

EXPLANATION OF DOCUMENTS:

Underlined language equals added text.

~~Struck through language equals deleted text.~~

All proposed changes are highlighted in yellow.

Chapter 32 FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 32-18. Enforcement.

- (a) *Fire Marshal.* The Fire Marshal is authorized to render interpretations of fire codes and to make and enforce rules and supplemental regulations in order to carry out the application and intent of its provisions.
- (b) *Enforcement assistance.* Police and other enforcement agencies shall have the authority to render necessary assistance in the enforcement of fire codes when requested to do so by the Fire Marshal.
- (c) *Interference with enforcement.* Persons shall not interfere or cause conditions that would interfere with the fire marshal carrying out any duties or functions prescribed in the fire codes.
- ~~(d) *Fire watch.* The fire marshal shall have the authority to require standby fire personnel or an approved fire watch when potentially hazardous conditions or a reduction in a life safety feature exists due to the type of performance, display, exhibit, occupancy, contest or activity, impairment to a fire protection feature, or the number of persons present.~~
- ~~(e) *Fire watch employment.* The owner, agent, or lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons, as required and approved, to be on duty. Such standby personnel or fire watch personnel shall be subject to the fire marshal's orders at all times and shall be identifiable and remain on duty during times such places are open to the public, when such activity is being conducted, or as required by the fire marshal.~~
- (d) Extra-duty/fire watch ordinance.

- (1) When required by the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal for buildings that could be hazardous in nature, including the temporary cessation of life safety infrastructure, a temporary measure intended to ensure systematic surveillance of a building or portion thereof by one (1) or more qualified individuals for the purpose of identifying hazards, detecting early signs of unwanted fire, raising an alarm and notifying the fire department, shall be provided to serve as fire watch. Fire watch personnel shall be provided with at least one (1) approved means for notification of the fire department and their sole duty shall be to perform constant patrols and watch for the occurrence of fire.

- (2) In the event the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal determines that a special event may have an adverse impact on public safety or affect the delivery of services, a public safety plan should be prescribed to ensure an approved level of public safety. The plan provisions are beyond the scope of fire watch and establish the need for extra-duty personnel during the times such places are open to the public, or activity is being conducted. The public safety plan shall be provided by the event coordinator and approved by the fire marshal.
- (3) Such fire personnel shall be subject to the orders of the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal, at all times and shall be identifiable and remain on duty during the times such places are open to the public, when such activity is being conducted, or while such impairment or condition remains, as required by the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal.
- (4) Fire watch shall be documented using a fire watch log maintained at the protected facility and available to fire department personnel at all times during a fire watch.
- (5) Whereby extra-duty fire personnel or an approved fire watch is required; the owner, agent, or lessee shall employ one (1) or more qualified persons, as required and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction to be on duty. Fire personnel shall be compensated at a rate of Fifty dollars (\$50.00) per hour for a minimum of four (4) hours.
- (6) The cost of extra-duty and fire watch personnel shall be at no cost to the fire department.
- (7) The fire department shall be authorized to establish and collect fees to recover the costs for equipment, supplies, and personnel affiliated with fire or medical services extra-duty assignments, fire watch, and similar services, beyond the normal scope of emergency operations. The fire chief will have the capability to change the rate of employment and equipment cost.
- (8) Procurement and distribution of fire department apparatus will be charged at the rate as established by the Board of Commissioners.

(Ord. of 12-18-2007; Ord. of 3-18-2008)

ARTICLE VII. APPLICABILITY

Sec. 32-19. Fire hydrants; water mains.

- (a) *Installation of water mains.* Water mains and fire hydrants shall be installed under water pressure and ready for firefighting before any sheathing may be installed on walls and roofs of buildings, unless said sheathing is of fire resistive construction.
- (b) *General requirements for potable water system.* Water mains properly connected with the county water supply system or with an alternate supply system approved by the county health department shall be constructed in such a manner so as to adequately serve all lots shown on the subdivision plat for both residential use and fire protection. All materials, labor, equipment, and other items related to construction of the water distribution system shall be provided in accordance with policies and specifications of the Eatonton Putnam Water and Sewer Authority.
- (~~a~~c) *Ownership.* All fire hydrants installed within the unincorporated area of Putnam County shall be owned by and under the direct supervision of the respective owners. Owners shall be required to provide the Putnam

County Fire Chief with a complete listing of the number and location of all fire hydrants under their supervision.

