

## CHAPTER 7

### FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE PROTECTION

#### PART 1

##### FIRE CONTROL MEASURES AND REGULATIONS

- § 7-101. Adoption of Fire Control Measures and Regulations.
- § 7-102. Authority at Fires and Other Emergencies.
- § 7-103. Interference with Department of Fire/Rescue Operations.
- § 7-104. Compliance with Orders.
- § 7-105. Vehicles Crossing Fire Hose.
- § 7-106. Definition of "Authorized Emergency Vehicle."
- § 7-107. Operation of Vehicles on Approach of Authorized Emergency Vehicles.
- § 7-108. Vehicles Following Fire Apparatus.
- § 7-109. Unlawful Boarding or Tampering with Department of Fire/Rescue Emergency Equipment.
- § 7-110. Damage, Injury to Department of Fire/Rescue Equipment or Personnel.
- § 7-111. Emergency Vehicle Operation.
- § 7-112. Blocking Fire Hydrants and Department of Fire/Rescue Connections.
- § 7-113. Hydrant Use Approval.
- § 7-114. Public Water Supply.
- § 7-115. Yard Systems.
- § 7-116. Maintenance of Fire Suppression Equipment.
- § 7-117. Sale of Defective Fire Extinguishers.
- § 7-118. Street Obstructions.
- § 7-119. Penalty For Violation.

#### PART 2

##### KEY LOCK BOXES

- § 7-201. When Required.
- § 7-202. Installation Prior to Issuance of Occupancy Permit.
- § 7-203. Authority of Fire Marshal.
- § 7-204. Keys.
- § 7-205. Rules and Regulations.
- § 7-206. Violations and Penalties.
- § 7-207. When Effective.



## PART 1

## FIRE CONTROL MEASURES AND REGULATIONS

**§ 7-101. Adoption of Fire Control Measures and Regulations. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 3; as amended by Ord. 18-83, 12/22/1983]**

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.

**§ 7-102. Authority at Fires and Other Emergencies. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 4; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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 Marshal 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.

**§ 7-103. Interference with Department of Fire/Rescue Operations. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 5; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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.

**§ 7-104. Compliance with Orders. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 6]**

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

**§ 7-105. Vehicles Crossing Fire Hose. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 7; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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, alleyway, 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.

**§ 7-106. Definition of "Authorized Emergency Vehicle." [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 8]**

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

**§ 7-107. Operation of Vehicles on Approach of Authorized Emergency Vehicles. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 9; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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 Marshal or his duly authorized representatives or a police officer, in accordance with § 3325 of the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 3325.

**§ 7-108. Vehicles Following Fire Apparatus. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 10; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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.

**§ 7-109. Unlawful Boarding or Tampering with Department of Fire/Rescue Emergency Equipment. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 11; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

A person shall not, without proper authorization from the Fire Marshal 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 manipulate or tamper with, or 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.

**§ 7-110. Damage, Injury to Department of Fire/Rescue Equipment or Personnel. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 12; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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.

**§ 7-111. Emergency Vehicle Operation. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 13; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

The driver of any emergency vehicle, as defined in § 7-105, 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:

- 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.
- 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.

**§ 7-112. Blocking Fire Hydrants and Department of Fire/Rescue Connections. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 14; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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.

**§ 7-113. Hydrant Use Approval. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 15; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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 Marshal 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.

**§ 7-114. Public Water Supply. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 16; as amended by Ord. 18-83, 12/22/1983]**

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.

**§ 7-115. Yard Systems. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 17]**

All new and existing shipyards, oil storage plants, lumberyards, 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.

**§ 7-116. Maintenance of Fire Suppression Equipment. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 18]**

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.

**§ 7-117. Sale of Defective Fire Extinguishers. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 19; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

A person shall not sell trade, loan or give away any form, type or kind of fire extinguisher which is not approved by Underwriters' Laboratories. 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.

**§ 7-118. Street Obstructions. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 20; as amended by Ord. 18-83, 12/22/1983; and by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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 used 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.

**§ 7-119. Penalty For Violation. [Ord. 7-76, 8/11/1976, § 22; as amended by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]**

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.



**PART 2**  
**KEY LOCK BOXES**

**§ 7-201. When Required. [Ord. 2-2017, 4/26/2017]**

The following structures shall be equipped with a key lock box at or within four feet of the main entrance at a height of six feet from the walking surface or at such a location as required by the Fire Marshal:

1. Commercial or industrial structures protected by an automatic alarm system or automatic suppression systems, or such structures that are secured in a manner that restricts access during an emergency.
2. Multifamily residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to living units.
3. Governmental structures, schools and nursing care facilities.

**§ 7-202. Installation Prior to Issuance of Occupancy Permit. [Ord. 2-2017, 4/26/2017]**

All newly constructed structures subject to § 7-201 shall have the key lock box installed and operational prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit.

**§ 7-203. Authority of Fire Marshal. [Ord. 2-2017, 4/26/2017]**

The Fire Marshal shall designate the type of key lock box system to be implemented in the City of Hermitage and shall have the authority to require all required structures to use the designated system.

**§ 7-204. Keys. [Ord. 2-2017, 4/26/2017]**

The owner or operator of the structure required to have a key lock box system shall at all times keep a key in the lock box that will allow for access to the structure.

**§ 7-205. Rules and Regulations. [Ord. 2-2017, 4/26/2017]**

The Fire Marshal shall be authorized to implement rules and regulations for the use of the lock box system.

**§ 7-206. Violations and Penalties. [Ord. 2-2017, 4/26/2017]**

Any person who owns or operates a structure subject to the requirements of this Part who violates any provision of the Part shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to a fine of not more than \$1,000.

**§ 7-207. When Effective. [Ord. 2-2017, 4/26/2017]**

This Part shall become effective seven days after enactment.

