

WILLIAMSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 4

ORDER No. 2023-01-23

AN ORDER AMENDING THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 4 FIRE CODE BY ADOPTING THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE AND CERTAIN AMENDMENTS THERETO; PROVIDING FOR FEES TO BE PAYABLE FOR PERMITS, APPROVALS, AND INSPECTIONS; REQUIRING A PERMIT OR APPROVAL FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS USES AND ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING FOR CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE FIRE CODE AND AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE CHIEF'S DESIGNEES TO ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE THE CODE; AUTHORIZING ENTRY ONTO PROPERTY TO CONDUCT INSPECTIONS; AUTHORIZING STOP WORK ORDERS FOR WORK PERFORMED IN VIOLATION OF THE FIRE CODE; PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN APPELLATE BODY AND FOR APPEALS FROM DECISIONS OF THE FIRE CHIEF; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Board of Emergency Services Commissioners ("Commissioners") of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4 ("District") are authorized, pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code § 775.036, and other applicable law, to adopt, amend, and enforce a fire code; and,

WHEREAS, the District has previously adopted a Fire Code and amendments thereto; and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the District desire and deem it appropriate to enact an order amending the District's Fire Code and to provide for the Fire Code's enforcement to protect the health and safety of the District's residents and property owners and to prevent fires and medical emergencies;

It is, therefore, ORDAINED, RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Emergency Services Commissioners of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4 that:

The District hereby amends the Fire Code of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4, as amended, in its entirety to read as follows:

Section 1. Adoption of Fire Code

(a) The following are adopted as the Fire Code of Williamson County Emergency Service District No. 4 in the State of Texas, regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire, medical, 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 provided below, providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore, and each of all of the regulations, provisions, penalties. The conditions and terms of the Fire Code on file in the office of the Williamson County Emergency Service District No. 4 are referred to, adopted and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this Order, with the additions, insertions, deletions, and changes, if any prescribed in Section 2 of this Order.

1. The 2021 International Fire Code (the "IFC"), and appendices B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L, promulgated by the International Code Council, Inc.
2. The 2021 International Building Code (the "IBC") Chapters 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10, promulgated by the International Code Council, Inc., but only as necessary to interpret and enforce the Fire Code of the District.

(b) This Order will, to the extent reasonable, be construed in a manner consistent with the IFC. If there is a conflict between this Order and the IFC, this Order prevails.

Section 2. Administration

(a) The District' Fire Chief is authorized to enforce this Order and the District's Fire Code, to take all actions required or authorized in provisions incorporated in this Order by reference, and to conduct all inspections, review all plans, and accept all applications for permits or approvals authorized or required by the terms of this Order.

(b) The Fire Chief shall submit monthly activity reports to the District, covering inspection, review, and enforcement activities conducted during the prior month. The Fire Chief shall keep an accurate account of all fees, fines, and other funds collected and received pursuant to this Order, the names of the persons upon whose account the same were paid, the date and amount thereof, together with the location of the building or premises to which they relate.

(c) The District shall maintain any approved plans, specifications, and other reports required by this Order in the central offices of the District for a period of not less than five years following the date such document was submitted to the District or prepared by the District, or as otherwise required by any statute, law, rule, or regulation of the State of Texas or the District, as applicable.

(d) The Fire Chief may provide for inspection and other activities necessary to carry out the intent of this Order or the Fire Code, including hiring employees, retaining contractors, or entering into any necessary agreements with any individual or entity to implement and enforce the Fire Code adopted and amended herein.

(e) The Fire Chief is authorized to designate other assistants or agents to administer and enforce this Order and the Fire Code as required by this section and to take any action that the Fire Chief is authorized to take by this Order or the Fire Code.

Section 3. Right of Entry

(a) In addition to those rights and authority authorized under the 2021 IFC (Section 104.3), whenever necessary to make an inspection to enforce any of the provisions of this Order or the Fire Code for the prevention of fires and medical emergencies, or whenever the Fire Chief has reasonable cause to believe that there exists in any building or upon any premises any condition in violation of this Order or the Fire Code, the Fire Chief may enter such building or premises at all reasonable times to inspect same or to perform any duty imposed on the Fire Chief by the Fire Code; provided that if such building or premises is occupied, the Fire Chief shall first present proper credentials and request entry; and, except during construction of the improvement to be inspected, if such building or premises are unoccupied, the Fire Chief shall make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other person(s) having charge or control of the building or premises and request entry. If such entry is refused, the Fire Chief shall have recourse to every remedy provided by law to secure entry.

