

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

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**ORDER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT  
OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS  
FOR  
ADOPTION OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE  
IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS  
AND SETTING PENALTIES  
FOR EACH VIOLATION**

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Pursuant to the Laws and Rules of the State of Texas, the Texas Constitution, article V, § 18 (providing that commissioners court shall “exercise such powers and jurisdiction over all county business”), the Texas Local Government Code, § 233.061 (granting commissioners court authority to “adopt a fire code and rules necessary to administer and enforce the fire code”), the Texas Health and Safety Code, § 121.003(a) (authorizing commissioners court to “enforce any law that is reasonably necessary to protect the public health.”), and the common law granting the County authority to regulate the public health and safety, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County finds that it is necessary to adopt a fire code applicable in the unincorporated areas of Williamson County, Texas.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT** the 2015 edition of the *International Fire Code* (hereinafter also referred to as the “Fire Code”) is adopted for the unincorporated areas of **Williamson County, Texas,**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT** the Fire Code’s purpose is for regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosion hazards arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions

hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises in **Williamson County, Texas**; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor; and setting penalties for violations of the Fire Code.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**

**PART I—GENERAL**

**Section 1.** That a certain document, a copy of which is available for review in the office of the Williamson County Fire Marshal, being marked and designated as the International Fire Code, 2015 edition, including Appendix Chapters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, L, M (see International Fire Code Section 101.2.1, 2015 edition), as published by the International Code Council, be and is hereby adopted as the Fire Code of Williamson County, in the State of Texas regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosion hazards arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises as herein provided; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of the Fire Code on file in the office of the Williamson County Fire Marshal are hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this legislation, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, if any, prescribed in Section 2 of this Order.

**Section 2.** That the following sections are hereby revised:

Section 101.1. Insert: Williamson County, Texas

Section 109.4. Insert: **[OFFENSE, DOLLAR AMOUNT, NUMBER OF DAYS]** Any person violating a rule adopted under this Order commits an offense, which is a Class C misdemeanor, pursuant, punishable by fine not to exceed \$500.00 for each violation or by

imprisonment not exceeding five (5) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

Section 111.4. Insert: [DOLLAR AMOUNT IN TWO LOCATIONS] \$200.00; \$500.00

**Section 3.** That the geographic limits referred to in certain sections of the 2015 International Fire Code are hereby established as follows:

Section 5704.2.9.6.1 (geographic limits in which the storage of Class I and Class II liquids in above-ground tanks outside of buildings is prohibited): All unincorporated areas of Williamson County, Texas as set forth in the attached county map, which is marked as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein as if copied in full. Exhibit “A” shall automatically apply to any new areas that become part of or are deleted from any municipal boundaries that are annexed or de-annexed without the necessity of any amendment to this Order (although a revised county map, representing the most current information, may be incorporated herein as if copied in full).

Section 5706.2.4.4 (geographic limits in which the storage of Class I and Class II liquids in above-ground tanks is prohibited): All unincorporated areas of Williamson County, Texas as set forth in the attached county map, which is marked as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein as if copied in full. Exhibit “A” shall automatically apply to any new areas that become part of or are deleted from any municipal boundaries that are annexed or de-annexed without the necessity of any amendment to this Order (although a revised county map, representing the most current information, may be incorporated herein as if copied in full).

Section 5806.2 (geographic limits in which the storage of flammable cryogenic fluids in stationary containers is prohibited): All unincorporated areas of Williamson County, Texas as set forth in the attached county map, which is marked as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein as if copied in full. Exhibit “A” shall automatically apply to any new areas that become part of or are

deleted from any municipal boundaries that are annexed or de-annexed without the necessity of any amendment to this Order (although a revised county map, representing the most current information, may be incorporated herein as if copied in full).

Section 6104.2 (geographic limits in which the storage of liquefied petroleum gas is restricted for the protection of heavily populated or congested areas): All unincorporated areas of Williamson County, Texas as set forth in the attached county map, which is marked as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein as if copied in full. Exhibit “A” shall automatically apply to any new areas that become part of or are deleted from any municipal boundaries that are annexed or de-annexed without the necessity of any amendment to this Order (although a revised county map, representing the most current information, may be incorporated herein as if copied in full).

**Section 4.** That if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this legislation is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this regulation. The Commissioner Court hereby declares that it would have passed this law, and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

**Section 5.** That nothing in this legislation or in the Fire Code hereby adopted shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any act or regulation previously repealed; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this legislation.

**Section 6.** The Commissioners Court with the assistance of the Fire Marshal and input from any relevant stakeholders will establish fees commensurate with the service rendered by the County.

**Section 7.** That this law and the rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders and matters

established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in full force and effect **July 10, 2018** from and after the date of its final passage and adoption.

