

ORDINANCE NO. 1998-07-054

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIFORM FIRE CODE AND ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE 1997 EDITION OF THE UNIFORM FIRE CODE AND SPECIFIC APPENDICES THERETO PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE INSTITUTE AS MODIFIED BY WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 51-34 AND 51-35, EXCEPT AS MODIFIED HEREIN, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 10642 AND AMENDING CHAPTER 17.20 OF THE BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE.**

**WHEREAS, RCW 19.27 provides that the Uniform Fire Code shall be in effect in all cities, towns and counties as part of the State Building Code; and**

**WHEREAS, RCW 19.27.020 through 19.27.030 provides that cities are authorized to amend the State Building Code as it applies within its jurisdiction in all such respects as shall not be less than minimum standards and objectives of the codes; and**

**WHEREAS, the 1997 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code, as adopted by reference, with certain revisions, meets or exceeds these minimum standards; and**

**WHEREAS, regular fire prevention and safety inspections of multiple-family residential buildings are recognized as an effective means to identify and correct fire safety hazards; and**

**WHEREAS, registration of multiple-family residential buildings provides a method of identifying the housing stock for the purposes of fire prevention and safety inspections; and**

**WHEREAS, the adoption of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, will promote the health, safety and welfare of the occupants or users of buildings, structures or facilities and the general public; and**

**WHEREAS, a copy of the 1997 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code herein adopted by reference has been placed on file with the Finance Director;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:**

**Section 1.** Ordinance No. 10642 and Chapter 17.20 of the Bellingham Municipal Code are repealed in their entirety, and a new Chapter 17.20, entitled FIRE CODE, is added to the Bellingham Municipal Code as set forth herein.

**17.20.010 PURPOSE/ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.**

This chapter is enacted as an exercise of the police power of the city for the benefit of the public at large. It is not intended to create a special relationship with any individual, or individuals, nor to identify and protect any particular class of persons. The purpose of this chapter is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health or property, and public welfare, by regulating and controlling building construction and related work thereto. It is not the intent of this chapter to impose liability on the City for failure to perform any discretionary act. Rather, it is the intent of this chapter to place the obligation of complying with its requirements upon the owner and/or contractor.

Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to relieve from or to lessen the responsibility or liability of any person or persons for injury or damage to persons or property caused by or resulting

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

from any defect of any nature in any construction work performed by said person or any construction equipment owned, controlled, operated or used by the contractor; nor shall the City of Bellingham or any officer, agent, or employee thereof incur or be held as assuming any liability by reason or in consequence of any permission, certificate of inspection, inspection or approval authorized herein, or issued or given as herein provided or by reasons or consequence of any things done or acts performed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

The Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, as modified by WAC Chapter 51-34 and 51-35, with Appendices I-A, I-B, II-C, II-D, II-E, II-F, II-I, II-J, III-A, IV-B, V-A, VI-A, VI-D, VI-E and VI-F thereto, published by the International Fire Code Institute, is hereby adopted by reference including each and all the rules and regulations printed therein and shall be in full force and effect in the City of Bellingham except as herein modified.

**17.20.020 ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITS OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH STORAGE OF FLAMMABLE OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS IN OUTSIDE ABOVEGROUND TANKS IS PROHIBITED.**

The limits referred to in Sections 7902.2.2.1 and 7904.2.5.4.2 of the Uniform Fire Code in which the storage of flammable or combustible liquids is prohibited are hereby established as those zones designated Residential Single, Residential Multi, Commercial, Planned Residential, Planned Commercial, and Institutional by the Land Use Development Ordinance, Chapter 20 of the Bellingham Municipal Code.

**17.20.030 ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITS IN WHICH STORAGE OF LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GASES IS TO BE RESTRICTED.**

The limits referred to in Section 8204.2 of the Uniform Fire Code, in which storage of liquified petroleum gas is prohibited are hereby established as those zones designated Residential Single, Residential Multi, Commercial, Planned Residential, Planned Commercial, and Institutional by the Land Use Development Ordinance, Chapter 20 of the Bellingham Municipal Code.

