprinkler system riser rooms shall be designed with adequate space for all equipment necessary for the installation, as defined by the manufacturer, with sufficient working space around the stationary equipment. Clearances around equipment to elements of permanent construction, including other installed equipment and appliances, shall be sufficient to allow inspection, service, repair or replacement without removing such elements of permanent construction or disabling the function of a required fire-resistant-rated assembly. Fire pump and automatic sprinkler riser rooms shall be provided with a door(s) and an unobstructed passageway large enough to allow the removal of the largest piece of equipment. All exterior doors shall be labeled accordingly.

(28) **Section 903 Automatic Sprinklers Systems.** Automatic sprinklers shall be installed in any building with a gross square feet of 12,000 or more, regardless of fire separation walls.

(29) **Section 903.2.2.3 Animal Housing or Care Facilities.** An automatic sprinkler system in accordance with sections 903.3 and 903.4 shall be provided in fire areas containing an Animal Housing or Care Facility when the animals are not provided with constant supervision. The following exceptions apply to this requirement:

1. An automatic sprinkler system is not required in Animal Housing or Care Facilities serving 50 or fewer animals where all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. Walls and ceilings have a class A finish as specified in section 803.
 - b. The Facility is provided with a supervised fire alarm system in accordance with section 907.2.2.2
2. An automatic sprinkler system is not required in Animal Housing or Care Facilities serving 100 or fewer animals where all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. The Facility is of 1-hour fire-resistive construction on both sides of the boundary walls of the kennel area.
 - b. Walls and ceilings have a class A finish as specified in section 803.
 - c. The Facility is provided with a supervised fire alarm system in accordance with section 907.2.2.2
3. An automatic sprinkler system is not required in Animal Housing or Care Facilities where every animal has immediate and unobstructed access to an exterior area of safety approved by the Fire Code Official and the Facility is

provided with a supervised fire alarm system in accordance with section 907.2.2.2

- (30) **Section 903.2.8 Group R.** An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R fire area, including the attic, except those classified as Group R-3.
- (31) **Section 903.2.8.4 Townhouses.** An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be permitted in Townhouses. In the event of a common attic for the Townhouses, an automatic sprinkler system shall be installed.
- (32) **Section 903.2.9.4** Delete exception.
- (33) **Section 903.2.9.5 Self-Service Storage Facilities.** An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed throughout all self-storage facilities.
- (34) **Section 903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D sprinkler systems.** This section is deleted from this code as it relates to 1 and 2-family dwellings.
- (35) **Section 906.1 Where required.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in the following locations.
 - 1. In all new and existing Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-2, R-4, and S occupancies.
 - 2. Within 30 feet (9144mm) of commercial cooking equipment.
 - 3. In areas where flammable or combustible liquids are stored, used, or dispensed.
 - 4. On each floor of structures under construction, except Group R-3 occupancies, in accordance with Section 3315.1.
 - 5. Where required by the sections indicated in Table 906.1.
 - 6. Special-hazard areas, including but not limited to, laboratories, computer rooms, and generator rooms, where required by the Fire Code Official.
- (36) **Section 907.2.2.3 Animal Housing or Care Facilities.** Fire areas containing an Animal Housing or Care Facility shall be provided with an electronically supervised automatic smoke detection system. In spaces provided with a source of heat or light but otherwise unconditioned, in lieu of smoke detection, the alarm system may be activated by quick-response heat detectors with a response time index of less than 100.

Exception:

- 1. Smoke detectors and/or quick response heat detectors are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with sections 903.3 and 903.4 and activation of the

automatic sprinkler system activates notifications appliances as required by section 907.2.2.2.1.

- (37) **Section 907.2.2.2 Animal Care Facility.** Notification appliances shall provide audible and visual alarm signals in office areas and other areas within the fire area where no animals are housed or cared for. Notification appliances within areas where animals are housed or cared for shall provide only visual alarm signals.
- (38) **Section 907.5.2.4 Visible Alarms.** Buildings equipped with a fire alarm system shall have an audio and visible notification appliance mounted to the exterior of the building visible from the street or the fire lane.
- (39) **Section 912.2.1.1 Visible Location.** Fire department connections shall be located on the street side of buildings or facing the approved fire apparatus access road, fully visible and recognizable from the street, fire apparatus access road, or nearest point of fire department vehicle access or as otherwise approved by the Fire Code Official, and spaced a minimum of 15 feet to 30 feet from the building.
- (40) **Section 915.1.1 Where Required.** Carbon Monoxide detection shall be provided in Group I-1, I-2, I-4, and R occupancies, classrooms, kitchens, and vestibules in the child pick-up area in Group E occupancies in the locations specified in Section 915.2 where any of the conditions in Sections 915.2 through 915.6 exist.
- (41) **Section 915.2.3 Group E Occupancies.** Carbon monoxide detection shall be installed in classrooms, kitchens, and vestibules in the child pick-up area in Group E occupancies. Carbon monoxide alarm signals shall be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel.
- (42) **Section 1009.1 Accessible means of egress required.** Accessible means of egress shall comply with both this section and the Architectural Barriers Act (*Texas Accessibility Standards or TAS*). The Fire Code Official may require the owner, applicant, or agent to provide a technical report from a qualified person certifying TAS compliance. Accessible space shall be provided with not less than one accessible means of egress. Where more than one means of egress is required by Section 1006.2 or 1006.3 from an accessible space, each accessible portion of the space shall be served by not less than two accessible means of egress.
- (43) **Section 1103.7.7 Animal Housing or Care Facilities.** An electronically supervised automatic smoke detection system complying with section 907.2.2.2 shall be installed in all fire areas containing an existing Group B Animal Housing or Care Facility without constant supervision.
- (44) **Section 2305.5 Fire Extinguishers.** Approved portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 with a minimum rating of 4-A:40- B:C shall be provided and located such that an extinguisher is not more than 75 feet (22860mm) from pumps, dispensers or storage tank fill-pipe openings.