- (bd) *Fire hydrants required.* All public well or water supply systems, as defined in this Code, shall provide fire hydrants as a primary means of fire suppression. This requirement shall apply to newly constructed systems and any expansion of existing systems where such expansion would add service for 15 or more connections or add service for 25 or more persons on a daily basis whether such expansion is completed at one time or in several phases. Owners or operators of existing public well or water supply systems are hereby prohibited from removing fire hydrants currently installed in said systems except as provided below. Existing public well or water supply systems which do not include fire hydrants shall not be required to install fire hydrants unless the system is expanded as provided above.
- (ee) *Fire hydrant standards.* All fire hydrants, fittings, valves and fire department connections incorporated into a public well or water supply system shall be installed and maintained by the respective owners in accordance with the most recent version of the International Fire Code including any appendices as adopted by Putnam County and shall be of a standard and accepted make as approved by the Putnam County Fire Department. Said standards include, but are not limited to, minimal distance between fire hydrants, location with respect to public right-of-way, design and construction specifications, and pressure/flow capacity. All fire hydrants shall be fitted with a 5" Storz nozzle, a non-threaded outlet connector able to allow a quarter-turn connection, or comparable connector, as approved by the Putnam County Fire Chief and shall be not less than eighteen (18) inches or more than thirty-six (36) inches above the level of the adjoining ground or paving. Hydrants shall meet the requirements of NFPA No. 24, Fire Hydrants for Outside Protection. Hydrants should be placed at least fifty (50) feet from the buildings protected. Where it is impossible to place them at this distance, they may be put nearer, provided they are set in locations where the chance of injury by falling walls is small, and from which personnel are not likely to be driven by smoke or heat while attempting to hookup. Such fire hydrants shall be serviced by water mains no less than eight inches in diameter.
- (ef) *Fire chief granted authority.* The Putnam County Fire Chief, or his/her designee, is hereby granted the authority to inspect, test and approve all fire hydrants situated within the unincorporated area of Putnam County. The Putnam County Fire Chief shall keep all records of the location and test results of all fire hydrants under this authority. The fire chief, or his/her designee, shall indicate the result of testing by color-coding the fire hydrant according to the International Fire Code standards. Newly installed fire hydrants shall be tested within 180 days of installation. Existing fire hydrants shall be tested at intervals of no less than two years. No owner of a fire hydrant included under this authority shall interfere with or restrict the ability of the Putnam County Fire Chief to exercise this authority.
- (eg) *Fire hydrant out-of-service.* The owner of any fire hydrant under their supervision which is known to be inoperative or out of service for any reason shall promptly report the same to the Putnam County Fire Chief. Any fire hydrant found, on testing, to fail to meet the standards set forth above shall be designated as out-of-service. The Putnam County Fire Chief shall notify the owner, in writing, of any fire hydrant designated as being out-of-service within ten days of such designation. The notification may be by personal service or U.S. Postal Service, registered letter.
- (fh) *Owner duty to repair.* Upon notification of a fire hydrant being out-of-service, it shall be the duty of the owner to repair or replace the defective fire hydrant so as to place it back in service within 90 days of receiving notification. Alternatively, at the option of the owner, the defective fire hydrant may be physically removed from the system, providing however that the distance between the remaining, approved fire hydrants be no less than 1,000 feet.
 - i) *Water mains.* Minimum size of water mains and spacing of fire hydrants for future construction and development shall be determined according to the standards and specifications of the Eatonton Putnam Water and Sewer Authority In single-family approved subdivisions, at least an

eight-inch pipe shall be installed, except within three hundred (300) feet of a cul-de-sac. Water flow in those lines shall provide a minimum flow of water at seven hundred fifty (750) gallons per minute. Fire hydrants shall be spaced not to exceed five hundred twenty-five (525) feet. Three-way hydrants shall be installed in all areas of the county.

ii) In multifamily approved subdivisions or multifamily apartment complexes, at least an eight-inch or larger pipe shall be installed, except within three hundred (300) feet of a cul-de-sac. Water flow in those lines shall provide a minimum flow of water at seven hundred fifty (750) gallons per minute. Fire hydrants shall be spaced not to exceed five hundred twenty-five (525) feet. Additional fire hydrants may be required to permit all portions of buildings to be reached by hose lays of not more than four hundred (400) feet by road travel. Three-way hydrants shall be installed in all areas of the county.

iii) In approved industrial and commercial areas, including, but not limited to, motels, hotels, nursing homes, hospitals, educational buildings, office buildings and other structures not listed elsewhere at least a twelve-inch or larger pipe shall be installed to provide a minimum flow of water at one thousand (1,000) gallons per minute. A larger flow of water may be required pursuant to fire flow calculations. Fire hydrants shall be spaced not to exceed four hundred (400) feet.

iv) Additional fire hydrants may be required by the fire department to permit all portions of a development to be reached by hose lays not more than four hundred (400) feet by road travel. Three-way hydrants shall be installed in all areas of the county.

(g) *Violations.* Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Code, any violation of this code section shall be punishable by a minimum fine of \$50.00. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. of 12-18-2007; Ord. of 3-18-2008; Ord. of 1-19-2016 ; Ord. of 7-19-2022(1))

Sec. ~~32-19.1~~ 32-20. Fire hydrant tax.

- (a) *Special district created.* A special tax district within Putnam County is hereby created, consisting of all real property situated within the unincorporated area of Putnam County. Said special district shall be known as the Putnam County Fire Suppression District.
- (b) *Special tax to be levied.* To pay, wholly or partially, the costs of installing, maintaining, inspecting, and testing of fire hydrants within the special district, a special tax shall be levied against all taxable real property situated within the special district. The amount of said tax shall be set, from time to time, by the Putnam County Board of Commissioners, providing however that the tax shall not exceed \$25.00 per annum.
- (c) *Distribution of tax proceeds.* As a fee for collection services, the tax commissioner of Putnam County shall be paid ten percent of the fire hydrant tax fees collected. The remaining special tax proceeds shall be paid into a restricted fund of Putnam County, said restricted fund to be established by resolution of the Putnam County Board of Commissioners. The restricted fund shall be used exclusively to compensate the Putnam County Fire-Rescue Department and owners of fire hydrants located in the unincorporated area of Putnam County for duties imposed by this code section. Compensation to owners of fire hydrants shall be made by written agreements between the owner and Putnam County.

