

Stafford County Fire Prevention Code Revision

Public Hearing Presentation
June 5, 2018



STAFFORD COUNTY *Virginia*
FIRE & RESCUE



Stafford County Fire Prevention Code Revision

Background:

- Stafford County Code, Chapter 12 - “Fire Prevention and Protection”
- Codifies the County’s commitment to protecting lives and property of County residents, businesses, visitors and first-responders from the devastating consequences of fires, explosions, hazardous materials and other emergencies.

The Revision:

- Many sections have not been revised for decades and contain outdated references and requirements.
- It is important for safety and economic development to keep pace with current standards, technology, hazards and available solutions.
- Recent changes approved by the state Board of Housing and Community Development are set to remove critical technical details and add additional levels of bureaucracy to businesses as well as staff.



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What is included within the Revision?

- Adopts the current edition of the Fire Prevention regulations as they apply today to protect Stafford County from the undesirable, state-level changes expected to take effect this year.
- It is a complete re-write of nearly the entire chapter.
- The vast majority of the changes are directly from existing state, local or regional regulations and policy.



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Additional changes would also strengthen the following:

- Prohibiting unlawful activities such as damage to Fire and Rescue equipment or injuring personnel.
- Reducing the occurrence of faulty fire alarms
- Penalties for making knowingly false reports of emergencies
- Ensuring clean up of hazardous material spills
- Increases set back distance for burning near high-risk facilities.
- Protections for food preparation vehicles, trade/exhibit shows, ten-year smoke alarms, exterior door numbering for first responders, outdoor painting of vehicles, containers for outdoor tire storage, and storage of flammable liquids in hotel rooms or indoor self-storage facilities.



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Development of the Revision:

- Comprehensive review of local fire prevention code regulations from dozens of peer jurisdictions.
- Review and input from multiple stakeholders including approval from the Board- appointed citizen Board of Fire Prevention Code Appeals.
- Coordination with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regarding their mandatory and model regulations for open burning.
- Review and approval from the County Attorney.
- Approval of Article V (Open Burning) by the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board in April 2018.
- Recommended for approval by the Board's Public Safety Committee who discussed the proposal in February, April and May of this year.



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Questions?



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