

**Recommended Amendments to the
2021 International Fire Code
City of Denton, TX**

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2021 International Fire Code* (IFC) are hereby amended as follows: Standard type is text from the IFC. Underlined type is text inserted. ~~Lined through type is deleted text from IFC.~~ A double asterisk (**) at the beginning of a section identifies an amendment carried over from the 2015 edition of the code and a triple asterisk (***) identifies a new or revised amendment with the 2021 code.

*****Section 101.1 Title.**

101.1. Title. These regulations shall be known as the *Fire Code* of ~~[NAME OF JURISDICTION]~~ City of Denton, hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

(Reason: Standard insertion point: [insert] to assist with local adoption.)

****Section 108.5. Add to read as follows:**

108.5 Annual Fire Protection Systems Testing. The annual testing of all fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire extinguishing systems, hood extinguishing systems and fire pumps shall be completed by a licensed fire systems contractor. Any fire systems contractors working within the City of Denton are required to submit all compliant and deficient reports to The Compliance Engine site portal directly to the authority having jurisdiction.

(Reason: Current amendment, no change.)

****SECTION 111 MEANS OF APPEAL. Change to read as follows:**

Section 111 delete in entirety and amend to read as follows:

111.1 General. In order to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the building official, code official, or fire marshal relative to the application and interpretation of the requirements of this Code and all other applicable codes of the City of Denton, there shall be a health and building standards commission; see ARTICLE X, Chapter 2-260, 2-261, and 2-262 of the Denton Municipal Code.

(Reason: Local appeals board procedures consistent with Denton Code of Ordinances. No change.)

****Section 202; amend and add definitions to read as follows:**

SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY. Real property designed and used for the purpose of renting or leasing individual storage spaces to customers for the purpose of storing and removing personal property on a self-service basis.

(Reason: To provide a definition that does not exist in code; COG and previous City amendment, no change.)

****Section 307.4 Location; change to read as follows:**

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307.4 Location. The location for open burning shall not be less than ~~50~~ 300 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within ~~50~~ 300 feet of any structure.
Exceptions: {No change.}

(Reason: Provides greater degree of safety for allowance of open burning and matches applicable TCEQ rules and regulations. No change.)

****Section 307.4.1; change to read as follows:**

307.4.1 Bonfires. A bonfire shall not be conducted within ~~50~~ 300 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within ~~50~~ 300 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

(Reason: To match distance in 307.4; previous City amendment, no change.)

****Section 307.4.2; change to read as follows:**

~~**307.4.2 Recreational fires.** Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. Recreational fires are prohibited within the incorporated city limits of Denton, Texas.~~

(Reason: Due to inherent danger of burning in suburban/urban areas; no change.)

****Section 311.5; change to read as follows:**

311.5 Placards. Any vacant or abandoned buildings or structures determined to be unsafe pursuant to Section 110 of this code relating to structural or interior hazards, shall may be marked as required by Section 311.5.1 through 311.5.5.

(Reason: There may be situations where placarding is not desired or necessary.)

****Section 503.1.1; add sentence to read as follows at end of paragraph:**

Except for one- or two-family dwellings, the path of measurement shall be along a minimum of a ten foot (10') wide (3048 mm) unobstructed pathway around the external walls of the structure, or as approved by the fire code official.

(Reason: Recognizes that the hose lay provision can only be measured along a pathway that is wide enough for fire fighter access. No change.)

****Section 503.2.1; change to read as follows:**

503.2.1 Dimensions. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 ~~24~~ feet, exclusive of shoulders, except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than ~~13 feet 6 inches~~ 14 feet.

Exception: Vertical clearance may be reduced; provided such reduction does not impair access by fire apparatus and approved signs are installed and maintained indicating the established vertical

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clearance when approved.

(Reason: Amendments to 503.2.1 and 503.2.2 recognize that the equipment now used in firefighting is increasing in size. The code already recognizes that larger dimensions may be required under Section 503.2.2. The amendments are to standardize the dimensions for this area. With the increase in fire apparatus size, this will allow for the passage of two fire apparatus during a fire or EMS emergency.)

****Section 503.3; change to read as follows:**

503.3 Marking. Where required by the *fire code official*, *approved* signs or other *approved* notices or markings that include the words NO PARKING – FIRE LANE shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof. The means by which fire lanes are designated shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility. Marking shall be provided as follows:

(1) Striping – Fire apparatus access roads shall be continuously marked by painted lines of red traffic paint six inches (6”) in width to show the boundaries of the lane. The words “NO PARKING FIRE LANE” or “FIRE LANE NO PARKING” shall appear in four inch (4”) white letters at 25 feet intervals on the red border markings along both sides of the fire lanes. Where a curb is available, the striping shall be on the vertical face of the curb.

(2) Signs – Signs shall read “NO PARKING FIRE LANE” or “FIRE LANE NO PARKING” and shall be 12” wide and 18” high. Signs shall be painted on a white background with letters and borders in red, using not less than 2” lettering. Signs shall be permanently affixed to a stationary post and the bottom of the sign shall be six feet, six inches (6’6”) above finished grade. Signs shall be spaced not more than fifty feet (50’) apart along both sides of the fire lane. Signs may be installed on permanent buildings or walls or as approved by the Fire Chief.

