

Chapter 14: FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION*

***Cross References:** Buildings and building regulations, ch. 10; fires in parks or other public property, 30-35.

State Law References: State fire prevention act, MCL 29.1; crimes related to fires, MCL 750.240 et seq.; township powers relative to fire prevention and protection, MCL 42.1, 41.801 et seq.

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Article I. In General

Section 14-1. False alarms; blocking fire escape or exit; obstructing hydrant; unauthorized use of hydrant.

No person shall turn in, sound or communicate to the fire department any false alarm of fire. No person shall block any fire escape, stairway, fire door or exit door in such manner as to impede the free use thereof. No person shall leave or deposit any material or other objects within 15 feet of any fire hydrant. No person, except township employees on duty, shall open or draw water from a fire hydrant.

(Ord. No. 24, 3.06)

State Law References: False fire alarms, MCL 750.240; parking near fire hydrant, MCL 257.674(l)(d).

Section 14-2--14-30. Reserved.

Article II. Fire Department*

***State Law References:** Township fire department, MCL 42.13.

Section 14-31. Training of officers and firefighters.

The police, fire and public safety committee may send any of the officers and firefighters of the fire department to schools of instruction designed to promote the efficiency of the firefighters and, if duly authorized in advance, pay their necessary expenses from the funds used for the maintenance and operation of the fire department.

(Ord. No. 24, 4.04)

State Law References: Firefighters Training Council Act, MCL 29.361 et seq.

Section 14-32--14-60. Reserved.

Article III. Fire Safety

Section 14-61. Definitions.

Fire hazard means every building, structure, place, thing or condition which by reason of its nature, location, occupancy, condition or use may cause loss, damage or injury to persons or property by reason of fire or explosion.

(Ord. No. 24, 2.01)

Cross References: Definitions generally, 1-2.

Section 14-62. Protective structures and devices required; authority of fire chief.

The fire chief shall have power and authority relating to the installation of such fire extinguishers, fire direct doors, firewalls, fire escapes, vents, safety valves, exit doors, exit lights and other safety devices or structures as the public safety and sound fire prevention practice may require in or on any store, office,

commercial building, apartment, hotel, shop, factory, or other building or structure into which the public is invited or in which persons are

employed or live as tenants, and it shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of any such lands, premises, building or structure to install such structures or devices and to keep such structures and devices in good working order at all times.

(Ord. No. 24, 4.01)

Section 14-63. Inspections by fire chief.

The fire chief is hereby authorized to enter upon or into any lands, premises, building or structure within the township at all reasonable hours for the purpose of inspecting the lands, premises, building or structure to determine whether any fire hazard exists therein, or whether the provisions of this chapter are being observed, or whether all safety structures or other devices required by this chapter have been installed and are in good working order.

(Ord. No. 24, 4.02)

Section 14-64. Designation of additional inspectors.

The fire chief shall have authority to designate any of his subordinates to perform the inspection duties imposed upon him by the terms of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 24, 4.03)

Section 14-65. Compliance with orders of fire chief.

Any person who violates or fails to comply with any lawful order or direction of the fire chief given under the authority of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(Ord. No. 24, 5.01)

Section 14-66. Fire hazards declared nuisance.

Every fire hazard of whatever nature or origin is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, and such fire hazard may be abated and removed or its continuance enjoined in any manner provided or permitted by law for the abatement of nuisances.

(Ord. No. 24, 3.01)

Section 14-67. Combustible materials.

No person shall allow or permit any rags, waste, chips, trash, rubbish, wastepaper, ashes, oil, excelsior or other combustible material to accumulate on or in any lands, premises or building owned or occupied by him except in metal or other fireproof containers so located as not to constitute a fire hazard, nor shall any person keep or maintain any paint, varnish, or similar material unless the material is kept in closed containers when not being applied.

(Ord. No. 24, 3.02)

Section 14-68. Heating and electrical devices.

No person shall construct or maintain on or in any lands, premises, or buildings owned or occupied by him any boiler, stove, water tank or heater, furnace, chimney, pipe, duct or other device for the production or transmission of heat, smoke or gas, or any electric wiring, which is so constructed, operated or located, or which is in such a condition of disrepair, as to constitute a fire hazard or to subject such lands, premises or building or other property in the vicinity thereof to the danger of fire or explosion.

(Ord. No. 24, 3.03)

Cross References: Utilities, ch. 42.

Section 14-69. Improper construction or repair.

No person shall erect or maintain on any lands or premises owned or occupied by him any building or structure which by reason of improper construction, want of repair or other conditions therein is especially liable to fire or explosion or is so situated as to endanger other property in the vicinity thereof.

(Ord. No. 24, 3.04)

Section 14-70. Fires and burning.

- (A) *Section 14-70 A is amended to read as follows:* No person shall kindle or maintain any recreational fire unless the fire is located more than 25 feet from any building, structure or roadway including but not limited to fencing, wood piles, sheds, outbuildings and utility poles. Recreational fires must be contained in a ring not to exceed 4 three (3) feet in diameter, no more than two (2) feet high and is must be constantly attended until completely extinguished. Dry wood must be used for recreational fires to prevent excess smoking. Approved recreational fires must be in a rear or side yard.
- (B) *Section 14-70 B is amended to read as follows:* Only with a burn permit issued by the fire chief or the fire chief designee is a fire greater than three feet permitted. The fire chief or the fire chief designee shall have authority to order the extinguishing of any fire when, in his judgement, the fire constitutes a hazard due to high wind or other conditions as set forth in section 51507 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL 324.51507).
- (C) *Section 14-70 C is amended to read as follows:* Out-door burning of leaves, refuse, wood treated with creosote, wolmanized, pressure treated or otherwise painted, stained or coated is prohibited. Asphalt or fiberglass roofing material, tires, trash, garbage, or other household or industrial refuse may not be burned in the township.

(Ord. No. 24, 3.05, 4-11-2022)

Section 14-71. International Fire Code.

Section 14-71 is amended to read as follows: The 2015 edition of the International Fire Code published by the International Code Council is hereby adopted in conjunction with the currently adopted state building code and all subsequent additions of the International Fire Code are hereby adopted pursuant to MCL 42.23, and any revisions shall be numbered in such a manner as necessary to refer to corresponding sections of the subsequent addition. Any violations of the International Fire Code shall be a Misdemeanor.

Section 14-72. Revisions and Insertions.

Section 14-72 is amended to read as follows: The following sections of The International Fire Code are hereby revised:

- (A) Section 101.1 St. Joseph Charter Township
- (B) Section 109.4 Misdemeanor, \$500.00, 93 days
- (C) Section 111.4 \$100.00, \$500.00

(4-11-2022)