**17.20.040 ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITS OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH STORAGE OF EXPLOSIVES AND BLASTING AGENTS IS TO BE PROHIBITED.**

The limits referred to in Section 7701.7.2 of the Uniform Fire Code, in which storage of explosives and blasting agents is prohibited, are hereby established as those zones designated Residential Single, Residential Multi, Commercial, Planned Residential, Planned Commercial, and Institutional by the Land Use Development Ordinance, Chapter 20 of the Bellingham Municipal Code.

**17.20.050 ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITS OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH STORAGE OF COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS IS PROHIBITED.**

The limits referred to in Section 5204.5.2 of the Uniform Fire Code, in which the storage of compressed natural gas is prohibited, are hereby established as those zones designated Residential Single, Residential Multi, Commercial, Planned Residential, Planned Commercial, and Institutional by the Land Use Development Ordinance, Chapter 20 of the Bellingham Municipal Code.

**17.20.060 CODE APPEALS AND REVISIONS - UFC SECTION 103.1.4 AMENDED.**

Section 103.1.4 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Section 103.1.4.** The Board of Code Appeals shall have authority to determine the suitability of alternate materials and types of construction and to provide for reasonable interpretation of the provisions of this code.

**17.20.070 FIXED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM - UFC SECTION 105.8 AMENDED.**

Section 105.8 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to add a subsection f.6, to read as follows:

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottle Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

**f.6. Fixed Fire Protection System.** To install or modify any built-in fire protection or detection system, including but not limited to automatic fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire standpipe systems or any other fire protection feature recognized under this Code.

**17.20.080 PERMITS AND FEES - UFC SECTION 105.3 AMENDED.**

Section 105.3 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read:

**Section 105.3(a) Permit Applications.** All applications for a permit required by this Code shall be made to the Fire Department in such form and detail as it shall prescribe. Applications for permits shall be accompanied by such plans as required by the Chief.

**Section 105.3(b) Permit Fees.** The Fire Department shall collect fees for permits, plan review, and inspection services as prescribed in Table No. 105.3.

**Table 105.3**

**PERMIT, PLAN REVIEW AND INSPECTION SERVICE FEES**

**FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS**

|   | Permit  | Plan Review           | Inspection |
|---|---------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>A. Fire alarm systems*</b>   |         |                       |            |
| 1. One to four zones  | \$50.00 | \$100.00              | \$100.00   |
| 2. Each additional zone   |         | 10.00                 | 10.00      |
| 3. Sprinkler supervision only   | 50.00   | 25.00                 | 100.00     |
| * New or remodeled.   |         |                       |            |
| <b>B. Fire sprinkler systems</b>                                      |         |                       |            |
| 1. Each new sprinkler system having up to and including 99 sprinklers | \$25.00 | \$ 2.00 per sprinkler | \$ 50.00   |
| 2. Each new sprinkler system having 100 or more sprinklers            | \$50.00 | \$150.00              | \$250.00   |
| 3. Revisions to existing systems*                                     | \$25.00 | \$ 2.00 per sprinkler | \$ 50.00   |
| *To a maximum fee of \$450.00   |         |                       |            |
| <b>C. Standpipe systems</b>   |         |                       |            |
| 1. Each new Class I system  |         |                       |            |
| Manual  | \$50.00 | \$ 50.00              | \$ 75.00   |
| Automatic or Semi-Automatic   | 50.00   | 100.00                | 150.00     |
| 2. Each new Class II system   | 50.00   | 100.00                | 150.00     |
| 3. Each new Class III system  | 50.00   | 100.00                | 150.00     |
| 4. Each new combination sprinkler and standpipe system                | 50.00   | 250.00                | 300.00     |
| <b>D. Fire pumps</b>  | \$50.00 | \$250.00              | \$250.00   |
| <b>E. Range hood fire suppression systems</b>                         |         |                       |            |
| 1. Pre-engineered   | \$50.00 | \$ 10.00              | \$ 50.00   |
| 2. Custom engineered  | 50.00   | 200.00                | 100.00     |

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

- G. **All categories**  
 Call back inspections for more  
 than three site visits \$ 50.00 each

