

**Recommended Amendments to the  
2012 International Fire Code  
City of Amarillo Texas**

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2012 International Fire Code* 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 2006 edition of the code and a triple asterisk (\*\*\*) identifies a new or revised amendment with the 2012 code.

**\*\*Section 101.1; Change to read as follows:**

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

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

**\*\*Section 108; Delete section; change to read as follows:**

**108.1 Board of appeals established:** Construction Advisory and Appeals Board, see Chapter 2-6 of the Municipal Code.

*(Reason: The City of Amarillo has established Construction Advisory and Appeals Board procedures.)*

**\*\*Section 109.4; Violation Penalties; change to read as follows:**

**109.4 Violation penalties.** ~~Persons who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the fire code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a [SPECIFY OFFENSE], punishable by a fine of not more than [AMOUNT] dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding [NUMBER OF DAYS], or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense. Violation of any of the provisions of this code shall constitute an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) in accordance with section 1-1-5 of the Municipal Code.~~

*(Reason: Covered by general provisions of the Amarillo Code of Ordinances.)*

**\*\*\*Section 110 Unsafe Buildings, add section: change to read as follows:**

**110.5 Unsafe structures.** Abandoned and substandard structures shall be subject to the requirements of applicable provisions of this Municipal Code and State Law.

*(Reason: To provide clarity on City procedures and consistency with IBC)*

**\*\*Section 111.4; Change to read as follows:**

**111.4 Failure to comply.** Any person who shall continue any work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be liable to a fine of not less than ~~[AMOUNT] dollars or more than [AMOUNT] dollars.~~ as specified in section 1-1-5 of the Municipal Code for violations.

(Reason: Covered by general provisions of the Amarillo Code of Ordinances.)

**\*\*Section 113; Insert tables: change to read as follows:**

**Section 113.1 Fees.** A permit shall not be issued until the fees have been paid, nor shall an amendment to a permit fee released until the additional fee, if any, has been paid.

**Section 113.2 Schedule of permit fees.** A fee for each required inspection or permit shall be paid as required, in accordance with ~~the schedule as established by the applicable governing authority~~ Section 113.2.1

**Section 113.2.1 Fees for Required Inspections and Permits.** Is hereby added to read as follows:  
An inspection required from the Department of Fire Prevention for obtaining a license or approval from any agency other than the City of Amarillo to engage in an activity, operation, practice or function will be charged a fee as outlined in Table 113.2.1. The fee shall be paid at the time of request and prior to any inspection being performed. A permit required from the Department of Fire Prevention will require a fee as outlined in Table 113.2.2 The fee shall be paid at the time of permit application.

**TABLE 113.2.1 INSPECTION FEES**

Use	Occupant Load	Fee
Day Care	Up to 50	\$40.00
	51 to 150	\$80.00
	Over 150	\$80.00 for first 150 plus \$40.00 each additional 100 or fraction thereof
Foster/Group Home/Shelter	1 to 5	\$40.00
	6 to 15	\$80.00
	Over 15	\$80.00 for first 15 plus \$40.00 each additional 15 or fraction thereof
Nursing Homes	Up to 50 beds	\$160.00
	51 to 100 beds	\$240.00
	Over 200 beds	\$240 for first 100 beds Plus \$80.00 each additional 100 beds or fraction thereof
Hospitals	Up to 100 beds	\$320.00
	101 to 200 beds	\$400.00
	Over 200 beds	\$400.00 for first 200 beds Plus \$80.00 each additional 100 beds or Fraction thereof
Other Facilities	Up to 2,500 sq. ft	\$40.00
	2,501 to 5,000 sq. ft	\$80.00
	5,001 to 10,000 sq. ft	\$120.00
	10,001 to 50,000 sq. ft	\$160.00
	Over 50,000 sq. ft	\$160.00 for first 50,000 sq. ft. plus \$40.00 each additional 25,000 sq. ft. or fraction thereof

**TABLE 113.2.2 PERMIT FEES**

Permit	Fee
Operational Permits	\$40.00
Renewal	\$40.00
Standby required	\$300.00

Construction Permits	\$80.00
Re-inspection	\$40.00

**113.3 Work commencing before permit issuance.** Any person who commences any work, activity or operation regulated by this code before obtaining the necessary permits shall be subject to an additional fee established by the applicable governing authority, which shall be in addition to the required permit fees.

**113.4 Related fees.** The payment of the fee for the construction, *alteration*, removal or demolition of work done in connection to or concurrently with the work or activity authorized by a permit shall not relieve the applicant or holder of the permit from the payment of other fees that are prescribed by law.