(b) No owner or occupant or any other person having authority to control access to any building or premises shall fail or neglect, after request for entry is made to promptly permit entry therein by the Fire Chief for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to the Fire Code. The Fire Chief may take any action, at law or in equity, available under the Fire Code to enforce this section and any other applicable section as set forth herein or otherwise allowed under any applicable statute, law, rule, ordinance, or regulation.

Section 4. Stop Work Orders

In addition to any rights, remedies, or authority provided under this Order and the Fire Code, whenever any work or construction is being done contrary to the provisions of this Order and the Fire Code or without any permit or approval by the Fire Code, the Fire Chief may order the work or construction stopped by written notice served on any person(s) engaged in performing or causing such work to be performed. Whenever work or construction is stopped in accordance with this Order and the Fire Code, a written notice to stop work issued by the District shall be posted on the property in a manner reasonably visible to any person that may perform any work on the property. All persons shall cease all work or construction on the property until authorized to proceed by the Fire Chief. Any person that fails to comply with a notice to stop work, or removes any notice to stop work from any property without permission of the Fire Chief is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor, as defined in § 12.23, TEX. PENAL CODE, or subject to civil penalties as provided for in this Order and the Fire Code, and a culpable mental state for any criminal offenses set forth in this Order and Fire Code is specifically waived and plainly dispensed with as provided for in § 6.02, TEX. PENAL CODE, or other applicable law.

Section 5. Identification of District, Commissioners, and Appellate Body

(a) Whenever the terms “jurisdiction”, “authority having jurisdiction”, “department”, or “bureau of fire prevention,” or other such terms are used in the IFC, that term is a reference to the District, as appropriate. All regulatory authority established by the provisions of the IFC incorporated in this Order is established for the District.

(b) Any reference in the provisions of the IFC incorporated in this Order to the “executive body,” “governing body,” or other such terms, or a reference to “Commissioners” in this Order is a reference to the Board of Emergency Services Commissioners of the District.

(c) Any reference in the provision of the IFC incorporated in this Order to the “board of appeals” or other appellate body established by the IFC is reference to the Board of Appeals of the District as established by this Order in Section 6, below.

Section 6. Board of Appeals

Section 111 of the IFC is hereby deleted and the following provisions substituted in its place:

(a) If applicable the Commissioners shall appoint by resolution three residents or owners of businesses in the territory of the District to serve as members of the Board of Appeals, to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions, or determinations made by the Fire Chief

relative to the application and interpretation of this Order and the Fire Code and/or decide the complaint of any person allegedly aggrieved by a decision of the Fire Chief regarding any request for a permit or approval, any decision to stop work, or stop use, and any decision to abate, repair, modify, rehabilitate, demolish, or remove an unsafe structure or premises. All members of the Board of Appeals must be present for a quorum. Any Commissioner may serve as a member of the Board of Appeals. Members of the Board of Appeals serve and hold office at the Commissioner's pleasure, and such members may not be employees of the District.

(b) The Board of Appeals shall hear the timely appeal of any decision of the Fire Chief. A request to appeal such a decision shall be submitted in writing addressed to the President of the District and delivered to the District's central administrative offices not more than 30 days after the date of the decision or action that is the subject of the appeal. A request to appeal shall include the appellant's mailing address, and telephone number, and the address of the property subject to the appeal for the purpose of receiving notice of a hearing on the appeal. A request of appeal does not stay the decision or action from which the appeal is taken.

(c) If the Commissioners have not appointed a Board of Appeals, the Commissioners shall appoint an appellate panel to serve as the Board of Appeals and hear an appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting held not less than five days and not more than 35 days after receipt of the request to appeal. The hearing of such appeal shall be scheduled not later than 21 days following the meeting of the Commissioners at which the Board of Appeals is appointed to hear the appeal. If no meeting of the Commissioners occurs during the period of time after a request for appeal is submitted as required by this subsection, the President of the Commissioners shall appoint an appeal panel to serve as the Board of Appeals and hear the appeal and shall schedule the appeal hearing. The appointment of the Board of Appeals under this subsection may include alternate appointments in the event that one or more appointees are unable to serve at the place and time scheduled for the appeal hearing.

