

# Staff Report

**Subject:** Discussion Regarding Enforcing International Fire Code Section 510 – Bi-Directional Antenna (BDA) Requirements

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**Department:** 55-FIRE

**Meeting Date:** 12-06-2022

**Item Description:** Discussion Regarding Enforcing International Fire Code (IFC) Section 510 – Bi-Directional Antenna (BDA) Requirements

**Summary Recommendation:** Staff recommends moving forward requiring with IFC Section 510 requirements, for safety of the people inside of those structures and first responders responding to incidents in the structures.

## Executive Summary/Background:

Within the IFC, Section 510 governs the requirements for installation of BDAs, which amplify the radio signal of emergency responder radios in buildings that might otherwise block signal due to building size or construction.

Staff researched other jurisdictions in Georgia and South Carolina that are enforcing this Section, and how they are applying the requirements. Staff have drafted a set of requirements to satisfy Section 510 and plan to begin enforcing it on qualifying new structures that apply for building permits starting January 1, 2023. This requirement will apply to all new (proposed) construction and any substantial renovation(s) to existing buildings as defined in OCGA 25-2-14 (O) (d) approved after January 30, 2014.

Exceptions: (As permitted by IFC 510.1 (2))

The following structures are not required to comply with the requirements of IFC Section 510.

1. Buildings with no more than 12,000 total square feet, and no floors below grade.
2. Temporary buildings including tents when permitted by the Building Official. For additions to buildings, unless the exceptions above are met for the area of the addition, the entire building being expanded must meet IFC 510 requirements.

## Options/Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

**Recommended:** Discussion Only

**Other Alternative(s):**

**Department Review:** Fire, Building Official, IT

**Funding Source:** N/A

**Attachments:** Letter