

CHAPTER 7

FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE PROTECTION

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PART 1

FIRE CONTROL MEASURES AND REGULATIONS

§101. Adoption of Fire Control Measures and Regulations.

There is hereby adopted by the City of Hermitage the fire control measures and regulations as herein set forth for the purpose of controlling conditions which could impede or interfere with fire suppression forces.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §3; as amended by Ord. 18-83, 12/22/1983)

§102. Authority at Fires and Other Emergencies.

The Fire Marshal or his duly authorized representatives, as may be in charge at the scene of a fire or other emergency involving the protection of life and/or property, is empowered to direct such operations as may be necessary to extinguish or control any suspected or reported fires, gas leaks, or other hazardous conditions or situations or of taking any other action necessary in the reasonable performance of their duty. The Fire Marshall or his duly authorized representatives may prohibit any person, vehicle or object from approaching the scene and may remove or cause to be removed from the scene any person, vehicle or object which may impede or interfere with the operations of the Department of Fire/Rescue. The Fire Marshal or his duly authorized representatives may remove or cause to be removed any person, vehicle or object from hazardous areas. All persons ordered to leave a hazardous area shall do so immediately and shall not re-enter the area until authorized to do so by the Fire Marshal or his duly authorized representatives.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §4; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§103. Interference with Department of Fire/Rescue Operations.

It shall be unlawful to interfere with, attempt to interfere with, conspire to interfere with, obstruct or restrict the mobility of, or block the path of travel of any Department of Fire/Rescue emergency vehicle in any way, or to interfere with, attempt to interfere, conspire to interfere with, obstruct or hamper any Department of Fire/Rescue operations.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §5; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

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§104. Compliance with Orders.

A person shall not willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of the Fire Marshall or his duly authorized representatives or to interfere with the compliance attempts of another individual.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §6)

§105. Vehicles Crossing Fire Hose.

A vehicle shall not be driven or propelled over any unprotected fire hose of the Department of Fire/Rescue when laid down on any street, alley-way, private drive or any other vehicular roadway without the consent of the Fire Marshal or his duly authorized representatives in command of said operation, in accordance with §3708 of the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3708.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §7; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§106. Definition of “Authorized Emergency Vehicle.”

“Authorized emergency vehicles” shall be restricted to those which are defined and authorized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §8)

§107. Operation of Vehicles on Approach of Authorized Emergency Vehicles.

Upon the approach of any authorized emergency vehicle, giving audible and visual signal, the operator of every other vehicle shall immediately drive the same to a position as near as possible and parallel to the right-hand edge or curb of the street or roadway, clear of any intersection, and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle or vehicles shall have passed, unless otherwise directed by the Fire Marshall or his duly authorized representatives or a police officer, in accordance with §3325 of the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3325.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §9; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§108. Vehicles Following Fire Apparatus.

It shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle, other than one on official government business, to follow closer than 300 feet from any fire apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm, or to drive any vehicle within the block or immediate area where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm, in accordance with §3707 of the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3707.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §10; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§109. Unlawful Boarding or Tampering with Department of Fire/Rescue Emergency Equipment.

A person shall not without proper authorization from the Fire Marshall or his duly authorized representatives in charge of said Department of Fire/Rescue emergency equipment, cling to, attach himself to, climb upon or into, board, or swing upon any Department of Fire/Rescue emergency vehicle, whether the same is in motion or at rest, or sound the siren, horn, bell or other sound-producing device thereon, or to manipulate or tamper with, to attempt to manipulate or tamper with any levers, valves, switches, starting devices, brakes, pumps or any equipment or protective clothing on, or a part of, any Department of Fire/Rescue emergency vehicle.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §11; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§110. Damage, Injury to Department of Fire/Rescue Equipment or Personnel.

It shall be unlawful for any person to damage or deface, or attempt, or conspire to damage or deface any Department of Fire/Rescue emergency vehicle at any time, or to injure, or attempt to injure or conspire to injure Department of Fire/Rescue personnel while performing departmental duties, in accordance with §3305 of the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3305.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §12; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§111. Emergency Vehicle Operation.