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INSTALLATIONS AND OPERATIONS**

|   | Permit                              | Plan Review | Inspection |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>A. Hazardous materials storage tanks or piping (per facility)</b>          |                                     |             |            |
| 1.  | Installation \$ 50.00               | \$150.00    | \$200.00   |
| 2.  | Removal 50.00                       |             | 50.00      |
| <b>B. Hazardous materials storage and use (containers and portable tanks)</b> |                                     |             |            |
| 1.  | 120 - 660 gallons \$ 25.00          | \$100.00    | \$200.00   |
| 2.  | 661 - 9,999 gallons 50.00           | 150.00      | 100.00     |
| 3.  | 10,000 gallons or more 100.00       | 200.00      | 150.00     |
| <b>C. Medical gas storage and piping systems</b>                              |                                     |             |            |
| 1.  | Per manifold \$ 25.00               | \$ 50.00    | \$100.00   |
|   | Plus each outlet<br>(more than two) | 2.50        | 10.00      |
| <b>D. Spraying booths</b>   |                                     |             |            |
| 1.  | Pre-engineered \$ 50.00             | \$ 50.00    | \$ 50.00   |
| 2.  | Site-built 50.00                    | 50.00       | 50.00      |
| <b>E. Compressed gas storage facilities</b>                                   |                                     |             |            |
| 1.  | Flammable \$ 50.00                  | \$200.00    | 100.00     |
|   | 2,500 cu. ft. or more               |             |            |
| 2.  | Non-flammable \$ 50.00              | \$200.00    | \$100.00   |
|   | 6,000 cu. ft. or more               |             |            |
| <b>F. Explosive storage magazines</b>   |                                     |             |            |
| 1.  | Class 1-4 \$ 50.00                  | \$150.00    | \$100.00   |
| 2.  | Class 5 25.00                       | 50.00       | 50.00      |
| <b>G. Explosives and Blasting Agent Transfer</b>                              |                                     |             |            |
|   | \$ 50.00                            |             | \$100.00   |
| <b>H. Fireworks</b>   |                                     |             |            |
| 1.  | Public Display \$ 50.00             |             | \$ 50.00   |
| 2.  | Retail Sales 50.00                  |             |            |
| <b>I. Aerosol Storage</b>   |                                     |             |            |
| 1.  | More than 500 lbs. net \$ 50.00     | \$150.00    | \$ 50.00   |
|   | (Exception: Level 1 aerosols)       |             |            |
| <b>J. High-piled combustible storage</b>                                      |                                     |             |            |
| 1.  | Class I-IV \$ 50.00                 | \$100.00    | 50.00      |
| 2.  | High-Hazard 50.00                   | 200.00      | 100.00     |

City of Bellingham  
 CITY ATTORNEY  
 210 Lottie Street  
 Bellingham, Washington 98225  
 Telephone (360) 676-6903

## SPECIAL PERMITS

|  | Permit   | Plan Review | Inspection |
|--|----------|-------------|------------|
| <b>A. Places of Public Assembly (Excluding churches)</b> |          |             |            |
| 1. Group A, Division 3                                   | \$ 50.00 | \$150.00    | \$ 50.00   |
| 2. Group A, Divisions 2,2.1                              | 100.00   | 150.00      | 50.00      |
| 3. Group A, Division 1                                   | 150.00   | 200.00      | 50.00      |
| 4. Temporary assembly permit                             | 50.00    | 50.00       | 50.00      |

**17.20.085 OPEN BURNING PERMITS - UFC SECTION 105.8(o.1) AMENDED.**  
Section 105.8 (o.1) Open Burning, is hereby amended to read:

**Section 105.8(o.1) Open Burning.** To conduct open burning. Where burning is conducted on public property or the property of someone other than the permit applicant, the permit applicant shall demonstrate that permission has been obtained by the appropriate government agency, the owner, or the owner's authorized agent. When limits for atmospheric conditions or hours restrict burning, such limits shall be designated in the permit restrictions. See Article 11. No permit shall be issued for any fire where the material to be burned is piled, stacked or arranged larger than four feet in diameter, or is for any material other than leaves, clippings, prunings and other yard and garden refuse.