(Ord. of 1-19-2016)

State constitution reference(s)—Ref. GA Constitution, Art. IX, Sect. II, Para. VI (c)

Sec. 32-21. Life Safety infrastructure

(a) Emergency entrance key lock box. In order to expedite entry into a structure and to aid the fire department in the task of extinguishment, the following requirements have been developed.

(1) All new occupancies except one- and two-family dwellings, shall have a key lock box, approved by the fire marshal.

(2) The location of the key lock box shall be approved by the fire marshal's office.

(3) All gated residential developments shall have a key lock box or key gate access, approved by the fire marshal.

Exception: Single family residential property with gated driveways.

(b) Fire alarm ordinance.

(1) In addition to NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, all buildings with fire sprinkler systems must have a fire alarm system, designed per NFPA72.

(2) All systems must dial 911 immediately upon activation.

(c) Fire protection sprinkler, new construction.

(1) Hotels, motels, dormitories, lodging houses or rooming houses, residential board and care facilities, multifamily residential dwellings, educational occupancies, day care occupancies, and health care facilities, regardless of type of construction shall have complete, automatic fire sprinkler systems installed in accordance with NFPA installation standards.

(2) All community living arrangements shall have automatic fire sprinkler systems installed in accordance with NFPA installation standards.

(3) In addition, according to the NFPA Code, all day care occupancies must install an automatic sprinkler system per NFPA 13R.

(4) Care facilities shall be classified as Residential Group R3 occupancies in accordance with Section 310.4 of the International Building Code.

- (5) Care facilities for persons receiving care that are within a single-family dwelling unit are permitted to comply with the International Residential Code provided an automatic sprinkler system is installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 or Section P2904 of the International Residential Code
- a. Personal care homes and adult or child day care facilities shall provide an approved state license prior to the issuance of a county business license.
 - b. All home occupations shall obtain a business license from Putnam County.
 - c. Home occupation personal care homes shall be limited to the provision of care and supervision to not more than three (3) persons.
- (6) All group home care occupancies must install a sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13R.
- (7) Assembly occupancies are required to install an automatic sprinkler system where one of the following conditions exist:
- a. The building or space exceeds five thousand (5,000) square feet;
 - b. The building or space has an occupant load of one hundred (100) or more;
 - c. The building or space is located on a floor other than the level of exit discharge.
- (8) All buildings ten thousand (10,000) square feet or more under a common roof, and buildings over one (1) story in height, or any building with an occupant load of three hundred (300) or more persons shall be sprinkled with an approved NFPA 13 system with the exception of the following:
- a. Multifamily dwellings up to and including three (3) stories in height shall be sprinkled with an approved sprinkler system modified to include full sprinkler coverage in all attics and breezeways;
 - b. Single-family dwellings within a subdivision.

- (i) In addition to the NFPA Code any residential occupancies containing more than two (2) dwelling units must install an approved automatic sprinkler system per NFPA 13, 13R, or 13D design requirements, as approved by the local fire marshal and/or authority having jurisdiction; including townhouses and condominiums.

Exception - Automatic residential sprinkler systems for townhouses shall be permitted to be designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 13D and shall be modified to include full sprinkler coverage in all attics and breezeways.

- (9) All buildings six thousand (6,000) square feet or more in an area under a common roof where vehicles are pulled inside for the purpose of maintenance, repair, storage, or installation of all accessories shall be fully sprinkled with an approved sprinkler system except where vehicle bay areas in a building are less than or equal to six hundred (600) square feet, it shall be permissible to place up to six (6) sprinkler heads off of the domestic water supply in lieu of sprinkling the entire building. In so doing, calculations must be performed by an approved sprinkler contractor certified by the State of Georgia and such calculations must be shown on the plans submitted for approval by the fire marshal's office.

- (10) Each automatic sprinkler system required by this article shall be in accordance with one (1) of the following:

- a. NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems
- b. NFPA 13D, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes
- c. NFPA 13R, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height

- (11) All buildings or structures installing a 13R sprinkler system must also install a sprinkler system in the attic.

Exception: Paragraphs (1) through (9); Plans submitted prior to adoption of the ordinance from which this article is derived, must meet the sprinkler requirements adopted at the time plans were submitted.

