

CITY OF MERIDIAN ORDINANCE NO. 21-1957

BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

**BERNT, BORTON, CAVENER,
HOAGLUN, PERREAULT, STRADER**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MERIDIAN CITY CODE SECTION 10-4-2, REGARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREFIGHTER AIR REPLENISHMENT SYSTEMS FOR NEW BUILDINGS; ADOPTING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, breathing air is critical for firefighting operations, and historically, when fighting fires in mid-rise, high-rise and large area buildings, firefighters have resupplied empty air bottles by manually transporting full air bottles up stairways or across long distances in a building, an extraordinarily intensive process which takes firefighters away from their primary missions of rescue and firefighting;

WHEREAS, the design and installation of in-building firefighter air replenishment systems (“FARS”) as part of construction of mid-rise, high-rise and large area buildings improves safety conditions for firefighters and enhances their firefighting capabilities;

WHEREAS, by the passage of Ordinance 20-1905 the City of Meridian adopted the 2018 International Fire Code, including Appendix L, which appendix establishes requirements and specifications for FARS, when installed;

WHEREAS, this proposed code amendment will establish threshold requirements for the installation of FARS systems in new buildings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Meridian finds that this amendment is in the best interest of the public health safety, and welfare;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, IDAHO:

Section 1. That Meridian City Code section 10-4-2 shall be amended by the addition of language to read as follows:

L101.2 When FARS Required. In buildings constructed after January 1, 2022, a FARS shall be installed when any of the following conditions occur:

1. Building is five (5) or more stories in height above grade.
2. Building has two (2) or more floors below grade.
3. Building is 500,000 square feet or more in size on a single level.

L101.3 Location of FARS. In all buildings in which FARS is installed, each stairwell shall have a supply riser. A FARS air filling station shall be located on odd-numbered floors in the primary stairwell and on even-numbered stairs in the secondary stairwells, including stairwells below grade. For purposes of this section, “primary stairwell” shall be defined as the stairwell located closest to the main entrance; “secondary stairwell” shall be defined as all other stairwells. For buildings 500,000 square feet or more in size, an interior air fill panel shall be located within two hundred feet (200’) of the main entrance and at intervals not exceeding four hundred feet (400’) thereafter.

L101.4 External air fill station. A In all buildings in which FARS is installed, a minimum of one (1) external air fill station will be required for supplementing the air supply or refilling the system. Depending on the size and complexity of the facility, more than one external air fill station may be required, as specified by the firefighter air replenishment professional preparing the plans.

L101.5 FARS Plan Review. Prior to construction, plans and specifications showing the location of all FARS shall be submitted to the Fire Department plans examiner for plan review and approval prior to installation. Plans and specifications shall be prepared by a firefighter air replenishment professional and certified by an Idaho licensed professional engineer.

L101.6 Air Supply Specifications. All FARS shall have an on-site cascade system capable of refilling fifty (50) air bottles and shall provide an external ground level connection for an air supply trailer, as determined by the Fire Department plans examiner.

Section 2. That all City of Meridian ordinances, or resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Meridian, Idaho, this 7th day of December, 2021.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Meridian, Idaho, this this 7th day of December, 2021.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Robert E. Simison, Mayor

Chris Johnson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF SUMMARY:

William L.M. Nary, City Attorney of the City of Meridian, Idaho, hereby certifies that the summary below is true and complete and upon its publication will provide adequate notice to the public.

William L. M. Nary, City Attorney

SUMMARY OF CITY OF MERIDIAN ORDINANCE NO. 21 -1957

An ordinance amending Meridian City Code section 10-4-2, regarding requirements for firefighter air replenishment systems in new buildings; adopting a savings clause; and providing an effective date.