The driver of any emergency vehicle, as defined in §105, shall not sound the siren thereon or have the front red lights on or disobey any existing traffic regulation, except when said vehicle is responding to an emergency call or when responding to, but not upon returning from a fire. Tactical strategies such as, but not restricted to, “move-ups” do not constitute an emergency call. The driver of an emergency vehicle may, in accordance with §3105 of the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3105: [Ord. 11-98]

- A. Park or stand irrespective of the provisions of existing traffic regulations.
- B. Proceed past a red or stop signal or other sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.
- C. Exceed the prima facie speed limit so long as he does not endanger life or property.

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- D. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.
- E. The exemptions herein granted to an emergency vehicle shall apply only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion sounds audible signal by bell, siren or exhaust whistle as may be reasonably necessary, and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one lighted lamp displaying a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §13; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§112. Blocking Fire Hydrants and Department of Fire/Rescue Connections.

1. It shall be unlawful to obscure from view, damage, deface obstruct or restrict the access to any fire hydrant or any Department of Fire/Rescue connections for the pressurization of fire suppression systems, including fire hydrants and Department of Fire/Rescue connections that are located on public or private streets and access lanes or on private property.
2. It shall be illegal to either park, or stop within 15 feet of such connections and devices. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to park directly in front of or within 15 feet of any means of egress of any public structure, when such means of egress are defined as exitways designed for use by the general public in leaving or vacating the said structure, in accordance with §3305 of the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3305.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §14; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§113. Hydrant Use Approval.

A person shall not use or operate any fire hydrant intended for use of the Department of Fire/Rescue for fire suppression purposes unless such person first secures a permit for such use from the Fire Marshall and the water company having jurisdiction. This Section shall not apply to the use of such hydrants by a person employed by, and authorized to make such use by, the water company having jurisdiction.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §15; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§114. Public Water Supply.

The Fire Marshal shall recommend to the City Manager the location or relocation of new or existing fire hydrants and the placement or replacement of inadequate water mains located upon public property and deemed necessary to provide an adequate fire

flow and distribution pattern. A fire hydrant shall not be placed into or removed from service until approved by the Fire Marshal.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §16; as amended by Ord. 18-83, 12/22/1983)

§115. Yard Systems.

All new and existing ship yards, oil storage plants, lumber yards, amusement or exhibition parks, and educational or institutional complexes and similar occupancies and uses involving high fire or life hazards, and which are located more than 150 feet from a public street or which require quantities of water beyond the capabilities of the public water distribution system shall be provided with properly placed fire hydrants. Such fire hydrants shall be capable of supplying fire flows as required by the Fire Marshal and shall be connected to a water system in accordance with accepted engineering practices. The Fire Marshal shall designate and approve the number and location of fire hydrants. The Fire Marshal may require the installation of sufficient fire hose and equipment housed in accordance with the approved rules and may require the establishment of a trained fire brigade when the hazard involved requires such measures. Private hydrants shall not be placed into or removed from service until approved by the Fire Marshal.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §17)

§116. Maintenance of Fire Suppression Equipment.

A person shall not obstruct, remove, tamper with or otherwise disturb any fire hydrant or fire appliance required to be installed or maintained under the provisions of the Fire Prevention Code [Chapter 5, Part 1] except for the purpose of extinguishing fire, training or testing purposes, recharging, or making necessary repairs, or when permitted by the Fire Marshal. Whenever a fire appliance is removed as herein permitted, it shall be replaced or reinstalled as soon as the purpose for which it was removed has been accomplished. Defective and nonapproved fire appliances or equipment shall be replaced or repaired as directed by the Fire Marshal.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §18)

§117. Sale of Defective Fire Extinguishers.

A person shall not sell trade, loan or give away any form, type or kind of fire extinguisher which is not approved by the Underwriters Laboratory. The requirements of this Section shall not apply to the sale, trade or exchange of obsolete or damaged equipment for junk and said units are permanently disfigured or marked with a permanent sign identifying the unit as junk.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §19; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

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§118. Street Obstructions.

No person or persons, other than a governmental agency or public utility who have given prior notice thereof, shall erect, construct, place or maintain any bumps, fences, gates, chains, bars, pipes, wood or metal horses or any other type of obstruction in or on any street with the boundaries of the City. The word "street," as use in this Part, shall mean any roadway accessible to the public for vehicular traffic, including, but not limited to, private streets or access lanes, as well as all public streets and highways within the boundaries of the City, in accordance with §3305 of the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3305.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §20; as amended by Ord. 18-83, 12/22/1983; and by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)

§119. Penalty for Violation.

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Part shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 30 days. Each violation of any of the provisions of this Part shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, §22; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998)