**17.20.090 DEFINITIONS - UFC SECTION 207 AMENDED.**

Article 2 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended by adding to the stated sections of the following entitled "Definitions" to read as follows:

**Section 207. Fixed Fire Protection System.** All automatic or manual sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, fire alarm systems, fire detection and/or warning systems, fire and/or explosion suppression systems, fire alarm signalling systems or other equipment or devices that are intended to detect, control or extinguish a fire or explosion that are built-in or affixed to the premises they protect.

**17.20.100 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS - UFC SECTION 902 AMENDED.**

Section 902 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Section 902 - Fire Department Access**

**902.1 General.** Fire department access roads on private property shall be provided and maintained in accordance with Sections 901 and 902.

**902.2 Fire Apparatus Access Roads.**

**902.2.1 Required access.** Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided in accordance with Sections 901 and 902.2 for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction when any portion of the facility or any portion of an exterior wall of the first story of the building is located more than 150 feet from fire apparatus access as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility. See also Section 902.3 for personnel access to buildings.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

1. When buildings are completely protected with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system, the provisions of Sections 902.2.1 and 902.2.2 may be modified by the Chief.

2. When access roads cannot be installed due to location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades or other similar conditions, the Chief is authorized to require additional fire protection as specified in Section 1001.9.

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

3. When there are not more than two Group R, Division 3, or Group U Occupancies, the requirements of Sections 902.2.1 and 902.2.2 may be modified by the Chief.

More than one fire apparatus road shall be provided when it is determined by the Chief that access by a single road might be impaired by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions or other factors that could limit access.

For high-piled combustible storage, see Section 8102.5.1.

For required access during construction, alteration or demolition of a building, see Section 8704.2.

### **902.2.2 Specifications.**

**902.2.2.1 Dimensions.** Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches.

**EXCEPTION:** Vertical clearance may be reduced, provided such reduction does not impair access by fire apparatus and approved signs are installed and maintained indicating the established vertical clearance when approved by the Chief.

Vertical clearances or widths shall be increased when, in the opinion of the Chief, vertical clearances or widths are not adequate to provide fire apparatus access.

**902.2.2.2 Surface.** Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be provided with a surface so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities.

**902.2.2.3 Turning radius.** The turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be as approved by the Chief.

**902.2.2.4 Dead ends.** Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the turning around of fire apparatus.

**902.2.2.5 Bridges.** When a bridge is required to be used as part of a fire apparatus access road, it shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with nationally recognized standards. See Article 90, Standard a.1.1. The bridge shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus.

Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges when required by the Chief.

**902.2.2.6 Grade.** The gradient for a fire apparatus access road shall not exceed the maximum approved by the Chief.

**902.2.3 Marking.** See Section 901.4

### **17.20.110 AUTOMATIC FIRE-EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS - UFC SECTION 1003.2.2 AMENDED.**

Section 1003.2.2 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended by the addition of new paragraphs to read as follows:

6. In all buildings where the required fire flow for the occupancy, as established by this Code, equals or exceeds 3,500 gallons per minute.

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

7. Under combustible piers or pilings which have more than 5,000 square feet of area over water and which have solid decking 25 feet or more in width, except as specified below for Group A and R-1 occupancies.

**17.20.120 AUTOMATIC FIRE-EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS - UFC SECTION 1003.2.3 AMENDED.**

Section 1003.2.3 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended by the addition of a new paragraph to read as follows:

**1003.2.3.9** An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in and under any Group A occupancy supported in any part by piers or pilings and which extend over water.

**EXCEPTION:** Under-pier sprinkler protection may be omitted when the pier or piling structure and deck are built of Type I or II construction.

**17.20.130 AUTOMATIC FIRE-EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS - UFC SECTION 1003.2.89 AMENDED.**

Section 1003.2.89 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended by the addition of a new paragraph to read as follows:

**1003.2.9 Group R, Division 1 Occupancies.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout every apartment house with three or more floor levels or containing 16 or more dwelling units, every congregate residence with three or more floor levels or having an occupant load of 20 or more, and every hotel with three or more floor levels or containing 20 or more guest rooms. Residential or quick-response standard sprinklers shall be used in the dwelling units and guest room portions of the building. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in and under any Group R, Division 1 occupancy having more than four dwelling units or an occupant load of 10 or more and is supported in any part by piers or pilings and which extends over water.