- (45) **Section 5706.2.7 Portable fire extinguishers.** Portable fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 4-A: 40-B:C and complying with Section 906 shall be provided where required by the Fire Code Official.
- (46) **Section B105.1 One- and two-family dwelling, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses.** The minimum fire-flow and flow duration requirements for one- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings, and Townhouses shall be 1,000 gallons per minute for 1 hour. Fire flow and flow duration for dwellings having a fire-flow calculation above 3,600 square feet shall not be less than the flow specified in Table B105.1 (2). The Fire Code Official may approve a reduction in required fire flow when the building is equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system. The Fire Code Official may determine the amount of fire-flow reduction permitted.
- (47) **Section B105.2 Buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses.** The minimum fire-flow and flow duration requirements for buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings, and Townhouses shall be as specified in Table B105.1(2).

The Fire Code Official may approve a reduction in required fire flow of not less than 1500 GPM when a building is equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system.

- (48) **Section C103.1 Hydrant Spacing.** Where required by Section 507.5.1, a minimum of one (1) hydrant shall be provided within 300 feet of all portions of exterior walls (first floor), and a second hydrant provided within 500 feet of all portions of exterior walls (first floor). This measurement is taken around the perimeter of the building and down the access road to the hydrant (measurement not taken as a radius).

The Fire Code Official may accept a deficiency of up to 10 percent where existing fire hydrants provided all or a portion of the required fire hydrant service.

Regardless of the average spacing, fire hydrants shall be located such that all points on streets and access roads adjacent to a building are within the distances listed in Table C105.1.

- (49) **Section C105.2 Installation.** Fire hydrants must be installed with the center of the steamer opening at least 18 inches above the finished grade. The steamer opening must face the driveway or street and must be unobstructed to the street. The fire hydrant design shall be two- 2.5" NST outlets, and one- 5" outlet. Set back from the face of the hydrant to the back of the curb shall be in accordance with adopted except that on private property, set back shall be three to six feet to avoid vehicular damage unless specifically approved by the Fire Code Official.
- (50) **Section D103.3 Turning radius.** Fire apparatus access roadways shall be designed with an appropriate 25-foot inside turning and a 50-foot outside turning radius at turns to accommodate any operational fire department apparatus. A radius of less than 25 feet inside or 50 feet outside may be approved by the Fire Code Official in special circumstances.

(51) **Section D103.5.1 Fire apparatus access road gates.** Gates securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with Section 503.6.

(52) **Section D103.6 Markings and signs.** Where required by the Fire Code Official, fire apparatus access roads shall be marked as follows:

All curbs and pavement of fire apparatus access roads shall be painted red and be conspicuously and legibly marked with the warning “**FIRE LANE TOW AWAY ZONE**” in white letters at least three inches tall, at intervals not exceeding 35 feet. Fire apparatus access roads shall also be marked with permanent “**FIRE LANE TOW AWAY ZONE**” signs at intervals not exceeding 50 feet. Signs shall have a minimum dimension of 12 inches wide by 18 inches high and have red letters on a white reflective background. Signs shall be posted on one side or both sides of the fire apparatus road as required by Section D103.6.1 or D103.6.2. of the Local Amendments to the Fire Code.

(53) **D103.6.1 Roads less than 26 feet in width.** Fire lane signs as specified in Section D103.6 shall be posted on both sides of fire apparatus access roads that are less than 26 feet wide.

(54) **D103.6.2 Roads less than 32 feet in width.** Fire lane signs as specified in Section D103.6 shall be posted on one side of fire apparatus access roads less than 32 feet wide.

(55) **L101.1 Required Location.** Firefighter Air Replenishment Systems (FARS) shall be provided in accordance with this appendix in new buildings when any of the following conditions occur:

- a. Any new building 5 or more stories in height.
- b. Any new building with 2 or more floors below grade.
- c. Any new building 500,000 square feet or more in size.

