

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Shawn McGaffin, Fire Marshal/Division Chief

Kevin Sullivan, Assistant Fire Marshal

Katie Quintana, Assistant Fire Marshal

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 051, 2025, Amending Chapter 9 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins for the Purpose of Repealing the 2021 International Fire Code and Adopting the 2024 International Fire Code, with Amendments.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to repeal the 2021 International Fire Code and adopt the 2024 International Fire Code (IFC) with local amendments. The International Code Council (ICC) publishes code updates every three years. The Poudre Fire Authority (PFA) Board of Directors has reviewed and approved this code package and is requesting the code be adopted as amended.

Since the City's adoption of and amendments to the 2021 IFC are being repealed in their entirety and replaced with adoption of and amendments to the 2024 IFC, all highlights and strikethrough formatting in the Ordinance show changes from the way the language appears in the 2024 IFC, as published by the ICC, not changes to the current provisions under City Code.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Poudre Fire Authority ("PFA") is responsible for the enforcement and administration of the IFC in the City of Fort Collins, Town of Timnath and unincorporated areas of Larimer and Weld Counties within the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District boundaries. Every three years, the IFC is updated by the ICC with the most recent update having been published in 2024. PFA routinely reviews new codes, proposes local amendments, and then seeks adoption of IFC changes and local amendments by Council

At the April 23, 2024, PFA Board meeting, the Board approved the recommended appointment of the Fire Code Review Committee (Committee). This volunteer committee is comprised of community and industry stakeholders who reviewed the 2024 IFC and proposed local amendments in order to make a recommendation for adoption. The Committee completed their work on Thursday, October 17, 2024, with a unanimous recommendation to adopt the 2024 IFC along with the accompanying local amendments. At the February 25, 2025 meeting, the PFA Board unanimously approved the IFC adoption and local

amendments. This item was also unanimously approved by the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District Board at its February 25, 2025 meeting.

The Committee's primary goal was to limit the number of local amendments to the 2024 IFC, while still providing comprehensive life safety codes that are clear, relevant, and aligned with current practices. The Committee was able to accomplish this and focus on the amendments that were brought forward on local community needs. The local amendment for fire sprinklers has been maintained, as it has been since the 1980's, and as adopted by the local building departments. Of note, many other fire jurisdictions in Northern Colorado have, or are considering, similar amendments to specify fire suppression systems.

Several local 2021 amendments were eliminated due to the new 2024 published codes addressing the issues that had been a local amendment in the past.

There are changes to the published code that the Committee also supported. The most significant items in the 2024 IFC (as published) that have been changed from the 2021 IFC include:

- Adding provisions to address heating and cooking in temporary membrane structures, construction sites and wildfire areas.
- Adding temporary housing code (shelters).
- Adding new provisions specific to lithium-ion battery storage.
- Adding new provisions specific to Powered Micromobility Devices (E-bikes, Scooters).
- Updating provisions on Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement Systems to meet new technology.
- Recognizing a Hybrid Fire Extinguishing System as based out of National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 770.

Items of note for the 2024 IFC proposed local amendments include:

- Appendix A, Board of Appeals is being adopted as published with local amendments to create an appeal process over which PFA has jurisdiction. This differs from previous code adoptions, in which Appendix A had been deleted and replaced in its entirety to direct the appeals process with the Building Department having jurisdiction.
- The term "fire alarm" was defined to expand and elaborate on types and circumstances of such fire alarms.
- A provision was added to impose a fee when multiple unwanted alarms occur at the same location.
- Changes were made to the requirements for storage and use of lithium-ion batteries in factories.
- Requirements for letter sizes on signage were added.
- Valet trash service was removed from PFA's jurisdiction.
- Additional section added in Appendix D requiring schools to use a consistent numbering process on exterior doors for faster response in emergency situations.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of the 2024 IFC as amended was unanimously recommended by the Fire Code Review Committee. The Poudre Fire Authority Board of Directors and the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District

Board of Directors reviewed these amendments at their respective February 25, 2025, meetings, and each board unanimously voted to recommend adoption of the 2024 IFC, as amended, to the City of Fort Collins.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Ordinance
3. Poudre Fire Authority Resolution 25-3
4. Comparison Chart of 2021 IFC Amendments to 2024 IFC Proposed Amendments