(d) Except as otherwise provided, the Commissioners, or the President of the Board of Emergency Services Commissioners, as applicable, shall serve written notice of the date, time, and place of the appeal hearing on the appellant not less than 10 days prior to the date of the hearing.

(e) An appellant may present evidence in support of the appeal and cross-examine opposing witnesses. The Fire Chief may present evidence in support of such decision or action and cross-examine witnesses. The Board of Appeals shall make all determinations regarding the admissibility of evidence and credibility of witnesses and may make

reasonable rulings regarding the conduct of the hearing and the manner that evidence is presented. The Board of Appeals may be assisted by legal counsel for the District in making evidentiary rulings and determining reasonable procedures for conduct of the hearing.

(f) The Board of Appeals may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision from which an appeal is taken. The decision of the majority of the Board of Appeals is the decision of the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals may reverse a decision only if, in the opinion of the majority: (a) the decision appealed is manifestly unjust; or (b) special circumstances make strict application of the rule that is the basis of the original decision impractical and the reversal of the decision is in conformity with the intent and purpose of this Order and the Fire Code; and such reversal would not result in a greater threat of danger to the life or safety. A request to appeal shall be based on a claim that the intent of this Order, the Fire Code or the rules legally adopted hereunder have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of this Order or the Fire Code do not fully apply, or an equivalent method of protection or safety is proposed. The Board of Appeals has no authority to waive the requirements of this Order or the Fire Code.

(g) If the Fire Chief determines in a written order served on the owner of property that a structure constitutes an imminent threat to the life or safety of any persons, the Fire Chief may require the demolition or removal of such structure not later than ten days following the date notice of the order is served on the owner of the affected property. The owner may request an emergency appeal of the order in writing delivered to the central administrative offices of the District at any time prior to the expiration of such ten-day period. In such event, the president of the Commissioners may appoint an appellate panel to serve on a Board of Appeals and schedule a hearing of such appeal as soon as practicable and serve notice of the time, date and place of the hearing on the owner not less than two days prior to the date of the hearing.

Section 7. Permits and Fees

The fees applicable for permits, approvals, and inspections shall be established from time to time by the Commissioners by resolution therefore. The District may require an owner or agent who applies to the District for any permits, approvals, or inspections to pay any additional costs related to any reviews of said permits, approvals, or inspections by third parties or otherwise.

Section 8. Penalties

(a) A violation of any provision of this Order or the Fire Code is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500.00 as set forth in § 12.23, TEX. PENAL CODE. A separate violation occurs each day that a violation of this Order or the Fire Code continues. A culpable mental state for any criminal offenses set forth in this Order and the Fire Code is specifically waived and plainly dispensed with as provided for in § 6.02, TEX. PENAL CODE, or other applicable law.

(b) In addition to the criminal enforcement provisions of this section, the District may bring a civil action for the enforcement of this Order or the Fire Code in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any violation of this Order or the Fire Code or to impose a civil penalty in an amount of \$500.00 per day that a violation of this Order or the Fire Code continues. A separate violation occurs each day that a violation of this Order or the Fire Code continues.

Section 9. Amendments to the International Fire Code

The following sections are hereby amended as follows:

(1) **Section 101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of Williamson County Emergency Service District No. 4, hereinafter referred to as "this code."

(2) **Section 104.1.1 Enforcement.** The Fire Chief, or a designee, is hereby authorized to issue notices of violations of and enforce this code.

(3) **Section 104.2.1 Plan review.** The fire code official is authorized to require the owner or agent to provide, without charge to the jurisdiction and at the sole cost and expense of the owner or agent, a third -party review for permits, approvals, inspections, or plans submitted to the District for approval. Any third-party review required by the District shall be conducted by an individual or entity of the Fire Code Official's choice.

(4) **Section 105.3.3 Occupancy prohibited before permit approval.** The Building or structure shall not be occupied prior to the Fire Code Official issuing a permit that indicates that applicable provisions of this code have been met for any new structure or change in an existing occupancy or use of the occupancy.

(5) **Section 111 Board of Appeals.** This section is deleted in its entirety, and Section 6 above is substituted in its place.

(6) **Section 112.4 Violation penalties.** This section is deleted in its entirety, and Section 8 above is substituted in its place.