- (12) A "fire wall" shall not be considered to be a separate building so as to avoid the required automatic fire extinguishing system.
- (13) Approved ventilation hoods and hood fire suppression equipment shall be installed in restaurants or other occupancies, including food trucks, with food preparation facilities having cooking appliances capable of producing grease laden vapors, such as ranges, deep fat fryers, grills, broilers, or other similar appliances. The standards for approval of such facilities shall be based on the fire code, including NFPA 96, Ventilation Control and Fire Suppression of Commercial Cooking Operations.
- (14) Buildings shall be equipped with an approved standpipe system when required by the building or fire code. Required standpipes shall be installed in accordance with the building code, fire code, and NFPA 14, Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems. Site plans with fire hydrant and FDC location must be submitted for review by the local fire marshal.
- (15) The fire department connection (FDC) must be placed at the main entrance (driveway) and out of the collapse zone of the building with no obstructions, and within fifty (50) feet of a fire hydrant. The FDC should stand between thirty-six (36) inches to forty-eight (48) inches above grade. No person shall put any post or installation or structure or landscaping, nearer than thirty-six (36) inches to any fire department connection (FDC) or hydrant.
- (16) Before any fire protection system is installed, plans shall be submitted by the contractor installing the sprinkler system to the fire marshal's office, which shall review the plans for compliance with NFPA standards prior to stamping the plans as "reviewed." Plans must show:
- a. Proposed system design over building layout.
 - b. Copy of Georgia State License.
 - c. All sets of working plans shall be signed, and a certified seal placed thereon.
 - d. Hydraulic calculations. Information sheets (cut sheets) on materials.

(17) Sprinkler system installers, inspectors, and maintenance personnel shall meet the Rules and Regulations for Enforcement of the Georgia Fire Sprinkler Act, O.C.G.A. 120-3-19.

(18) The responsibility for annual testing and maintenance of any fire protection system is the responsibility of the owner of the property. Systems shall be inspected and tested in accordance with NFPA 13, 13D, or 13R, NFPA 25 and the manufacture's requirements.

(19) All automatic sprinkler equipment specified in this article shall be inspected at least once a year by a state certified sprinkler contractor and maintained by the owner or occupant at all times in proper operative conditions. The occupant of the building containing such equipment shall promptly notify the fire marshal or the county fire department in case such sprinkler protection is withdrawn, interrupted, curtailed, or altered.

(20) The fire protection sprinkler system shall be inspected by a fire protection sprinkler contractor to determine whether the system is in compliance with applicable codes and fully operational. The fire protection sprinkler contractor shall completely restore the system, confirm the system is in service, and submit a written statement to that effect to the fire marshal's office.

(d) Fire protection sprinkler, existing buildings and structures.

The purpose of this section is to encourage the continued use or reuse of legally existing buildings and structures. The intent is to permit repairs, renovations, modifications, reconstructions, additions, and change of use or occupancy in existing buildings.

Any requirements that are essential for the safety of building occupants and that are not specifically provided for by the life safety code, building code, or fire code, shall be determined by the authority having jurisdiction.

The provisions of this subchapter shall apply to existing buildings and structures constructed prior to the adoption of this subchapter and shall provide a minimum degree of fire and life safety to persons occupying space which does not comply with current codes.

(1) The legal occupancy of any building or structure existing on the date of adoption of this Code shall be permitted to continue without change, except as otherwise provided, according to the following:

- a. No change shall be made in the use or occupancy of any building or structure that would place the building or structure in a different division of the same group of occupancy or in a different group of occupancies, unless it is made to comply with the requirements of the current code for such division or group of occupancy. Any change of use or occupancy classification shall comply with the automatic sprinkler system requirements for new construction.
- b. In any building where renovation, modification, or reconstruction exceeds fifty (50) percent of the work area, an automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed accordance with requirements for new construction and NFPA 13, 13R, or 13D. The requirement shall apply to the highest floor containing a work area and all floors below.
- c. Repair, renovation, modification, and reconstruction shall be defined by NFPA 5000.

Exceptions:

- a. Historic buildings shall be defined as a building or facility deemed to have historical, architectural, or cultural significance by a local, regional, or national jurisdiction, and shall comply with the International Existing Building Code and the International Building Code.
 - b. Single-family residential dwellings.
- (e) Rendering equipment inoperable.
- (1) Portable or fixed fire-extinguishing systems or devices and fire-warning systems shall not be rendered inoperative or inaccessible except as necessary during emergencies, maintenance, repairs, alterations, drills or prescribed testing.
 - (2) It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to notify the fire marshal's office in the event the portable or fixed fire-extinguishing system or device or fire-warning system is inoperative for any period of time.

Sec. 32-202. Parking in fire lanes; authority to prevent blocking of private ways and alleys.

(a) *Prohibition.* It shall be unlawful for any person to stop, stand or park any motor vehicle in, or otherwise obstruct, any fire lane as described in this section.

(b) *Penalty.* The fine for any offense under this section shall be \$50.00.

(c) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this paragraph, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Fire lane means an area designated by the fire official which provides access to fire department connections and fire hydrants and provides access for fire department vehicles to buildings. This includes all alleys, including private alleys, private ways or driveways, where parking of motor vehicles or other obstructions can interfere with ingress or egress of fire department vehicles and equipment.

Fire marshal means a fire officer or other designated authority or the fire officer's or authority's duly authorized representative charged with the administration and enforcement of the fire prevention code adopted in this chapter.

Master plat means an original plat drawn in accordance with this section.

Plat means a map created by the property owner which depicts the location and boundaries of land and all existing fire lanes in accordance with this section. Maps shall be drawn to scale.

Property owner means each person possessing any estate or leasehold right in the property being designated as a fire lane.