**113.5 Refunds.** ~~The applicable governing authority is authorized to establish a refund policy~~ Any refunds will be in accordance with the Section 113.5.1 through Section 113.5.4:

**113.5.1 Fee refunds.** Fees collected in accordance with this chapter may be refunded under the following conditions when requested in writing by the person who paid the fee within one hundred eighty (180) days of the collection of the fee.

**113.5.2 Fee collected in error.** Any fee under this chapter that was collected in error shall be refunded.

**113.5.3 Fire Inspection fees.** When an inspection request is withdrawn or cancelled by the requestor prior to any inspection action by the City, then eighty (80) percent of the application fee shall be refunded. If the inspection has begun, then no refund shall be granted.

**113.5.4 Permit fees.** When a permit is withdrawn or canceled by the applicant before any work, activity or operation has begun as authorized by that permit, then eighty (80) percent of the permit fee shall be refunded. If any work, activity or operation has begun in accordance with the permit, then no refund shall be granted.

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

**\*\*\*Section 202 Definitions, Amend/Insert:**

**FIRE MARSHAL**-The fire code official of the Department of Fire Prevention.

**FIREWORKS.** Any composition or device for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect for entertainment purposes by combustion, *deflagration* or *detonation* that meets the definition of 1.4G fireworks or 1.3G fireworks as set forth herein.

**Fireworks, 1.4G.** Small fireworks devices containing restricted amounts of pyrotechnic composition designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion. Such 1.4G fireworks which comply with the construction, chemical composition and labeling regulations of the DOTn for Fireworks, UN 0336, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission as set forth in CPSC 16 CFR Parts 1500 and 1507, are not ~~explosive materials~~ for the purpose of this code. and requires an external heat source for ignition or activation.

**NIGHTCLUB**—a place of entertainment open at night, usually serving or allowing the consumption of alcoholic beverages, having a floor show, or providing music and space for dancing.

*(Reason: clarification and addition of terminology to simplify interpretation and enforcement.)*

**\*\*Section 307.1.1 Change to read as follows:**

**307 Prohibited open burning.** ~~Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. No person may cause, suffer, allow, or permit any open burning within the city limits of Amarillo, except as provided by this section.~~

**Exceptions:** ~~Prescribed burning for the purpose of reducing the impact of wildland fire when authorized by the fire code official.~~

1. Recreational fires conducted in accordance with Section 307.
2. Training fires for fire-fighting personnel when conducted in compliance with Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code, Sections 111.201-111.221.
3. Open burning conducted in accordance with Section 307 for which a permit has been secured from the fire code official.

*(Reason: To reduce fire hazards and hazardous condition.)*

**\*\*Section 308.1.4; change to read as follows:**

**308.1.4 Open-flame cooking and heating devices.** Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices, heating, outdoor fireplaces, and other similar devices used for any purpose shall not be located or operated on combustible balconies, decks or within 10 feet (3048 mm) or combustible construction.

*(Reason: To reduce fire hazards and hazardous conditions routinely found contributing to fire.)*

**\*\*Section 401.3.1; change to read as follows:**

**403.3.1 Fire events.** In the event of an unwanted fire occurs, or the discovery of fire, smoke, or unauthorized release of a hazardous material on a property, the owner or occupant shall immediately report such condition to the fire department.

*(Reason: To clarify all conditions requiring notification)*

**\*\*Section 503.2; change to read as follows:**

**Section 503.2.1 Dimensions.** Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm), exclusive of shoulders, except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than ~~13~~ 14 feet 6 inches (~~4115~~ 4420 mm).

*(Reason: To increase required height requirements, consistent with TXDOT minimums)*

**\*\*Section 503.3; add: Section 503.3.1 Unauthorized marking; 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.

**503.3.1 Unauthorized marking.** No person may mark, post or otherwise identify a private passageway or public roadway as a fire lane, fire zone or in such a manner as tends to create confusion as to whether the passageway is a fire lane without obtaining approval by the fire code official.

*(Reason: unauthorized marking creates a potential hazard for fire department personnel and those persons in need of assistance by apparatus being obstructed.)*

**\*\* Section 907.2.1.3 Insert new section: Section 907.2.1.3**

**907.2.1 Group A.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in Group A occupancies where the occupant load due to the assembly occupancy is 300 or more, In A-2 Nightclubs having an occupant load of 100 or more. Group A occupancies not separated from one another in accordance with Section 707.3.9 of the *International Building Code* shall be considered as a single occupancy for the purposes of applying this section. Portions of Group E occupancies occupied for assembly purposes shall be provided with a fire alarm system as required for the Group E occupancy.

**Exception:** Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler water flow.

**907.2.1.1 System initiation in Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 1,000 or more.**

Activation of the fire alarm in Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 1,000 or more shall initiate a signal using an emergency voice/alarm communications system in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2.

