



ESTES VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

PREVENT PREPARE PERFORM

2021 International Fire Code Adoption Proposal

Summary of Proposal (Page 1 of 3)

Executive Summary

The Estes Valley Fire Protection District has been operating under the 2018 version of the International Fire Code (IFC) and some adopted appendices since 2019. Larimer County and the Town of Estes Park have already updated to the 2021 version of other respective codes which will go into effect January 1, 2024.

It is the opinion of the staff that the Estes Valley Fire Protection District should update to the 2021 International Fire Code with appendices as it will enhance the safety of our citizens and guests, and addresses deficiencies missing from previous versions of the code.

This International Fire Code: “is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a fire code that adequately (1) protects public health, safety, and welfare; (2) provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; (3) provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products, or methods of construction; (4) and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.” The stakeholders involved in negotiating and writing the Fire Code include the: American Institute of Architects (AIA), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), and National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM).

Given this, staff’s goal with this adoption is to remove many of the District-specific amendments and get back to a “clean” adoption of the code as produced by our national organizations.

References / Resources

- 2021 International Fire Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2021P1>

Significant Changes in the 2021 International Fire Code Pertinent to the Estes Valley Fire District’s previous adoptions:

- Section 321: Artificial Combustible Vegetation
 - New section addressing artificial combustible vegetation on roofs and near buildings.
- Section 405.1, 405.2, 405.3, 405.5: Emergency Drills
 - Update to the frequency of training and participation in fire drills and evacuation drills.
 - Reflects use of defend-in-place staged strategies with consideration for active threats.
- Section 510.4: Emergency Responder Communication Coverage
 - Updated testing criteria for in-building 2-way emergency responder communication.
- Section 604: Storage in Elevator Machine Rooms & Lobbies
 - Restriction of storage in elevator lobbies, elevator cars, and elevator machine rooms.

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Significant Changes in the 2021 International Fire Code (continued):

- Section 610: Clothes Dryer Exhaust Ducts
 - Addition to ensure dryer lint traps and exhaust ducts are maintained and cleaned.
 - NOTE: This was the cause of a fire in a multi-family residence in our jurisdiction that fortunately self-extinguished but caused extensive damage in the unit without detection.
- Section 703: Repair of penetrations and voids
 - Addition for specific code requirements for repair of penetrations, joints, and voids in fire-resistance-rated construction.
- Section 202, 901: Life Safety Systems
 - Addition of life safety systems and requirements as connected to fire protection systems.
- Section 903.2: Distilled Spirits
 - Addition of requirements for occupancies manufacturing and storing distilled spirits.
- Section 903.3: NFPA 13R Sprinkler Systems
 - Modification reducing the allowable use of 13R systems, forcing use of full 13 systems in more cases.
- Section 907.4-5: Low-frequency alarms in sleeping rooms
 - Modification requiring use of low-frequency alarms to enhance effectiveness for high-risk populations.
- Section 907.6.6: Fire Alarm System Monitoring
 - Modification that requires alarm monitoring must comply with NFPA 72 and go through a human interface prior to transmission to dispatch.
- Section 914.7: Puzzle Rooms
 - Specific provisions for puzzle rooms (which we have in Estes).
- Section 1010.2.8 & 1031.2: Locking Arrangements in Educational Occupancies
 - Modification to locking requirements in schools with consideration for active threats.
- Section 1103.7.5: Group R1 Hotel & Motel Fire Alarm Systems
 - Requirement for retrofitting fire alarm systems in existing hotels.
- Section 1103.9: Carbon Monoxide detection in existing buildings
 - Required retrofit in Group I-1, I-3, I-4, R, and classrooms in Group E.
- Section 3303.3: Daily Fire Inspection of Construction
 - Addition of new provisions for daily fire safety inspections of buildings under construction by site safety director.
- Section 3313: Water Supply During Construction
 - Addition of new requirements for minimum water supply during construction based on fire flow and distance.
- Section 4000: Storage of Distilled Spirits and Wines
 - New chapter addressing distilled spirits and wine.
 - NOTE: Applies to our District especially with significant incident at distilled spirits manufacturing in town.

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Proposed Inclusions / Exclusions / Amendments of 2021 International Fire Code differing from previous adoptions:

- Section 108.1: Board of Appeals
 - Cease District specific language and utilize existing Appendix A to address Board of Appeals.
- Section 109.4: Violation Penalties
 - 2021 amendment with amounts previously established in 2015 and 2018 adoptions.
- Section 109.5: Work Commencing Before Permit Issuance
 - 2021 amendment with amounts previously established in 2015 and 2018 adoptions.
- Section 111.4: Failure to Comply
 - 2021 amendment with amounts previously established in 2015 and 2018 adoptions.
- Section 113.1: Fees
 - 2021 amendment with amounts previously established in 2015 and 2018 adoptions.

- Section 307: Illegal Campfires
 - 2021 amended language aligns with Colorado Revised Statute H.B. 1051 and 2018 adoption.

- Section 503.2.2: Authority
 - 2021 amendment with amounts previously established in 2015 and 2018 adoptions.
- Section 503.2.6: Bridges and Elevated Surfaces
 - 2021 amendment with amounts previously established in 2015 and 2018 adoptions.
- Section 505.1: Address Identification
 - 2021 amendment with amounts previously established in 2015 and 2018 adoptions.

- Section 903.2.13: Commercial Downtown Zone District
 - 2021 amendment with amounts previously established in 2015 and 2018 adoptions.

- Appendix A: Board of Appeals
 - **NEW** Adoption proposed.
- Appendix I: Fire Protection Systems – Noncompliant Conditions
 - **NEW** Adoption proposed.

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