(7) **Section 113.4 Failure to comply.** This section is deleted in its entirety, and Section 4 above is substituted in its place.

(8) **Section 202, Definitions,** is hereby amended to include the following amended or added defined terms:

“Animal Housing or Care Facility” means facilities used for temporary or permanent housing of animals for the purpose of providing a service, participating in a sport, or for providing general board and care. Animal housing or care facilities do not include animal or pet care by pet owners caring for their own animals at their owned or rented residential property, horse stables, facilities used for equestrian purposes, and these facilities do not include Group U agricultural uses for the care and feeding of the agricultural business owner's own livestock.

“Constant supervision” means for Group B Animal Housing or Care Facilities, constant supervision means 24-hour on-site staff that is capable of responding to problems or emergencies that could impact the safety or lives of the animals being housed or cared for.

(BG) Business Group B. Business Group B occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for office, professional or service-type transactions, including storage of records and accounts. Business occupancies shall include, but not be limited to the following:

Airport traffic control towers

Ambulatory care facilities

Animal Housing or care facilities, including shelters, breeding, grooming, daycare, hospitals, kennels and pounds...the balance to remain unchanged.

(A) Townhouse. A single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from the foundation to the roof, each unit must have a separate means of egress, the building cannot exceed three stories above grade plane, there is not a common attic, and each unit shall have open space on at least two sides.

(9) Section 307.2.1 Authorization. All outdoor burning shall be done in accordance with Texas Outdoor Burning Rule, Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC) Sections

111.201 - 111.221. If a conflict should arise between this code and the Texas Outdoor Burning Rule, Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC) Sections 111.201 - 111.221, then the more stringent rule shall apply. Where required by state or local law or this code, open burning is only allowed with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed. If issued, outdoor burning permits may be revoked at any time by the Fire Code Official if any conditions or limitations set forth in the permit have been violated. This action if taken may result in fines or additional fees issued by the District. All outdoor burning conducted within the District must be authorized and may require an on-site visit prior to initiating any outdoor burning. The individual responsible for the outdoor burning shall call Williamson County Emergency Communications, or other entities as directed by the District, for notification and instructions. After the request is received, a code official or fire department officer may conduct an on-site inspection. If required, and the site inspection is satisfactory, a permit will be granted to conduct the burn. Open burning within the District as described above that is to be intended for residential maintenance and does not require a permit fee, given burning is occasional and not commercial in nature. **The burning of domestic waste** is specifically excluded from this code in the unincorporated areas of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4. Any open burning other than that intended for residential maintenance or the burning of domestic waste in unincorporated areas within the District as described above, i.e., lot clearing, prescribed burning, or if in the code official's opinion, a request that exceeds acceptable height, size or frequency, requires a prescribed burn permit and payment of fees. Application for such approval(s) shall be presented by and permits shall be issued only to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

Open burning is not permitted within the City Limits of Liberty Hill except when permitted by the Fire Code Official and an order by the City of Liberty Hill.

(10) **Section 308.1.4 Open-flame cooking devices.** Charcoal burners/grills and other similar flame-cooking devices shall not be operated/used on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. Such cooking devices shall not be stored on combustible balconies.

This provision does not apply to one- and two-family dwellings.

(11) **Section 311.2.2 Fire Protection.** Fire alarm, sprinkler, and standpipe systems shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times. Any impairment or malfunction of the fire alarm, sprinkler, or standpipe system shall be reported immediately to the District.

(12) **Section 315.7.3 Storage Height.** Pallet storage shall not exceed 10 feet in height.

(13) **Section 403.1.1 Public Safety Plan.** The Fire Code Official is authorized to require an approved public safety plan where the Fire Code Official determines that an indoor or outdoor gathering of persons may have an adverse impact on public safety. An adverse impact may be caused by diminished access to buildings, structures, fire hydrants, fire apparatus access roads, mass gatherings, or an event which adversely affects delivery of public safety of any kind.

(14) **Section 501.4 Timing of Installation.** Where fire apparatus access roads or a water supply for fire protection is required to be installed for any structure or development, they shall be installed, tested, and approved prior to the time of which construction has progressed beyond completion of the foundation phase of any structure. The only approved all-weather surface for fire apparatus access roads are concrete or asphalt paving.

