

CHAPTER 7

FIRE PROTECTION

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Sec. 7.1. Fire Prevention Code--Adoption

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 27-5-1, Code of Virginia, 1950, the provisions of the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc., Basic Fire Prevention Code, 1974 Edition, are hereby adopted by reference; provided, that the rules and regulations of the Fire Prevention Code are not in conflict with the laws of the state or the ordinances of the town. Compliance with the Fire Prevention Code adopted by this section, as to garages, flammable liquids, liquefied petroleum gases, dry cleaning and dry dyeing plants, nitrocellulose motion picture film, explosives, fireworks and general and miscellaneous provisions relative to fire prevention, is hereby required.

Sec. 7.2. Same--When and Where Copies of Code May Be Obtained

Copies of the Fire Prevention Code adopted by Section 6.1 may be obtained at the office of the town clerk during regular office hours.

Sec. 7.3. Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Integral Parts of Official Town and Safety Program

(Reserved)

Sec. 7.4. Powers and Duties of Fire Department Generally

(a) Every member of the department shall attend all regular and called meetings and drills of the de-

partment. Every active member, upon an alarm of fire, shall report immediately to the fire house or fire and there hold himself in readiness to perform any duty for which he may be detailed by the officer in charge. Each member present at a fire must accompany the apparatus to the fire house and answer roll call, unless excused by the officer in charge. Whenever the department is called out, members shall be considered on duty and shall be subject to all the provisions of the department until they are dismissed at the fire house or excused by the officer in charge at the fire. If a member is injured at a fire, he shall report immediately to the chief or officer in charge.

(b) When a fire is extinguished, it shall be the duty of every member of the department to assist in loading the hose and other apparatus in order that same may be returned to the fire house in good condition, unless excused by the officer in charge.

(c) Members are required and expected to cooperate in every way in the discharge of the duties of the department. If a member refuses to do so or is absent from fires, drills and meetings, the chief and officers of both working and social departments shall request his resignation. Should he refuse he shall, by a majority vote of the company, be expelled from the company and a new member elected in his place.

(d) No member shall appear at a meeting of the department or on duty at a fire in a state of intoxication, use insulting, indecent or improper language, conduct himself in a way unbecoming a gentlemen or otherwise bring disgrace upon the department.

(e) No member shall remove from the fire house anything belonging to the department or appertaining to the fire house or apparatus for any other purpose than to extinguish fire, without permission from the chief, assistant chief or captain. (Code 1965, Title 4-16.)

Sec. 7.5. Duties of Fire Chief and Assistants at Fires

When a fire breaks out in the town, the fire chief of any recognized fire department and his assistants may immediately go to the place of such fire, and carry with them suitable badges of their offices and shall endeavor to extinguish such fire. (Code 1950, Section 6.4.)

Sec. 7.6. Authority of Fire Chief

At any fire, the fire chief of the recognized fire department shall have command over his assistants and over all other persons who may be present and may appoint the stations and operations of the companies with their engines and of all others for the purpose of extinguishing the fire, removing things from any building on fire or in danger thereof, guarding the same and suppressing all tumult and disorder.

If any person at a fire refuses or neglects to obey any order duly given by the fire chief or his assistant in command, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (Code 1950, Sections 6.5 and 6.6.)

Sec. 7.7. Use of Fire Equipment Beyond Corporate Limits

(a) A minimum charge of \$500.00 if the fire department and truck goes out of town limits.

(b) The fire department to use their judgement on the feasibility of distance involved.

Sec. 7.8. Interference With Commanding Officer at Fire

Any person who shall, at a fire, obstruct or interfere with or attempt to intimidate any commanding officer of any fire department in the discharge of his duties, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (Code 1950, Section 6.7.)

Sec. 7.9. Turning Off Electric Current

During any fire the fire chief of any recognized fire department or any of his assistants may order any electric light or power company to cut off the electric current from its wires whenever it may be considered necessary to preserve life or property and it shall be unlawful for any of such companies to maintain current on its wires after receiving such order. (Code 1950, Section 6.8.)

Sec. 7.10. Reporting Injury to Equipment or Other Violations

It shall be the duty of all members of any fire department to report any person defacing or injuring any apparatus or equipment of such department or in any manner violating any regulation or law pertaining to any fire departments. (Code 1950, Section 6.9.)

Sec. 7.11. Congregating in Streets at Fires; Interference With Department; Duty of Police; Drivers as Special Police Officers

It shall be unlawful for persons to congregate in the streets or squares next to a fire so as to interfere with the work of any fire department or for any person to interfere with any member of any fire department or obstruct its work in any way at or during a fire or while answering an alarm. The town police shall respond to alarms of fire and prevent any obstruction to the work of the firemen from spectators or any other source. The fire chief or assistant in command of any recognized Scott County Volunteer Fire Department at any fire shall have the power to deputize any person as a special police officer with full authority to enforce all regulations, laws and ordinances of the town. The drivers of the fire apparatus of the fire department are hereby appointed special police officers and shall be sworn in as such. (Code 1950, Section 6.10.)

Sec. 7.12. Driving Vehicle Through Street Where Department Fighting Fire

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle through any part of a street or square in or upon which a fire department is assembled for the purpose of extinguishing a fire. (Code 1950, Section 6.11.)

Sec. 7.13. Turning on a Fire Hydrant

It shall be unlawful for any person to turn on the water at any fire plug on any street of the town except in case of fire or at the direction of the mayor or some member of the town council or a member of the fire department. Any violator of this statute shall be a Class 2 Misdemeanor. (Code 1950, Section 6.13.)

Sec. 7.14. False Alarms

Any person who without just cause therefor, calls or summons, by telephone or otherwise, any fire fighting apparatus or any person who maliciously activates a manual or automatic fire alarm in any building used for public assembly or for other public use, including, but not limited to, schools, theaters, stores, office buildings, shopping centers and malls, coliseums and arenas, regardless of whether fire apparatus responds or not, shall be deemed guilty of a Class I Misdemeanor. (Code 1950, Section 6.17.)

(For similar state law, see Code of Virginia, Section 18.2-212.)

Sec. 7.15. Fires in Streets

No person shall build a fire in any street in the town. Any violator of this ordinance shall be a Class 4 Misdemeanor. (Code 1950, Section 6.20.)

Sec. 7.16. Rubbish Burning and Bonfires

(a) No person shall burn highly inflammable material, make a bonfire or burn any material on any Town street or sidewalk.

(b) No person shall burn trash, lumber, leaves, straw or any other combustible material in any street or vacant lot within the fire limits. (Code 1965, Section 14-43.)