(56) **L104.1 Design and Installation.** A FARS system shall be designed and installed in accordance with sections L104.2 through L104.15.3. The room provided for the FARS system shall have a minimum fire-resistive rating of no less than 2 hours.

(57) **L104.5 Breathing Air Supply.** A stored pressure air supply shall be provided in accordance with section L104.5.1 that shall be capable of filling not less than 50 empty breathing air cylinders of a size and pressure used by the fire department. A stored pressure air supply shall be permitted to be added to a system supplied by an external mobile air connection provided that a means to bypass the stored pressure air supply is located at the external mobile air connection.

(58) **L104.10 Protection of Piping.** System piping shall be protected from physical damage in an approved manner and shall be routed through the building in a fire-rated enclosure with a minimum fire-resistive rating of 2 hours.

(59) **L104.13.1 Location.** Delete this section in its entirety.

- (60) **L104.13.2 Locations.** Each stairwell shall have a supply riser. SCBA fill stations shall be located on odd-numbered floors in the primary stairwell and even-numbered floors in the secondary stairwells. The primary stairwell shall be the stairwell located closest to the main building entrance. Fill stations in buildings over 500,000 square feet shall be located adjacent to each standpipe location
- (61) **L1004.14 External Mobile Air Connection.** An External Mobile Air Connection (EMAC) shall be provided for the fire department mobile air apparatus where required by section L104.5 to supply the system with breathing air. The EMAC shall be remote and be located with an approved separation from the remote Fire Department Connection (FDC) to allow the functionality of both devices by first responders. It shall be visible from and within 50 feet of a fire apparatus access road along an unobstructed path, and it shall be located in an approved secured cabinet with approved signage.

Section 10: References to Other Codes

The District shall not have a building official or separate code regulating the construction of buildings, including but not limited to a separate building code, mechanical code, plumbing code, or electrical code, except as expressly incorporated by the terms of this Order or the Fire Code and necessary for the proper interpretation or enforcement of this Order and the Fire Code. Only parts of other international codes that relate to fire safety are incorporated in this Order and the Fire Code. Any provision in the IFC or other provision incorporated in this Order or the Fire Code by reference that refers to any act to be referred to or conducted by a building official shall be disregarded as though such reference were deleted and all other parts of the affected sentence, section, article, or chapter remained in force and effective. Any reference in the IFC (or other provision incorporated in this Order or the Fire Code) to compliance in a manner provided in a building code, electrical code, plumbing code, or mechanical code shall be disregarded except to the extent that the provision of such other code is incorporated in this Order or the Fire Code by reference and to allow for the proper interpretation and enforcement of this Order and the Fire Code. The disregard of the manner of compliance does not otherwise affect the requirement to comply with other applicable codes; provided however, that if a provision refers to compliance with the term of any such other code that is not incorporated in this Order or the Fire Code by reference, as opposed to compliance in a manner provided in the other code, the requirement of compliance shall be disregarded altogether. If the disregard of any reference results in unusual syntax or sentence structure of the remainder of the affected provision, a reasonable interpretation shall be given to the remainder in light of the intent and purpose of this Order and the Fire Code and the authority of the District.

Section 11: Conflicts.

All orders that are in conflict with the provisions of this Order or the Fire Code are hereby repealed, except as necessary to continue with any suit, proceeding, or enforcement of violations of the previous Fire Code of the District currently pending at the time of the adoption of this Order, and such orders shall remain in full force and effect during the pendency of any such suit, proceeding, or enforcement action by the District or as otherwise terminated by applicable law, nor shall any equitable or legal right or remedy of the District of any kind be lost, impaired, or affected by this Order. All other orders of the District not in conflict with the provisions of this Order and the Fire Code remain in full force and effect.

Section 12: Severability.

Should any portion or part of this Order or the Fire Code be held for any reason invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not be construed to affect any other valid portion hereof, but all valid portions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 13: Maintenance of Order and Previous Orders.

A copy of this Order and the Fire Code and any previous orders necessary for the continued enforcement of the Fire Code of the District shall be maintained at the central administrative offices of the District for inspection and use by interested persons. The District shall inform any person inquiring about where copies of the 2024 International Fire Code or other applicable International Fire Code may be purchased from the publisher thereof.

Section 14: Notice / Publication.

The Fire Marshal shall provide notice or publication of this Order and the Fire Code as required by applicable law, if any, and maintain proof thereof in the records of the District.

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Section 15: Effective Date.

This Order will become effective on January 1, 2026, after its passage by the Commissioners of the District.

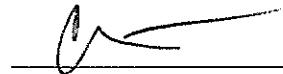
PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY EMERGENCY
SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 4



Dan Clark, President

ATTEST



Carrie Van Meeteren, Secretary