(15) **Section 503.2.1 Dimensions.** Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 25 feet, face-of-curb to face-of-curb, except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches. Widths less than 25 feet may be approved by the Fire Chief in special circumstances, provided that a reduced width fire apparatus access road has markings and signage as required by **Section D103.6.1** related to roads 25 to 31 feet in width.

(16) **Section 503.6 Security gates.** The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus road must be approved by the Fire Chief. Where security gates are installed,

they shall have an approved means of emergency operation, including a means of operation without power and a means of operation with a Knox key switch, Knox Box® , key box, or similar access device. The security gates and emergency operation shall be maintained at all times. A single gate serving two- way traffic shall be at least 25 feet in clear open width. When two gates are installed and each only serves one direction of travel, they shall be at least 15 feet in clear open width each. This provision pertains and applies to new and existing gates. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be listed in accordance with UL 325. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed, and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F 2200. When required by the Fire Code Official, defective gates shall be secured in the open position until repaired.

(17) **Section 505.1 Address identification.** New buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be a minimum of 6 inches high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch. Where access is by means of a private road and the building is located more than 150 feet from the public street or road, the address number shall be posted at the street entrance by a monument, pole, or other sign or means.

(18) **Section 506.1.1 Locks.** An approved Knox ® padlock shall be installed on gates or similar barriers when required by the Fire Code Official.

(19) **Section 506.1.3 Knox Box approved locations.** A key box shall be provided at the main building entrance for all new buildings and at the entrances to each sprinkler riser room/fire pump room of large buildings/facilities.

(20) **Section 506.3 Document vaults.** Where a building or occupancy contains an occupancy or business that is required to maintain Safety Data Sheets (SDS), a lock box or key box document vault may be required to be installed by the Fire Code Official. The document vault shall be installed in an accessible location approved by the Fire Code Official. The document vault shall contain copies of the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) that are required to be on file within the building or occupancy as well as a floor plan or written description that indicates the location of the general area where these materials will be found within the building or occupancy. The Fire Code Official may authorize the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) information to be stored on a thumb-drive or similar electronic data storage device and placed inside the Knox Box®

key box, but such device must be protected from any elements that may enter the key box.

(21) **Section 506.4 Security Caps.** When a building is protected by an automatic sprinkler system or standpipe system and the fire department connection is exposed to undue vandalism the Fire Code Official may require that a Fire Department Connection Security Cap(s) be installed. The Fire Department Connection Security Cap(s) shall be of a type approved by the Fire Code Official.

(22) **Section 507.5.1 Where required.** Where a portion of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 300 feet (91.5 m) from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the Fire Code Official. For Group R-3 and Group U occupancies, the distance requirement shall be 500 feet (153 m).

(23) **Section 507.5.1.2 Hydrant for any fire department connection.** Buildings equipped with any fire department connections system installed in accordance with Section 903 and Section 905 shall have a fire hydrant within 100 feet (30.48 m) of the fire department connection. The distance may exceed 100 feet (30.48 m) where approved by the Fire Code Official.

(24) **Section 509.3 Main Electrical Disconnect.** The main electrical disconnect for each building shall be installed on the exterior of the building in an approved location. In lieu of the main disconnect, a remote shunt trip may be installed to disconnect electrical service when approved by the Fire Code Official.

(25) **Section 901.4.7 Pump and riser room.** A dedicated room shall be provided for fire pumps and automatic sprinkler system risers and that room shall have a minimum fire resistive rating of 1 hour. Pump and riser rooms shall be provided with an exterior access and the exterior access door shall face an access drive marked as a fire lane. Pump rooms shall comply with the construction requirements specified in NFPA Standard 20. Where provided, fire pump rooms and automatic sprinkler system riser rooms shall be designed with adequate space for all equipment necessary for the installation, as defined by the manufacturer, with sufficient working space around the stationary equipment. Clearances around equipment to elements of permanent construction, including other installed equipment and appliances, shall be sufficient to allow inspection, service, repair

or replacement without removing such elements of permanent construction or disabling the function of a required fire-resistant-rated assembly. Fire pump and automatic sprinkler riser rooms shall be provided with a door(s) and an unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal of the largest piece of equipment.

(26) **Section 903.2.8 Group R.** An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R fire area, including the attic, except those classified as Group R-3.

(27) **Section 903.2.8.5 Townhouses.** An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be permitted in townhouses. In the event of a common attic for the townhouses, an automatic sprinkler system shall be installed.