(d) *Authority.* The fire chief, or a duly authorized fire official, may properly designate fire lanes and prevent the blocking of any private alley, private way or driveway in Putnam County by the parking of automobiles or otherwise.

(e) *Posting of signs.* The commercial property owner is required to post signs meeting the following criteria in areas designated as fire lanes:

(1) Signs shall read: "No Parking—Fire Lane."

(2) Signs must meet design specifications as required by chapter 48 of the Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

(3) One sign shall be posted at the beginning of the fire lane and one at the end of the fire lane and at intervals not more than 50 feet apart.

(4) Signs posted shall not be more than four feet from the edge of the curb and shall be visible from both directions of the driving surface.

(f) *Painting of curbs.* The fire chief or a duly authorized fire official may order curbs adjacent to a fire lane to be painted red or another distinctive color.

(g) *Parking in a fire lane.* No person shall park, stand or stop any motor vehicle or place any other property in a fire lane; however, this section shall not apply to the parking of an authorized emergency vehicle.

(h) *Obstructing posted private alley or driveway.* Any person who shall park any vehicle of any character or place any other property in any private alley, private way or driveway which has been posted in accordance with this section. Any person owning or occupying property abutting the private alley, private way or driveway who shall cause or permit the placing of anything therein which would impede or block the passage of fire trucks and equipment, shall be guilty of an offense.

(i) *Site plans.* Property which falls within Putnam County upon which fire lanes have been designated shall have all fire lane delineations visually depicted on a site plan. These plans shall be designed by the property owner and submitted to the Building Official. Each plan shall identify all building exterior walls, traffic and parking lanes and sidewalks. The areas to be designated as fire lanes shall be delineated in red ink. The plan shall

state a scale of measurement, and specify the name of the property, the location of the property, a brief legal description of the property and the length and width of the fire lanes.

- (j) *Enforcement officials.* Fire marshals, police officers, code enforcement officers or other duly authorized law enforcement officials shall have the authority for enforcement of fire lanes. Fire marshals, police officers, code enforcement officers, or other duly authorized officials may cause to be removed to the nearest authorized place of impound or other place of safety any unattended vehicle or other property left standing in violation of this section. If a vehicle is towed by Putnam County subject to this section, Putnam County shall be authorized to use a call list of designated towing agencies to arrange for towing. The vehicle owner shall be responsible for charges for the towing and any daily impoundment storage fee.
- (k) *Notice of ordinance violation.* Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Code, violations of this chapter may be enforced by a notice of ordinance violation issued by any authorized law enforcement officer, fire marshal, or code enforcement officer as provided below:
 - (1) Ordinance violations charged by means of a notice shall not be punishable by imprisonment but shall be punishable by a fine of \$50.00.
 - (2) A notice of ordinance violation may be served by delivery into the hands of the suspected violator or by leaving the notice of ordinance violation at the suspected violator's residence with a person of suitable age and discretion residing therein, or by leaving the notice of ordinance violation at the suspected violator's place of business if the violation occurs at the business location, with a person of suitable age and discretion employed therein.
 - (3) Alternative to the provisions of subsection (2) above, a notice of ordinance violation may be served by substituted service as follows:
 - a. The notice of ordinance violation may be placed on the front windshield of the illegally-parked vehicle in a fashion reasonably calculated to secure the notice of ordinance violation in place. Notices served according to this subsection shall be conspicuously marked and placed in a waterproof packet.
 - b. The notice of ordinance violation may be served by securely attaching the notice of ordinance violation to the front door of the primary residential or business structure on the property served by the fire lane or to other door to said structure reasonably appearing to provide the primary point of egress to said residence or business. A notice of ordinance violation served according to this subsection shall be posted on the upper part of the door, shall be conspicuously marked and shall be placed in a waterproof packet.
 - (4) Violators may respond to a notice of ordinance violation either by signing the notice and returning the notice along with payment of the fine indicated thereon to a court of competent jurisdiction by the date indicated on the notice or by appearing in a court of competent jurisdiction to plead not guilty to the charged violation at the date and time provided on the notice. No proceedings for contempt or arrest shall be initiated for failure to appear on the return date on the notice.
 - (5) Violators who fail to respond to a notice of ordinance violation as provided for in subsection (4) above may thereafter be served personally with an ordinance violation citation or accusation, and criminally prosecuted pursuant to chapter 18, section 18-84.
- (l) *Section not exclusive.* The imposition of a penalty under the provisions of this section shall not prevent the revocation of any permit or license or the taking of other punitive or remedial action where called for or permitted under the provisions of the Code of Ordinances of Putnam County.