**Exception:** Where approved, the prerecorded announcement is allowed to be manually deactivated for a period of time, not to exceed 3 minutes, for the sole purpose of allowing a live voice announcement from an approved, constantly attended location.

**907.2.1.2 Emergency voice/alarm communication system captions.**

Stadiums, arenas and grandstands required to caption audible public announcements shall be in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2.4.

**907.2.1.3 System Response in A-2 Nightclubs.** An activation of the fire alarm system shall automatically:

1. Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1 foot candle (11 lux) at the walking surface level;
2. Stop all conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions; and
3. Activation of a pre-recorded message, clearly audible throughout the building

*(Reason: Correlates with the specific requirements of the IBC local amendment which require nightclubs to have fire alarm protection due to the increased risk for loss of life in certain A-2 nightclub occupancies.)*

**\*\*Section 5601 Change to read as follows**

**5601.1.3 Fireworks.**

The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling and use of fireworks are prohibited.

**Exceptions:**

1. Storage and handling of fireworks as allowed in [Section 5604](#).
2. Manufacture, assembly and testing of fireworks as allowed in [Section 5605](#).
3. The use of fireworks for fireworks displays as allowed in [Section 5608](#).
4. ~~The possession, storage, sale, handling and use of specific types of Division 1.4G fireworks where allowed by applicable laws, ordinances and regulations, provided such fireworks comply with CPSC 16 CFR Parts 1500 and 1507, and DOTn 49 CFR Parts 100–185, for consumer fireworks.~~

*(Reason: Municipal Code does not allow the possession or sale of fireworks for ordinary use.)*

**\*\*\*Section 5609, Delete section in entirety, change to read as follows:**

## ~~SECTION 5609 TEMPORARY STORAGE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS~~

~~5609.1 General.~~ Where the temporary storage of consumer fireworks, 1.4G is allowed by [Section 5601.1.3](#), Exception 4, such storage shall comply with the applicable requirements of NFPA 1124.

*(Reason: Municipal Code does not allow the possession or sale of fireworks for ordinary use.)*

\*\*\*Section 5610, Add section to read as follows:

## SECTION 5610 SEIZURE AND DESTRUCTION OF FIREWORKS

**5610.1 General.** Where the possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling and use of fireworks is prohibited, Section 5610.1.1 through 5610.1.3 will provide remedy for violation and the destruction of fireworks.

**5610.1.1** The fire department and police department are each authorized to seize, and destroy the fireworks seized, inside the city limits in violation of this chapter, in accordance with the following procedures:

1. At the time of seizing illegal fireworks inside the city limits, the fire marshal or police officer shall prepare an inventory of such fireworks and photograph same at the scene. All such photographs shall constitute and be evidence.
2. The fire marshal or police officer shall, by end of the tour of duty during which the fireworks are seized, deposit same into a receptacle dedicated for the purpose by the fire or police department. Such container shall be secure from flames, other sources of ignition, pilfering, and theft.
3. As soon as practicable thereafter, and in accordance with internal orders and procedures of the fire or police chief, all such fireworks shall be destroyed, disabled, or otherwise rendered useless by any safe method, by personnel trained in the handling of explosives or hazardous materials.

**5610.1.2** The fire chief and police chief may adopt reasonable internal regulations and procedures for their respective departments, as necessary to implement this section.

**5610.1.3** The seizure of illegal fireworks in violation of Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 2154, shall remain in custody as evidence, with destruction delayed, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of Section 2154.304, of the Texas Occupations Code.

*(Reason: Municipal Code contains procedures for the seizure and destruction of prohibited fireworks, adding this section provides clarity for the seizure and destruction in accordance with Amarillo Municipal Code in a more convenient location.)*

\*\*\*Part VII, Appendices, Adoption of the following appendices:

**Appendix B - Fire-Flow Requirements for Buildings.** This appendix provides a tool for the use of jurisdictions in establishing a policy for determining fire-flow requirements in accordance with [IFC Section 507.3](#).

**Appendix C - Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution.** This appendix focuses on the location and spacing of fire hydrants which is important to the success of fire-fighting operations.

**Appendix D - Fire Apparatus Access Roads.** This appendix contains more detailed elements for use with the basic access requirements found in [IFC Section 503](#) which gives some minimum criteria, such as a maximum length of 150 feet and a minimum width of 20 feet, but in many cases does not state specific criteria.

*(Reason: Written standards for consistent application of the IFC, guidance in establishing access requirements and include criteria for multiple-family residential developments, large one- and two-family subdivisions, specific examples for various types of turnarounds for fire department apparatus and parking regulatory signage.)*

END