(28) **Section 903.2.9.4 delete exception**

(29) **Section 903.2.9.5 Self-Service Storage Facilities.** An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed throughout all self-storage facilities.

(30) **Section 903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D sprinkler systems.** This section is deleted from this code as it relates to 1 and 2 family dwellings.

(31) **Section 906.1 Where required.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in the following locations.

1. In all new and existing Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-2, R-4, and S occupancies.
2. Within 30 feet (9144mm) of commercial cooking equipment.
3. In areas where flammable or combustible liquids are stored, used or dispensed.
4. On each floor of structures under construction, except Group R-3 occupancies, in accordance with Section 3315.1.
5. Where required by the sections indicated in Table 906.1.
6. Special-hazard areas, including but not limited to, laboratories, computer rooms, generator rooms, where required by the fire code official.
7. In R-2 occupancies, portable fire extinguishers must be installed in each dwelling unit at a location determined by the fire code official.

(32) Section 907.2 Where required - new buildings and structures. An *approved* fire alarm system installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72 shall be provided in new buildings and structure in accordance with Sections 907.2.1 through 907.2.23 and provide occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5, unless other requirements are provided by another section of this code.

1. Any facility that provides care/boarding to more than 3 humans who are physically or mentally incapable of self-preservation and are not related by blood or marriage to the caregiver *SHALL* install an approved, monitored fire alarm system.
2. Any facility that provides care/boarding services to any animal not under 24 hour on-site human supervision *SHALL* install an approved, monitored fire alarm system.

(33) Section 907.2.2.2.1 Notification appliances shall provide audible and visual alarm signals in office areas and other areas within the fire area where no animals are housed or cared for. Notification appliances within areas where animals are housed or cared for shall provide only visual alarm signals.

(34) Section 912.2.1.1 Visible Location. Fire department connections shall be located on the street side of buildings or facing approved fire apparatus access road, fully visible and recognizable from the street, fire apparatus access road or nearest point of fire department vehicle access or as otherwise approved by the fire code official, and spaced a minimum of 15 feet to 30 feet from the building.

(35) Section 1009.1 Accessible means of egress required. Accessible means of egress shall comply with both this section and the Architectural Barrier Act of the Texas Civil Statutes (Texas Accessibility Standards or TAS). The Fire Code Official may require the owner, applicant, or agent to provide a technical report from a qualified person certifying T AS compliance. Accessible space shall be provided with not less than one accessible means of egress. Where more than one means of egress is required by Section 1006.2 or 1006.3 from an accessible space, each accessible portion of the space shall be served by not less than two accessible means of egress.

(36) Section 2305.5 Fire Extinguishers. Approved portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 with a minimum rating of 4-A:40-B:C shall be provided and located such that an extinguisher is not more than 75 feet (22860mm) from pumps, dispensers or storage tank fill-pipe openings.

(37) Section 5706.2. 7 Portable fire extinguishers. Portable fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 4-A: 40-B:C and complying with Section 906 shall be provided where required by the Fire Code Official.

(38) Section B105.1 One- and two-family dwelling, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses. The minimum fire-flow and flow duration requirements for one and two- family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses shall be 1,000 gallons per minute for 1 hour. Fire flow and flow duration for dwellings having a fire-flow calculation in excess of 3,600 square feet shall not be less than the flow specified in Table B 105 .1 (2). The Fire Code Official may approve a reduction in required fire-flow when the building is equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system. The Fire Code Official may determine the amount of fire-flow reduction permitted.

(39) Section B105.2 Buildings other than one- and two-family dwelling, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses. The minimum fire-flow and flow duration requirements for buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 buildings and townhouses shall be as specified in Table B 105.1(2).

The Fire Code Official may approve a reduction in required fire-flow of not less than 1500 GPM when a building is equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system.

(40) Section C103.1 Hydrant Spacing. Where required by Section 507.5.1, a minimum of one (1) hydrant shall be provided within 300 feet of all portions of exterior walls (first floor), and a second hydrant provided within 500 feet of all portions of exterior walls (first floor). This measurement is taken around the perimeter of the building and down the access road to the hydrant (MEASUREMENT NOT TAKEN AS A RADIUS).

The Fire Code Official may accept a deficiency of up to 10 percent where existing fire hydrants provided all or a portion of the required fire hydrant service.

