

CHAPTER 34: FIRE DEPARTMENT

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 34.01 GENERAL POWERS.

It shall be the duty of all members of the Fire Department to enforce all provisions of this Code and other laws and ordinances covering the following:

- (A) The prevention of fires.
- (B) The storage and use of explosives and flammables.
- (C) The installation and maintenance of automatic and other private fire alarm systems and fire extinguishing equipment.
- (D) The maintenance and regulation of fire escapes.
- (E) The means and adequacy of exits in all buildings regulated by the Fire Prevention Code.
- (F) The investigation of the cause, origin and circumstances of fire.

(⁹⁰ Code, § 8-56)

§ 34.02 RIGHT OF ENTRY TO PREVENT OR EXTINGUISH FIRE.

Any member of the Fire Department, or any person acting under orders of the Chief of the Department, shall have the right to enter any building or room and insert the hose or turn on the water, whenever, in the judgment of the Fire Chief or his or her designated representative, it shall be necessary to prevent or extinguish fire.

(⁹⁰ Code, § 8-57)

§ 34.03 RECORD OF FIRES.

The Chief of the Department shall keep a record of all fires and the facts concerning the same, including statistics as to the extent of the fires and the damages caused thereby, and whether the losses were covered by insurance. All such records shall be public.

(⁹⁰ Code, § 8-58)

§ 34.04 INVESTIGATION OF FIRES.

The Chief of the Department shall investigate or caused to be investigated the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring in the city by which property has been destroyed and damaged and, so far as possible, determine whether the fire is the result of carelessness or design. The investigations shall be begun immediately upon the occurrence of such a fire.

(^90 Code, § 8-59)

FIRE CHIEF

§ 34.15 APPOINTED.

There is created the office of Chief of the Fire Department, such Chief to be appointed by the City Manager and to serve at the pleasure of the City Manager.

(^90 Code, § 8-76)

§ 34.16 GENERAL POWERS.

Subject to the supervision of the City Manager, the Chief of the Fire Department shall have general control of the Department, the personnel and apparatus.

(^90 Code, § 8-77)

§ 34.17 GENERAL DUTIES.

The Chief of the Fire Department, personally or through his or her designee, shall:

- (A) Proceed immediately to the scene of any fire and take active charge of the firefighting thereof and supervise and direct the extinguishing thereof.
- (B) Maintain in good repair all equipment of the Fire Department.
- (C) Compel, if necessary, all officers of the city to aid in the extinguishing of fires.
- (D) Enforce all rules and ordinances relative to fire prevention.
- (E) Perform all duties assigned to the Fire Inspector.
- (F) Oversee training of Fire Department personnel and trained volunteers.

(^90 Code, § 8-78)

§ 34.18 RIGHT OF ENTRY.

The Chief of the Fire Department may enter any building or premises for the purpose of making an inspection or investigation under the provisions of this chapter under the following circumstances:

- (A) When the owner or person lawfully occupying the property consents to the inspection;
- (B) Pursuant to a warrant obtained in accordance with G.S. § 15-27.2 et seq.; or
- (C) When the Chief determines that an emergency exists because the premises to be investigated poses an immediate threat to the safety of persons or property.

(^90 Code, § 8-79)

§ 34.19 ANNUAL REPORT.

The Fire Chief shall report annually to the City Manager the name, residence and occupation of all firefighters; the number of fire calls answered by each firefighter and the totals for the Department; the value of property before damage to fire and after for all fires answered; the total number of buildings inspected, and such other information as may be requested from time to time.

(^90 Code, § 8-80)