



SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

Proudly serving : Douglas | Saugatuck | Saugatuck Township



3342 Blue Star Highway
Saugatuck, MI 49453
269 857-3000 / Fax: 269 857-1228
E-mail: info@saugatuckfire.org

September 10th, 2025

City Council
City of the Village of Douglas
86 W. Center Street
Douglas, MI 49406

RE: Formal Request to Adopt the 2024 International Fire Code

Dear Mayor North and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Saugatuck Township Fire District, I am writing to formally request that the City of the Village of Douglas update its fire code ordinance to adopt the 2024 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC), as amended.

Currently, the State of Michigan has adopted the 2021 Michigan Building Code (MBC), which provides the regulatory framework for construction and occupancy across the state. However, the City's ordinance still references the 2015 edition of the IFC. This creates a significant gap between our fire safety regulations and both state standards and modern fire protection practices. Unfortunately, the delay was unavoidable because the Fire District was waiting for the State of Michigan to adopt the 2021 MBC which occurred in April of this year.

While adopting the 2021 IFC would bring the city into alignment with the MBC, it would not fully address several of the most pressing safety challenges we face today. The 2024 IFC goes further, introducing important new provisions that directly mitigate modern risks that were not fully addressed in either the 2015 or 2021 editions. There are numerous other minor changes and wording clarifications between the 2021 and 2024 editions of the IFC, however we believe the following ones are the most impactful:

Key Advancements in the 2024 IFC Over 2015 and 2021 IFC:

- **Lithium-Ion Battery Hazards** – New requirements for storage, charging, and repair facilities, including safeguards against thermal runaway fires. Dedicated provisions for storage exceeding 15 cubic feet requiring sprinkler protection and advanced detection systems. Mandated fire safety and evacuation planning for occupancies handling lithium-ion batteries.



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- Micromobility Devices (E-Bikes, Scooters, Wheelchairs) – Clear charging safety rules, spacing requirements, and prohibitions on hazardous practices such as daisy-chained extension cords. Specialized detection requirements for facilities where multiple devices are stored or charged indoors.
- Energy Storage Systems (ESS) – Expanded regulation of residential, commercial, and utility-scale ESS installations. New requirements for commissioning, monitoring, and fire suppression tailored to energy storage facilities.
- Solar Energy Systems – Enhanced provisions for rooftop access, rapid shutdown systems, and photovoltaic system markings, improving firefighter safety during emergencies.

Why Adoption Matters:

- Eliminate the gap between the City's outdated 2015 IFC reference and the current State-adopted 2021 MBC.
- Provide a modern and science-based regulatory framework that addresses emerging risks from lithium-ion batteries, micromobility devices, energy storage, and solar systems.
- Ensure the Fire District has the most effective and current tools to safeguard residents, businesses, and emergency responders.

We respectfully request that this matter be placed on an upcoming City Council agenda for consideration and discussion. Should you require additional documentation, supporting code comparisons, or technical input, our office is ready to assist.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to public safety. We greatly value our partnership in protecting the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Chris Mantels
Deputy Chief / Fire Inspector
Saugatuck Township Fire District

Greg Janik
Fire Chief / Fire Marshal
Saugatuck Township Fire District

Cc: Lisa Nocerini - City Manager (via email)
Sean Homyen – Zoning Administrator (via email)
Dan Poll – Building Official (via email)

**CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 07-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE
CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS CODE OF ORDINANCES
CHAPTER 14: FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION
TO ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, 2024 EDITION**

Councilmember _____ supported by Councilmember _____, moved the adoption of the following Ordinance:

**THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS
FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Amendment of Section 14-42. Section 14-42 of the City of Douglas Code of Ordinances (“City Code”) is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

Sec. 14-42. INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE

- (A) **Adoption of Code.** Pursuant to authority granted by Section 3(k) of the Home Rule Cities Act, Michigan Public Act 279 of 1909, being MCL 117.1 et seq., as amended, the *International Fire Code, 2024 Edition* (the “Code”), including all appendices, as published by the International Code Council, a copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk, is adopted as the Fire Code of the City of Douglas and all of the regulations, provisions, terms, conditions, and penalties of the Code are hereby adopted and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this Ordinance, together with any additions, deletions, and changes stated in this Section.
- (B) All other provisions of Chapter 14: Fire Prevention and Protection to remain as currently written.
- (C) Within fifteen (15) days of its adoption, this Ordinance or a notice of adoption summarizing this Ordinance, as required by law, shall be published by the City Clerk in a newspaper of general circulation in the City in accordance with Act 110 of 2006.

(D) This Ordinance shall be effective twenty (20) days after its publication, or a publication of a summary thereof, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

First Reading: October 6, 2025

Second Reading: October 20, 2025

Date of Publication: October 30, 2025

Effective Date: November 8, 2025

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF October 2025

Cathy North, Mayor

Laura Kasper, City Clerk

Ordinance Adoption Date: October 20, 2025

Ordinance Effective Date: November 8, 2025

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura Kasper, the duly appointed Clerk of the City of the Village of Douglas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Douglas City Council at a regular meeting held on Monday, October 20, 2025, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, the minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as requires by this Act.

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS

By: _____
City Clerk, City of the Village of Douglas