

2018 Fire Code Amendment Summary

The items listed below are proposed amendments to the State and International model code. These amendments are aimed to provide clarity and direction for local, jurisdictional specific instances. All Fire Marshals from King County Zone 1 have been meeting for months in an effort to close the gap between individual jurisdiction requirements and model code. The effort, if successful, will provide uniform guidance to contractors, architects, and citizens throughout the region without major differences. For this code cycle, the Mercer Island Fire Marshal's Office is requesting the following amendments:

1. **104.1.2** Added Indigent Housing Guidelines. This clarifies definitions related to housing that local jurisdictions are facing that have not been adopted or defined by model code.
2. **105.6.30** Added Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle definition and the ability to use other jurisdictions operational permits as approved by the Fire Marshal. This defines, more specifically, the intended use and hazard of vehicles which carry LPG/CNG and cooking appliances that produce grease laden vapors, while exempting less hazardous preparation type vehicles.
3. **106.8** Amended Overcrowding to allow the Fire Marshal to “direct actions” to reduce overcrowding instead of solely stopping the function. The added word “direct actions” allows the Fire Marshal to work with the organizer to provide immediate actions to reduce overcrowding in lieu of evacuation.
4. **108.7** Added Unauthorized Tampering language. Provides code language to reiterate the need to not remove, destroy, or manipulate any tags, signs, or postings required by adopted code.
5. **307** Amended Open Burning language to align with regional guidelines and provide clarification to residents. This language provides alignment with the King County Fire Marshals groups, Puget sound Clean Air Agency, and other local jurisdictions. Items that do not apply to our area are removed and definitions are more clearly articulated in an effort to provide better guidance to our citizens.
6. **401** Added Evacuation language to align with expectations of fire alarm activation. Additionally, provided exceptions for not evacuating. Currently there is not language that states one shall evacuate during an emergency, fire drill, or alarm activation. This amendment provides clear language and code authority.
7. **510** Amended to closely align with jurisdictional requirements for the Public Safety Emergency Radio Network (formally King County Radio/NORCOM). This provides business owners, building owners, and contractors with specific guidelines for the installation, maintenance, and operation of in building radio systems to ensure capability with PSERN while not damaging the network. Items added are specific to our jurisdiction.
8. **901.9** Amended to provide the AHJ with 30 days' notice prior to termination of required fire alarm monitoring. This requires any service provider within our jurisdiction to provide 30 days' notice to the Fire Marshal to allow for our jurisdiction to work directly with the building owner in an effort to find resolve prior to the required fire protection system monitoring being terminated.

9. **903.2.9** Added the requirement for sprinkler in self-storage occupancies greater than 2500 square feet. This aligns with the requirement of upholstered furniture storage since the typical contents of a storage unit is upholstered furniture. These occupancies present a large fire growth and spread hazard. By providing this additional requirement, occupancies would align with intended code sections of commercial operations.
10. **1103.11** Added the requirement for certain existing “high risk” buildings to provide building information cards- This aligns with new construction and provides emergency responders with key information during an emergency. (very few in our jurisdiction would qualify). Building owners or perspective designers/builders would be required to provide a pre-determined list of hazards and building information for responding crews. This specific section is retroactive and would apply to buildings such as Hospitals, Highrise, target hazard buildings, and multiple building on one platform. Initial survey shows that this has been requested and provided within our jurisdiction for several years.
11. **3308.9** Added requirements for “job shacks” during construction to provide clarity to installation requirements. This section regulates the location and type of construction of job shacks on a construction site. Typically, job shacks are undefined by the model code and contribute to fires that spread to adjacent building under construction. Providing language will assist contractors with clear expectations of where the job shack may be placed and the materials in which it is constructed. This further aligns with other jurisdictions in our area.
12. **3308.10** Added Job Site Security for “under construction” buildings to prevent vandalism or fires. Many fires are started on construction sites by vandals. These fires are almost always catastrophic in nature and provide 100% destruction to the building under construction due to the lack of functioning fire protection systems. This provides direction to mitigate the risk of fire by providing security precautions.
13. **5307.5.2** Removed Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Systems. This was adopted by model code.