## PART II–SUMMARIES OF APPENDICES

All appendices of the Fire Code are incorporated herein as if copied in full, and may be summarized for easy reference as follows:

Appendix A Board of Appeals. This appendix contains optional criteria that, when adopted, provide jurisdictions with detailed appeals, board member qualifications and administrative procedures to supplement the basic requirements found in Section 108 of this code.

The membership of the board shall consist of five voting members having the qualifications established by this section. Members shall be nominated by the fire code official or the chief administrative officer of the jurisdiction, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the governing body. Members shall serve without remuneration or compensation and shall be removed from office prior to the end of their appointed terms only for cause. **Note that the members may be appointed separately from the adoption of this Order.**

### A101.2.1 Design professional.

One member shall be a practicing design professional registered in the practice of engineering or architecture in the state in which the board is established.

### A101.2.2 Fire protection engineering professional.

One member shall be a qualified engineer, technologist, technician or safety professional trained in fire protection engineering, fire science or fire technology. Qualified representatives in this category shall include fire protection contractors and certified technicians engaged in fire protection system design.

### A101.2.3 Industrial safety professional.

One member shall be a registered industrial or chemical engineer, certified hygienist, certified safety professional, certified hazardous materials manager or comparably qualified specialist experienced in chemical process safety or industrial safety.

#### A101.2.4 General contractor.

One member shall be a contractor regularly engaged in the construction, alteration, maintenance, repair or remodeling of buildings or building services and systems regulated by the code.

#### A101.2.5 General industry or business representative.

One member shall be a representative of business or industry not represented by a member from one of the other categories of board members described above.

#### A101.3 Terms of office.

Members shall be appointed for terms of four 4 years. No member shall be reappointed to serve more than two consecutive full terms.

##### A101.3.1 Initial appointments.

Of the members first appointed when necessary, two shall be appointed for a term of one 1 year, two for a term of two 2 years, one for a term of three 3 years.

##### A101.3.2 Vacancies.

Vacancies shall be filled for an unexpired term in the manner in which original appointments are required to be made. Members appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term shall be eligible for reappointment to two full terms.

##### A101.3.3 Removal from office.

Members shall be removed from office prior to the end of their terms only for cause. Continued absence of any member from regular meetings of the board shall, at the discretion of

the applicable governing body, render any such member liable to immediate removal from office.

**Appendix B Fire-flow Requirements for Buildings.** This appendix provides a tool for the use of jurisdictions in establishing a policy for determining fire-flow requirements in accordance with Section 507.3. The determination of required fire flow is not an exact science but having some level of information provides a consistent way of choosing the appropriate fire flow for buildings throughout a jurisdiction. The primary tool used in this appendix is a table that presents fire flow based on construction type and building area based on the correlation of the Insurance Services Office (ISO) method and the construction types used in the International Building Code.

**Appendix C Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution.** This appendix focuses on the location and spacing of fire hydrants, which is important to the success of fire-fighting operations. The difficulty with determining the spacing of fire hydrants is that every situation is unique and has unique challenges. Finding one methodology for determining hydrant spacing is difficult. This particular appendix gives one methodology based on the required fire flow that fire departments can work with to set a policy for hydrant distribution around new buildings and facilities in conjunction with Section 507.5.

**Appendix D Fire Apparatus Access Roads.** This appendix contains more detailed elements for use with the basic access requirements found in Section 503, which gives some minimum criteria, such as a maximum length of 150 feet and a minimum width of 20 feet, but in many cases does not state specific criteria. This appendix, like Appendices B and C, is a tool for jurisdictions looking for guidance in establishing access requirements and includes criteria for multiple-family residential developments, large one- and two-family subdivisions, specific examples for various types of turnarounds for fire department apparatus and parking regulatory signage.

**Appendix E Hazard Categories.** This appendix contains guidance for designers, engineers,

architects, code officials, plans reviewers and inspectors in the classifying of hazardous materials so that proposed designs can be evaluated intelligently and accurately. The descriptive materials and explanations of hazardous materials and how to report and evaluate them on a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) are intended to be instructional as well as informative. Note that this appendix is for information purposes and contains mere guidelines.

Appendix F Hazard Ranking. The information in this appendix is intended to be a companion to the specific requirements of Chapters 51 through 67, which regulate the storage, handling and use of all hazardous materials classified as either physical or health hazards. These materials pose diverse hazards, including instability, reactivity, flammability, oxidizing potential or toxicity; therefore, identifying them by hazard ranking is essential. This appendix lists the various hazardous materials categories that are defined in this code, along with the NFPA 704 hazard ranking for each.

Appendix G Cryogenic Fluids—Weight and Volume Equivalents. This appendix gives the fire code official and design professional a ready reference tool for the conversion of the liquid weight and volume of cryogenic fluid to their corresponding volume of gas and vice versa and is a companion to the provisions of Chapter 55 of this code. Note that this appendix is for information purposes and contains mere guidelines.