(Ord. of 12-18-2007; Ord. of 3-18-2008; Ord. of 1-19-2016 ; Ord. of 12-3-2021(1))

Sec. 32-213. Construction plans approval.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to construct, erect, or alter any commercial building without construction document approval by the fire marshal for fire department accessibility, fire hydrant requirements, Life Safety Code requirements, and flammable and combustible liquid tank installations. Construction documents shall be in accordance with the requirements below:
 - (1) *Submittals.* Commercial construction documents shall be submitted in one or more sets and in such form and detail as required by the building official. The building official will determine if such commercial plans must be reviewed by the fire marshal and will forward copies to him/her for approval. If the fire marshal does not approve the plans, he must submit a list of corrections to be made, in writing, to the building official. No building permits requiring fire marshal review shall be issued without the fire marshal's signature on the building permit.
 - (2) *Information on construction documents.* Construction documents shall be drawn to scale upon suitable material. Electronic media documents are allowed to be submitted when approved by the fire marshal. Construction documents shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that it will conform to the provisions of this Code and relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations as determined by the fire marshal.
 - (3) *Applicant responsibility.* It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the construction documents include all of the fire protection requirements and that the shop drawings are complete and in compliance with the applicable codes and standards.
 - (4) *Technical assistance.* The fire marshal shall be permitted to require a review by an independent third party with expertise in the matter to be reviewed at the submitter's expense. The independent reviewer shall provide an evaluation and recommend necessary changes of the proposed design, operation, process, or new technology to the fire marshal.
 - (5) *Engineering.* The fire marshal shall be authorized to require design submittals or plans to bear the stamp of a professional engineer.
- (b) *Plan compliance.* The fire marshal shall make the final determination as to whether the provisions of the fire codes have been met.
- (c) *Approved documents.* Construction documents approved by the fire marshal are approved with the intent that such construction documents comply in all respects with the fire codes. Review and approval by the fire marshal shall not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of compliance with the fire codes.
- (d) *Corrected documents.* Where field conditions necessitate any substantial change from the approved construction documents, the fire marshal shall have the authority to require the corrected construction documents to be submitted for approval.
- (e) *Inspections.* Any application for or acceptance of any permit or certificate, requested or issued pursuant to fire codes shall constitute agreement and consent by the person making the application or accepting the permit or certificate to allow the fire marshal to enter the premises at any reasonable time to conduct inspections. Before a certificate or permit is approved, the fire marshal is authorized to inspect the receptacles, vehicles, buildings, devices, premises, storage spaces or areas to be used to determine compliance with the fire codes or any operational constraints required.
- (f) **Fire, safety and accessibility fees.**
 - (1) **Fire department plan review—Construction, expansion permit fee. There shall be a permit fee for the construction or for the expansion of every building in the county. Permits required by this Code shall be obtained from the fire official. Permit fees shall be paid prior to issuance of the permit. Issued**

permits shall be kept on the premises designed therein at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the fire official.

- (2) If during a re-inspection, a code violation is noted that was not listed as part of the original violation(s), a re-inspection fee will not be assessed for the newly cited code violation(s). Any newly cited code violation discovered at the time of re-inspection will be considered a first-time violation and will restart the re-inspection fee process.
- (3) Re-inspection fees shall apply to all project plans which are re-submitted prior to addressing all red-line comments made by the fire marshal or designee.
- (4) Project plans submitted with multiple revisions will be assessed a new fire department plan review fee. A complete updated set of plans shall be submitted for fire department review upon the request of the fire marshal or designee.

(Ord. of 12-18-2007; Ord. of 3-18-2008)

ARTICLE VIII. PERMITS

Sec. 32-224. Fee schedule.

- (a) *Service fee.* Fees shall be charged for services and permits based on a schedule developed by Putnam County Fire Rescue and approved by the board of county commissioners.

(Ord. of 12-18-2007; Ord. of 3-18-2008; Ord. of 1-19-2016)

Sec. 32-235. Permits.

- (a) *General.* Permits shall be in accordance with this section.
- (b) *Permits required.* Permits required by this chapter shall be obtained from the fire marshal. Permit fees, provided for in section 32-22 (fee schedule), if any, shall be paid prior to issuance of the permit. Issued permits shall be kept on the premises designated therein at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the fire marshal.
- (c) *Operational permits.* An operational permit allows the applicant to conduct an operation or a business for which a permit is required by this chapter for either:
 - (1) A prescribed period; or
 - (2) Until renewed or revoked.
- (d) *Permits for the same location.* When more than one permit is required for the same location, the fire marshal is authorized to consolidate such permits into a single permit provided that each provision is listed in the permit.
- (e) *Application.* Application for a permit required by this chapter shall be made to the fire marshal in such form and detail as prescribed by the fire marshal. Applications for permits shall be accompanied by such plans as prescribed by the fire marshal.
- (f) *Refusal to issue permit.* If the application for a permit describes a use that does not conform to the requirements of this chapter and other pertinent laws and ordinances, the fire marshal shall not issue a

permit, but shall return the application to the applicant with the refusal to issue such permit. Such refusal shall, when requested, be in writing and shall contain the reasons for refusal.