Regardless of the average spacing, fire hydrants shall be located such that all points on streets and access roads adjacent to a building are within the distances listed in Table C105.1.

(41) Section C105.2 Installation. Fire hydrants must be installed with the center of the 5" Storz steamer opening at least 18 inches above finished grade. The 5" Storz opening must face the driveway or street and must be totally unobstructed to the street. Fire hydrant design shall be two- 2.5" NST outlets and one- 5" Storz outlet. Set back from the face of the hydrant to back of the curb shall be in accordance with WCESD No. 4 Standards except that on private property, set back shall be three to six feet to avoid vehicular damage, unless specifically approved by the fire chief.

(42) Section D103.3 Turning radius. Fire apparatus access roadways shall be designed with an appropriate 25 foot inside turning and a 50 foot outside turning radius at turns to accommodate any operational fire department apparatus. A radius of less than 25 feet inside or 50 feet outside may be approved by the Fire Code Official in special circumstances.

(43) Section D103.5 Fire apparatus access road gates. Gates securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with Section 503.6.

(44) Section D103.6 Markings and signs. Where required by the Fire Code Official, fire apparatus access roads shall be marked as follows:

Where curb and guttering exist, all curbs of fire apparatus access roads shall be painted red and be conspicuously and legibly marked with the warning FIRE LANE - TOW AWAY ZONE in white letters at least three inches tall, at intervals not exceeding 35 feet. Where no curb and guttering exist, fire apparatus access roads shall be marked with permanent FIRE LANE - TOW AWAY ZONE signs at intervals not exceeding 50 feet. Signs shall have a minimum dimension of 12 inches wide by 18 inches high and have red letters on a white reflective background. Signs shall be posted on one side or both sides of the fire apparatus road as required by Section D103.6.1 or D103.6.2.

(45) D103.6.1 Roads 25 to 31 feet in width. Fire lane signs as specified in Section D103.6 shall be posted on both sides of fire apparatus access roads that are 25 to 31 feet wide.

(46) D103.6.2 Roads more than 31 feet and less than 36 feet in width. Fire lane signs as specified in Section D103.6 shall be posted on one side of fire apparatus access roads more than 31 feet wide and less than 36 feet in width.

(47) L101.1 Required Location. Fire fighter air replenishment systems (FARS) shall be provided in accordance with this appendix in new buildings when any of the following conditions occur:

- a. Any new building 5 or more stories in height.
- b. Any new building with 2 or more floors below grade.
- c. Any new building 500,000 square feet or more in size.

Each stairwell shall have a supply riser. SCBA fill stations shall be located on odd numbered floors in the primary stairwell and on even numbered floors in the secondary stairwells. The primary stairwell shall be the stairwell located closest to the main building entrance. Fill station in buildings over 500,000 square feet shall be located adjacent to each standpipe location.

(48) L104.5 Breathing Air Supply. A stored pressure air supply shall be provided in accordance with section with section L104.5.1 that shall be capable of filling not less than 50 empty breathing air cylinders of a size and pressure used by the fire department. A stored pressure air supply shall be permitted to be added to a system supplied by an external mobile air connection provided that a means to bypass the stored pressure air supply is located at the external mobile air connection.

(49) **LI04.13.1 Location**; delete this section in its entirety.

(50) **L1004.14 External Mobile Air Connection**. An external mobile air connection shall be provided for the fire department mobile air apparatus where required by section LI 04.5 to supply the system with breathing air. The external mobile air connection shall be located with an approved separation from the Fire Department Connection (FDC) to allow functionality of both devices by first responders, it shall be visible from and within 50 feet of a fire apparatus access road along an obstructed path, and it shall be located in an approved signed, secured cabinet.