**EXCEPTION:** Under-pier sprinkler protection may be omitted with the pier or piling structure and deck are built of Type I or II construction.

**17.20.140 FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS - UFC SECTION 1007.2.9.1.1 AMENDED.**

Section 1007.2.9.1.1 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended by the deletion of Exception No. 2.

**17.20.150 FALSE ALARMS - STANDBY PERSONNEL - UFC SECTION 1007.1.4 AMENDED.**

Subsection 1007.1.2 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) In the event of temporary failure of a required fire alarm system, the Chief may order the building owner or occupant to provide standby personnel as defined by Section 1001.5.3.1 until the system is restored in an approved manner.

(b) In the event of more than two false alarms in any 90-day period, the Chief may charge a fee for fire department response as specified below:

| <u>False Alarms</u>  | <u>Fee</u>    |
|----------------------|---------------|
| First and second     | No fee        |
| Third and additional | \$250.00 each |

**EXCEPTION:** False alarms resulting from the failure of a fire alarm service technician notifying the central,

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

proprietary or remote monitoring station shall be billed at the rate of \$250.00 for each occurrence.

(c) For the purpose of this section, a false alarm shall be defined as any unintentional activation of the fire alarm or detection system which is the result of improper installation, maintenance or use of that system.

(d) Fire alarm system control units shall be provided with an approved sign indicating such fees will be imposed.

**17.20.155 OPEN BURNING MATERIAL RESTRICTION - UFC SECTION 1102.3.3 AMENDED.**

Section 1102.3.3 is hereby amended to read:

**Section 1102.3.3 Material Restrictions.** Open burning of any material other than leaves, clippings, prunings and other yard and gardening refuse originating on lands immediately adjacent and in close proximity to a human dwelling and burned on such lands by the property owner or his or her designee is prohibited.

**17.20.156 OPEN BURNING TIME AND ATMOSPHERIC RESTRICTIONS - UFC SECTION 1102.3.4 AMENDED.**

Section 1102.3.4 is hereby amended to read:

**Section 1102.3.4 Time and Atmospheric Restrictions.**

(1) Open burning shall only be performed when time and atmospheric conditions comply with the limits set forth in the open burning permit and as established by the Chief.

(2) All open burning, except approved recreational fires, is prohibited during the periods January 1 through February 29, May 1 through September 30, and December 1 through December 31 of each year.

**17.20.160 FIREWORKS - UFC SECTION 7802.3 AMENDED.**

Section 7802.3 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**PROHIBITION.**

**Section 7802.3.** The storage, use and handling of fireworks are prohibited.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

1. Storage and handling of fireworks is allowed as set forth in Article 77.
2. The use of fireworks for display is allowed as set forth in Section 7802.4.
3. The retail sales and consumer use of fireworks is allowed as set forth in RCW 70.77.

**17.20.170 LIFE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, EFFECTIVE DATE - UFC APPENDIX I-A AMENDED.**

Section 1.2 of appendix I-A of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read as follows:

The provisions of this appendix shall apply to existing conditions as well as to conditions arising after the adoption thereof, except that conditions legally in existence at the adoption of this appendix and not in strict compliance therewith shall be permitted to continue only if, in the opinion of the chief, they do not constitute a distinct hazard to life or property.

**17.20.180 UFC APPENDIX 1-A, DIVISION 1 AMENDED.**

The Exception to Subsection 2.1 of Appendix 1-A, Division 1 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read as follows:

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903



**EXCEPTION:** In all occupancies, second stories with an occupant load of 10 or less may have one exit, provided, that in Group R, Division 1 occupancies each sleeping room shall be provided with a window that is openable from the inside and which complies with the requirements of Section 310.4 of the Building Code.

**17.20.190 APPENDIX 1-A, DIVISION 1 AMENDED.**

Subsection 2-(a) of Appendix 1-A, Division 1 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended by the addition of a new paragraph as follows:

Basements in dwelling units and every sleeping room below the fourth story shall have at least one operable window or door approved for emergency escape or rescue and which complies with the requirements of Section 310.4 of the Building Code.