- (g) *Inspection authorized.* Before a new operational permit is approved, the fire marshal is authorized to inspect the receptacles, vehicles, buildings, devices, premises, storage spaces or areas to be used to determine compliance with this Code or any operational constraints required.
- (h) *Time limitation of application.* An application for a permit for any proposed work or operation shall be deemed to have been abandoned six months after the date of filing, unless such application has been diligently prosecuted or a permit shall have been issued, except that the fire marshal is authorized to grant one or more extensions of time for additional periods not exceeding 90 days each if there is reasonable cause.
- (i) *Action on application.* The fire marshal, in conjunction with the building official, shall examine or cause to be examined applications for permits and amendments thereto within a reasonable time after filing. If the application or the construction documents do not conform to the requirements of pertinent laws, the fire marshal shall reject such application in writing, stating the reasons therefor. If the fire marshal is satisfied that the proposed work or operation conforms to the requirements of this chapter and laws and ordinances applicable thereto, the fire marshal shall issue a permit therefor as soon as practicable.
- (j) *Conditions of a permit.* A permit shall constitute permission to maintain, store or handle materials; or to conduct processes which produce conditions hazardous to life or property; or to install equipment utilized in connection with such activities; or to install or modify any fire protection system or equipment or any other construction, equipment installation or modification in accordance with the provisions of this Code where a permit is required by this chapter. Such permission shall not be construed as authority to violate, cancel or set aside any of the provisions of this chapter or other applicable regulations or laws of the jurisdiction.
- (k) *Expiration.* An operational permit shall remain in effect until reissued, renewed, or revoked or for such a period of time as specified in the permit. Construction permits shall automatically become invalid unless the work authorized by such permit is commenced within 180 days after its issuance, or if the work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned for a period of 180 days after the time the work is commenced. Before such work recommences, a new permit shall be first obtained and the fee to recommence work, if any, shall be one-half the amount required for a new permit for such work, provided no changes have been made or will be made in the original construction documents for such work, and provided further that such suspension or abandonment has not exceeded one year. Permits are not transferable and any change in occupancy, operation, tenancy or ownership shall require that a new permit be issued.
- (l) *Extensions.* A permittee holding an unexpired permit shall have the right to apply for an extension of the time within which the permittee will commence work under that permit when work is unable to be commenced within the time required by this section for good and satisfactory reasons. The fire marshal is authorized to grant, in writing, one or more extensions of the time period of a permit for periods of not more than 90 days each. Such extensions shall be requested by the permit holder in writing and justifiable cause demonstrated.
- (m) *Occupancy prohibited before approval.* The building or structure shall not be occupied prior to the fire marshal issuing a permit that indicates that applicable provisions of this chapter have been met.
- (n) *Conditional permits.* Where permits are required and upon the request of a permit applicant, the fire marshal is authorized to issue a conditional permit to occupy the premises or portion thereof before the entire work or operations on the premises is completed, provided that such portion or portions will be occupied safely prior to full completion or installation of equipment and operations without endangering life or public welfare. The fire marshal shall notify the permit applicant in writing of any limitations or restrictions necessary to keep the permit area safe. The holder of a conditional permit shall proceed only to the point for

which approval has been given, at the permit holder's own risk and without assurance that approval for the occupancy or the utilization of the entire premises, equipment or operations will be granted.

- (o) *Posting the permit.* Issued permits shall be kept on the premises designated therein at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the fire marshal.
- (p) *Compliance with chapter.* The issuance or granting of a permit shall not be construed to be a permit for, or an approval of, any violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or of any other ordinance of the jurisdiction. Permits presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this chapter or other ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid. The issuance of a permit based on construction documents and other data shall not prevent the fire marshal from requiring the correction of errors in the construction documents and other data. Any addition to or alteration of approved construction documents shall be approved in advance by the fire marshal, as evidenced by the issuance of a new or amended permit.
- (q) *Information on the permit.* The fire marshal shall issue all permits required by this chapter on an approved form furnished for that purpose. The permit shall contain a general description of the operation or occupancy and its location and any other information required by the fire marshal. Issued permits shall bear the signature of the fire marshal or other designated fire official.
- (r) *Revocation.* The fire marshal is authorized to revoke a permit issued under the provisions of this chapter when it is found by inspection or otherwise that there has been a false statement or misrepresentation as to the material facts in the application or construction documents on which the permit or approval was based including, but not limited to, any one of the following:
 - (1) The permit is used for a location or establishment other than that for which it was issued.
 - (2) The permit is used for a condition or activity other than that listed in the permit.
 - (3) Conditions and limitations set forth in the permit have been violated.
 - (4) There have been any false statements or misrepresentations as to the material fact in the application for permit or plans submitted or a condition of the permit.
 - (5) The permit is used by a different person or firm from the name for which it was issued.
 - (6) The permittee failed, refused or neglected to comply with orders or notices duly served in accordance with the provisions of this Code within the time provided therein.
 - (7) The permit was issued in error or in violation of an ordinance, regulation or this Code.
- (s) *Required operational permits.* The fire marshal is authorized to issue operational permits for the following operations:
 - (1) *Explosives.* An operational permit is required for the manufacture, storage, handling, sale or use of any quantity of explosive, explosive material, fireworks, or pyrotechnic special effects.
 - (2) *Tents, temporary membrane structures, and canopies.* An operational permit is required to operate an air-supported temporary membrane structure or a tent having an area in excess of 200 square feet (19 m2), or a canopy in excess of 400 square feet (37 m2).
- (t) *Permissible open burning.* All permissible open burning shall be conducted in compliance with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Rules for Air Quality Control 391-3-1.02-5 "Provisions, Open Burning" and upon obtaining a burn permit from The Georgia Forestry Commission **when required**. The Putnam County fire marshal's Office is responsible for enforcing the regulations found therein.