Section 10. References to Other Codes

The District shall not have a building official or separate code regulating the construction of buildings, including but not limited to separate building code, mechanical code, plumbing code, or electrical code, except as expressly incorporated by the terms of this Order or the Fire Code and necessary for the proper interpretation or enforcement of this Order and the Fire Code. Only parts of other international codes that relate to fire safety are incorporated in this Order and the Fire Code. Any provision in the IFC or other provision incorporated in this Order or the Fire Code by reference that refers to any act to be referred to or conducted by a building official shall be disregarded as though such reference were deleted and all other parts of the affected sentence, section, article, or chapter remained in force and effective. Any reference in the IFC (or other provision incorporated in this Order or the Fire Code) to compliance in a manner provided in a building code, electrical code, plumbing code, or mechanical code shall be disregarded except to the extent that the provision of such other code is incorporated in this Order or the Fire Code by reference and to allow for the proper interpretation and enforcement of this Order and the Fire Code. The disregard of the manner of compliance does not otherwise affect the requirement to comply with other applicable codes provided however that if a provision refers to compliance with the term of any such other code that is not incorporated in this Order or the Fire Code by reference, as opposed to compliance in a manner provided in the other code, the requirement of compliance shall be disregarded altogether. If the disregard of any reference results in unusual syntax or sentence structure of the remainder of the affected provision, a reasonable interpretation shall be given to the remainder in light of the intent and purpose of this Order and the Fire Code and the authority of the District.

Section 11. Conflicts

All orders that are in conflict with the provisions of this Order or the Fire Code are hereby repealed, except as necessary to continue with any suit, proceeding, or enforcement of violations of the previous Fire Code of the District currently pending at the time of the adoption of this Order, and such orders shall remain in full force and effect during the pendency of any such suit, proceeding, or enforcement action by the District or as otherwise terminated by applicable law, nor shall any equitable or legal right or remedy of the District of any kind be lost, impaired, or affected by this Order. All other orders of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4 not in conflict with the provisions of this Order and the Fire Code remain in full force and effect.

Section 12, Severability.

Should any portion or part of this Order and the Fire Code be held for any reason invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not be construed to affect any other valid portion hereof, but all valid portions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 13. Maintenance of Order and Previous Orders.

A copy of this Order and the Fire Code and any necessary previous orders necessary for the continued enforcement of the Fire Code of the District shall be maintained at the central administrative offices of the District for inspection and use by interested persons. The District shall inform any person inquiring where copies of the 2021 International Fire Code or other applicable International Fire Code may be purchased from the publisher thereof.

Section 14, Notice/Publication.


The Fire Chief shall provide notice or publication of this Order and the Fire Code as required by applicable law, if any, and maintain proof thereof in the records of the District.

Section 15, Effective Date.

This Order will become effective on February 1, 2023, upon its passage by the Commissioners of the District.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 4

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23 DAY OF January 2023.



Dan Clark, President

Attest;



Jason Shaw, Vice President

CERTIFICATE FOR ORDER

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON §

The undersigned officer of the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4 hereby certifies as follows:

1. The Board of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4 (“District”) convened in a regular meeting on the 23rd day of January 2023, at Liberty Hill Fire Station, 301 Loop 332, Liberty Hill, Texas, and the following officers and members of the Board:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| Dan Clark | - | President |
| Jason Shaw | - | Vice President |
| James Crabtree | - | Secretary |
| Chuck Walker | - | Treasurer |
| Kim Sanders | - | Asst. Treasurer |

were present, except Commissioner(s) James Crabtree thus constituting a quorum. Among other business, an:

ORDER ADOPTING AMENDED AND RESTATED FIRE CODE

was introduced for the consideration of the Board. It was then moved and seconded that the Order be adopted, and, after discussion, the motion prevailed and carried by majority vote.

2. A true, full and correct copy of the Order adopted at the meeting described above is attached to this certificate. The Order has been recorded in the District’s minutes of the meeting. The persons named in the paragraph above are the duly chosen, qualified and acting officers and members of the Board as indicated in paragraph 1. Each of the officers and members of the Board was notified officially and personally, in advance, of the time, place and purpose of the Board meeting and that the Order would be introduced and considered for adoption at the meeting. Each of the officers and members consented, in advance, to holding the meeting for such purpose. The meeting was open to the public as required by law, and public notice of the time, place and subject of the meeting was given as required by Chapter 551 of the Government Code.

SIGNED this 23rd day of January, 2023.



Jason Shaw, Vice President
Board of Commissioners

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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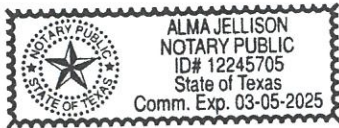
COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

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This instrument was acknowledged before me on January 23, 2023, by Jason Shaw, Vice President of the Board of Commissioners of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 4, on behalf of the District.

(seal)



Notary Public Signature