**17.20.200 APPENDIX 1-A, DIVISION 1 AMENDED.**

Subsection 2.3 of Appendix 1-A, Division 1 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Corridors.** Corridors of Groups A, B, E, I and H Occupancies serving as an exit for an occupant load of 30 or more, the Group R, Division 1 occupancies having an occupant load of 10 or more, shall have walls and ceilings of not less than one-hour fire resistive construction as required by the Building Code. Existing walls surfaced with wood lath and plaster in good condition or 1/2 inch gypsum wallboard or openings with fixed wire glass set in steel frames are permitted for corridor walls and ceilings and occupancy separations when approved. Doors opening into such corridors shall be protected by 20-minute fire assemblies or solid wood doors not less than 1-3/4 inches thick. Where the existing frame will not accommodate the 1-3/4 inch thick door, a 1-3/8 inch solid bonded wood core door or equivalent insulated steel door shall be permitted. Alternative methods of door protection may be approved by the building official or the Chief. Doors shall be self-closing or automatic closing by smoke detection.

**EXCEPTION:** Group R, Division 1 occupancies having an occupant load of less than 30 persons need not have self-closing doors.

Transoms and openings other than doors from corridors to rooms shall comply with Section 1005.8 of this code or shall be covered with a minimum 3/4 inch ply wood or 1/2 inch gypsum wallboard or equivalent material on the room side.

**EXCEPTION:** Existing corridor walls, ceilings and opening protection not in compliance with the above may be continued when such buildings are protected with an approved automatic sprinkler system throughout.

**17.20.210 APPENDIX I-A AMENDED.**

Subsection 2 of Appendix I-A of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**2.6 Exit Illumination.** Exitways and exit signs shall be illuminated at all times the building is occupied in accordance with the Building Code.

**17.20.220 APPENDIX I-A AMENDED.**

Appendix I-A of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended with the deletion of Section 6 - Smoke Detectors, and a new Section 6 - Multiple Family Residential Occupancies is added to read as follows:

**Section 6 - Multiple Family Residential Occupancies.**

**6.1 Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms are defined:

**6.1.1 Common Area.** A common area shall be defined as any building or portion thereof that is accessible to any or all tenants for purposes other than living and sleeping, and shall

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

include corridors, hallways, storage rooms, laundries, mechanical rooms, electrical rooms, or similar spaces.

**6.1.2 Multiple-family Residential Building.** A multiple-family residential building shall be defined as any apartment house, congregate residence, hotel, or lodging house as defined in this Code.

**6.2 Registration.**

**6.2.1 Registration.** Every person, firm, or corporation owning any multiple-family residential building as defined in this Code shall register said multiple-family residential building with the Fire Department in such form and manner as prescribed by the Fire Department.

**6.3 Failure to Register.**

**6.3.1 Failure to register.** Any person, firm or corporation who fails to register a multiple-family residential building within 180 days of the effective date of this Code shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

**6.4 Smoke Detectors.**

**6.4.1** All multiple family residential buildings as defined in this Code shall be provided with smoke detectors as required herein. Smoke detectors shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and as specified in this section.

**6.5 Locations Within Common Areas of Multiple-Family Residential Buildings.**

**6.5.1** In common areas of multiple-family residential buildings, smoke detectors shall be located on the ceiling or wall of the common area.

**6.5.1.1** When the common area includes corridors, hallways, stairs, stair enclosures or other spaces that share a common atmosphere with other floors or floor levels, detectors shall be placed at the ceiling or wall of each floor level in accordance with their listings.

**6.5.2** When actuated, the detector shall sound an audible alarm within the common area in which it is located.

**6.6 Location Within Multiple-Family Residential Buildings.**

**6.6.1** In dwelling units of apartment houses and in other multiple-family residential buildings, a smoke detector shall be placed in each sleeping room, and at a point centrally located in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area. When the dwelling unit or other multiple-family residential building has more than one floor level, and in buildings with basements, a detector shall be installed on each floor level and in the basement.