(Ord. of 12-18-2007; Ord. of 3-18-2008; Ord. of 1-19-2016)

Sec 32-26. Open Burning, Bonfires, Etc.

Reserved Under review

ARTICLE IX. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Sec. 32-247. Hazardous materials response cost recovery.

- (a) *Purpose.* The purpose of this section is to establish uniform criteria for recovering costs associated with the emergency response of Putnam County Fire Rescue to hazardous materials incidents.
- (b) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section, the following words or phrases shall have the meanings below:

Hazardous materials incident means a release or spill of any material considered to be dangerous to the general public or the environment (as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Georgia State Fire Prevention Code).

Routine hazardous materials incident means a hazardous materials response that requires no more apparatus, personnel, equipment and/or supplies than were dispatched upon the initial response, and which extends for a period of less than three hours in duration.

Extra hazardous materials incident means a hazardous materials response that requires more apparatus, personnel, equipment, and/or supplies than were dispatched upon the initial response, and which extends for a period of less than three hours in duration.

Major hazardous materials incident means a hazardous materials response that requires more apparatus, personnel, equipment, and/or supplies than were dispatched upon the initial response, and which extends for a period of three hours or more in duration.

- (c) *Policy.*
- (1) Putnam County recognizes the need for emergency hazardous materials response within the jurisdictional limits of Putnam County. Therefore, no person or agency requiring an emergency hazardous materials response shall be denied those services due to a lack of insurance coverage or the inability to pay for those services.
 - (2) Putnam County Fire Rescue provides emergency hazardous materials response only, and does not act as a cleanup contractor, and does not provide cleanup or disposal services.
 - (3) Any applicable services rendered to a person, entity or agency shall be billed to that person, entity or agency.
 - (4) The fire chief, in his sole discretion, may waive reimbursement in instances where only minimal response services were required.
 - (5) Other emergency response agencies assisting Putnam County Fire Rescue may submit their list of expenses to the fire department for inclusion in the bill submitted to the responsible person, entity or agency. Neither Putnam County, nor its fire department, shall accept any liability for payment of such costs incurred by other emergency response agencies.
- (d) *Procedure for billing services.*

- (1) A detailed listing of hazardous materials response services provided to persons, entities and/or agencies will be compiled by Putnam County Fire Rescue. This information shall be forwarded to the Putnam County Finance Department, which shall be responsible for the billing. This information shall include:
 - a. Name and address of the owner, lessee, occupant and/or responsible party;
 - b. Date, time and location of incident;
 - c. Putnam County Fire Rescue fire incident report number;
 - d. Description of services rendered;
 - e. Itemized list of costs.
- (2) The applicable charges for services shall be determined by reference to the following:
 - a. *Response to a routine hazardous materials incident.* A routine hazardous materials response shall have standardized recovery costs. Recovery cost charges shall begin upon arrival of the first responding fire department unit(s), and shall include, but not be limited to:
 1. Loss, consumption, repair, and decontamination of equipment, vehicles, instruments, clothing, supplies and other items, at actual cost;
 2. Miscellaneous expenses, at actual cost.
 3. A charge for billing and processing of two percent of total costs.
 - b. *Response to an extra hazardous materials incident.* An extra hazardous materials response shall have standardized recovery costs. Recovery cost charges shall begin upon arrival of the first responding fire department unit(s), and shall include, but not be limited to:
 1. Hazardous materials responders, at actual hourly rate per hour, per person for on-duty response and actual overtime rates per hour for off-duty response;
 2. Cost for loss, consumption, repair, and decontamination of equipment, vehicles, instruments, clothing, supplies and other items, at actual cost;
 3. Subsistence supplies, at actual cost;
 4. Miscellaneous expenses, at actual cost;
 5. A charge for billing and processing of two percent of total costs.
 - c. *Response to a major hazardous materials incident.* A major hazardous materials response shall have standardized recovery costs. Recovery cost charges for items 1. through 6., shall begin upon arrival of the first responding fire department unit, and shall include, but not be limited to:
 1. Hazardous materials responders, at actual hourly rate per hour, per person for on-duty response and actual overtime rates per hour for off-duty response;
 2. Hazardous materials command staff, at actual hourly rate per hour, per person for on-duty response and actual overtime rates per hour for off-duty response;
 3. Cost for loss, consumption, repair and decontamination of equipment, vehicles, instruments, clothing, supplies and other items, at actual replacement cost;
 4. Subsistence supplies, at actual cost;
 5. Miscellaneous expenses, at actual cost;
 6. A charge for billing and processing of two percent of total costs.

- d. Additional recovery cost charges shall begin after the third hour of on-scene operation (continuous operation is not required), and shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 1. Each fire engine, ladder truck, rescue unit, hazardous materials unit and other equipment and apparatus needed in the response shall be charged based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency Schedule of Equipment Rates for like or similar equipment.
- (3) All funds received from persons, entities or agencies that have been billed for services will be placed in an account designated for personnel costs, decontamination, repair, replacement and purchase of items of both durable and consumable categories for the hazardous materials program of the department.

(Ord. of 12-18-2007; Ord. of 3-18-2008; Ord. of 1-19-2016)

Secs. 32-258—32-30. Reserved.