Appendix H Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP) and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement (HMIS) Instructions. This appendix is intended to assist businesses in establishing a Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP) and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement (HMIS) based on the classification and quantities of materials that would be found on site in storage and/or use. The sample forms and available Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provide the basis for the evaluations. It is also a companion to IFC Sections 407.5 and



407.6, which provide the requirement that the HMIS and HMMP be submitted when required by the fire code official.

Appendix I Fire Protection Systems—Noncompliant Conditions. The purpose of this IFC appendix, which was developed by the ICC Hazard Abatement in Existing Buildings Committee, is to provide the fire code official with a list of conditions that are readily identifiable by the inspector during the course of an inspection utilizing the International Fire Code. The specific conditions identified in this appendix are primarily derived from applicable NFPA standards and pose a hazard to the proper operation of the respective systems. While these do not represent all of the conditions that pose a hazard or otherwise may impair the proper operation of fire protection systems, their identification in this adoptable appendix will provide a more direct path for enforcement by the fire code official.

Appendix J Building Information Sign. This appendix provides design, installation and maintenance requirements for a Building Information Sign (BIS), a fire service tool to be utilized in the crucial, initial response of fire fighters to a structure fire. The BIS placard is designed to be utilized within the initial response time frame of an incident to assist fire fighters in their tactical size-up of a situation as soon as possible after arrival on the scene of a fire emergency. The BIS design is in the shape of a fire service Maltese Cross and includes five spaces (the four wings plus the centerpiece of the cross symbol) in which information is placed about the tactical considerations of construction type and hourly rating, fire protection systems, occupancy type, content hazards and special features that could affect tactical decisions and operations.

Appendix K Construction Requirements for Existing Ambulatory Care Facilities. This new adoptable appendix was created by the ICC Ad Hoc Committee on Healthcare (AHC) and its intent is to provide jurisdictions with an option for assessing minimum fire and life safety requirements

for buildings containing ambulatory care facilities. While this appendix is written with the intent to apply retroactive minimum standards, the AHC recognized that the ambulatory care requirements are relatively recent additions to the International Building Code. For that reason, these requirements are presented as an appendix so that the adopting authority can exercise judgment in the adoption and application of this section. This appendix would also be useful for those local and state jurisdictions that are specifically focused on ensuring the safety for existing ambulatory care facilities by providing minimum criteria that could be used to bring older facilities into compliance with the current standards at the discretion of the adopting jurisdiction. The technical requirements are based on the current IBC language, which is consistent with the overall concept of the current federal requirements.

Appendix L Requirements for Fire Fighter Air Replenishment Systems. This new adoptable appendix provides for the design, installation and maintenance of permanently installed fire fighter breathing air systems in buildings designated by the jurisdiction. Breathing air is critical for fire-fighting operations. Historically, fire departments have supplied air bottles by means of a “bottle brigade,” whereby fire fighters manually transport air bottles up stairways, which is an extraordinarily fire fighter-intensive process and takes fire fighters away from their primary mission of rescue and firefighting. Technology now exists to address the issue using in-building air supply systems. Fire fighter breathing air systems were introduced in the late 1980s and are now required in a number of communities throughout the United States. The system has been called a “standpipe for air” and consists of stainless steel, high-pressure piping that is supplied by on-site air storage or fire department air supply units. Air filling stations are then strategically located throughout the building allowing fire fighters to refill breathing air cylinders inside the fire building, negating the required “bottle brigade,” and making more fire fighters available for search,

rescue and fire suppression operations.

Appendix M High-rise Buildings—Retroactive Automatic Sprinkler Requirement. This new adoptable appendix was created by the ICC Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) and its intent is to provide an option for adoption by jurisdictions that choose to require existing high-rise buildings to be retrofitted with automatic sprinklers. Modern fire and building codes require complete automatic fire sprinkler protection and a variety of other safety features in new high-rise construction. Many older high-rise buildings lack automatic sprinkler protection and other basic fire protection features necessary to protect the occupants, emergency responders and the structure itself. Without complete automatic sprinkler protection, fire departments cannot provide the level of protection that high-rise buildings demand. Existing high-rise buildings that are not protected with automatic sprinklers represent a significant hazard to occupants and fire fighters and can significantly impact a community's infrastructure and economic viability in the event of a fire loss. The FCAC recognized that not all jurisdictions may choose to or may not have legal authority to enact a retroactive construction requirement of this nature, so the proposal has been included as an adoptable appendix.

Adopted and signed on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.

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**Hon. Dan Gattis**  
**Williamson County Judge**

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**Hon. Terry Cook**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 1**

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**Hon. Valerie Covey**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 3**

**Hon. Cynthia Long**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 2**

**Hon. Larry Madsen**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 4**