**6.6.1.1** In dwelling units and other multiple-family residential buildings where a floor or basement is split into two or more levels, the smoke detector shall be installed on the upper level, except that when the lower level contains a sleeping area, a detector shall be installed on each level.

**6.6.1.2** When sleeping rooms are on an upper level, the detector shall be placed at the ceiling of the upper level in close proximity to the stairway.

**6.6.1.3** In dwelling units where the ceiling height of a room open to the hallway serving the bedrooms exceeds that of the hallway by 24 inches or more, smoke detectors shall be installed in the hallway and in the adjacent room.

**6.6.2** When actuated, detectors shall sound an alarm audible in all sleeping areas of the dwelling unit where they are located.

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

**6.7 Power Source.**

**6.7.1** Required smoke detectors shall receive their primary power from batteries, or, when required by the Chief, smoke detectors shall receive their primary power from the building wiring and shall be equipped with a battery back-up. The detector shall emit a signal when the batteries are low.

**6.7.2** Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection. All wiring shall be installed in compliance with the Electrical Code.

**6.7.3** Any person, firm or corporation that owns any multiple-family residential building having battery-operated smoke detectors as defined in this Section shall provide one battery per detector to the occupants of each dwelling unit in a multiple-family residential building at least once each year. Smoke detectors in common areas and sleeping rooms in congregate residences, hotels and lodging houses shall be maintained by the owner.

**17.20.230 APPENDIX I-A AMENDED.**

Appendix I-A of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended with the addition of a new Section 8 - Smoke Detectors in One- or Two-Family Rental Dwelling Units as follows:

**Section 8. Smoke Detectors in One- or Two-Family Rental Dwelling Units.**

**8.1 Definition.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms are defined:

**8.1.1 One- or Two-Family Rental Dwelling Unit.** A one- or two-family rental dwelling unit shall be defined as any dwelling as defined in this code, (except that it shall not include congregate residences) where all or a portion of such dwelling is rented, leased or sub-leased to a person or persons other than the owner, and where rent is paid in money, goods, labor or otherwise.

**8.2 Smoke Detectors.**

**8.2.1** All one- or two-family rental dwelling units shall be provided and maintained with smoke detectors in the same manner and in the same locations as are specified in Sections 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7 of Appendix 1-A for multiple-family residential buildings.

**17.20.240 FIRE FLOW FOR ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS - UFC APPENDIX III-A AMENDED.**

Section 5 of Appendix III-A, Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended to read:

The minimum fire flow requirements for one- and two-family dwellings shall be 750 gallons per minute.

**17.20.250 APPENDIX TABLE A-III-A-1 AMENDED.**

Table A-III-A-1 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 Edition, is hereby amended as follows:

The flow duration (hours) for buildings shall be two hours in all cases.

**17.20.260 CONFLICT.**

In case of conflict among the codes enumerated herein, the first named code shall govern over the following, in accordance with RCW 19.27A.010.

1. Uniform Building Code, Appendices and Related Standards, 1997 Edition.
2. Uniform Mechanical Code, Appendices and Related Standards, 1997 Edition.
3. Uniform Fire Code, Appendices and Related Standards, 1997 Edition.

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

4. Uniform Plumbing Code, Appendices and Related Standards, 1997 Edition.

**Section 2. Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this code or ordinance adopted herein is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction of the State Building Code Council, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or the code.

**Section 3. Savings Provision.** Nothing contained in this ordinance shall be construed as having retroactive effect. Acts, omissions and rights shall be governed by the ordinances in effect at the time the acts or omissions occurred or rights accrued.

The repeal of prior ordinances herein shall not affect any right existing or accrued or any act or proceeding commenced prior to the effective date of this ordinance.

PASSED BY COUNCIL this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1998.

Bob Ryan  
Council President

APPROVED BY ME this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 1998.

Mark Anderson  
Mayor

Attest:

Jay Carpenter  
Finance Director

Approved as to Form:

[Signature]  
Office of the City Attorney

Published: July 24, 1998

City of Bellingham  
CITY ATTORNEY  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone (360) 676-6903