(Reason: Establishes a standard method of marking and reflects local long-standing practices.)

****Section 509.1.2; add new Section 509.1.2 to read as follows:**

509.1.2 Sign Requirements. Unless more stringent requirements apply, lettering for signs required by this section shall have a minimum height of 2 inches (50.8 mm) when located inside a building and 4 inches (101.6 mm) when located outside, or as approved by the fire code official. The letters shall be of a color that contrasts with the background.

(Reason: Provides direction as to appropriate sign criteria to develop local and regional consistency in this regard.)

****Section 903.2.9.5; add to read as follows:**

903.2.9.5 Self-Service Storage Facility. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout all self-service storage facilities.

(Reason: Fire depts are unable to inspect these occupancies and are unaware of the contents being stored; COG and previous City amendment, no change.)

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****Section 903.2.11; change to read as follows:**

903.2.11 Specific buildings areas and hazards. In all occupancies other than Group U, an *automatic sprinkler system* shall be installed for building design or hazards in the locations set forth in Sections 903.2.11.1 through 903.2.11.67.

(Reason: To add the section below; previous City amendment, no change.)

****Section 903.2.11.7 to be added to read:**

903.2.11.7 General.

1. An automatic sprinkler shall be installed in all new buildings of noncombustible construction, (Type I a& II) including group R-3, which exceed three stories in height or which have more than ten thousand (10,000) square feet of floor area regardless of fire area, area separation walls, or fire walls.
2. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in all new buildings of combustibile construction, (Type III, IV & V) including Group R-3, which exceed two stories in height or which have more than seven thousand five hundred (7,500) square feet of floor area regardless of fire area, area separation walls, or fire walls.
3. The owner(s) of any building shall be required to install an automatic sprinkler system at such time as the owner(s) constructs an addition or enlargement to the building if the total square footage of such addition, when combined with the total square footage of the existing building, exceeds ten thousand (10,000) square feet of noncombustible construction (Type I & II) total floor area, regardless of fire area, area separation walls, or fire walls.
4. The owner(s) of any building shall be required to install an automatic sprinkler system at such time as the owner(s) constructs an addition or enlargement to the building if the total square footage of such addition, when combined with the total square footage of the existing building, exceeds seven thousand five hundred (7,500) square feet of combustibile construction (Type III, IV & V) total floor area, regardless of fire area, area separation walls, or fire walls.

(Reason: To provide standard sprinkler requirements based on construction type and square footage; previous City amendment, no change.)

****Section 903.3.5; add a second paragraph to read as follows:**

Water supply as required for such systems shall be provided in conformance with the supply requirements of the respective standards; however, every water-based fire protection system shall be designed with a 10 psi safety factor. Reference Section 507.4 for additional design requirements.

(Reason: To define uniform safety factor for the region. No change.)

****Section 907.6.3; delete all four Exceptions.**

907.6.3 Initiating device identification. The fire alarm system shall identify the specific initiating device

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address, location, device type, floor level where applicable and status including indication of normal, alarm, trouble and supervisory status, as appropriate.

Exceptions:

- ~~1. Fire alarm systems in single-story building less than 22,500 square feet (2090m²) in area.~~
- ~~2. Fire alarm systems that only include manual fire alarm boxes, waterflow initiating devices and not more than 10 additional alarm-initiating devices.~~
- ~~3. Special initiating devices that do not support individual device identification.~~
- ~~4. Fire alarm systems or devices that are replacing existing equipment.~~

(Reason: To assist responding personnel in locating the emergency event for all fire alarm systems.)

****Section 5601.1.3; change to read as follows:**

5601.1.3 Fireworks. The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, expose for sale, sell at retail, handling, and use or explode of fireworks are prohibited within the City limits and within five thousand (5,000) feet thereof.

Exceptions:

1. Only when approved for fireworks displays, storage, and handling of fireworks as allowed in Section 5604 and 5608.
- ~~2. Manufacture, assembly and testing of fireworks as allowed in Section 5605.~~
- ~~3. 2. The use of fireworks for approved fireworks displays as allowed in Section 5608.~~
- ~~4. The possession, storage, sale... *{Delete remainder of text.}*~~

(Reason: Restricts fireworks to approved displays only, which is consistent with regional practice. Such is intended to help protect property owners and individuals from unintentional fireworks fires within the jurisdiction, as well as to help protect individuals from fireworks injuries. It is noted that there has been a change in the State Law to allow possession of unopened fireworks in certain areas of the vehicle, and it is highly recommended that AHJ's familiarize themselves with the applicable State Laws in this regard. No change.)

****Section 5706.3.9; add section to read as follows:**

5706.3.9 Fire Protection (Gas Wells). Drilling and Production Sites shall be equipped with a lightning protection system. In addition, tank battery facilities shall be equipped with a remote foam line and a lightning arrestor approved by the fire code official.

(Reason: Intended to provide a firefighting response for gas wells and mitigate the chance of a lightning strike fire; previous City amendment, no change.)

APPENDICES B, C, D, are adopted in their entirety.

(Reason: Previously adopted appendices that provide more insight and clarification for apparatus access, water supply, and hydrant distribution, no change.)

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