

ORDINANCE NO. 01-23 N.S.

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND AMENDING CHAPTER 8.16 (FIRE PREVENTION CODE) OF THE RICHMOND MUNICIPAL CODE ARTICLE VIII (FIRE) TO ADOPT THE 2022 EDITION OF THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE WITH NOTED LOCAL AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS, the California Fire Code (“Fire Code”) is Part 9 of a 12-part, triennial compilation and publication of adoptions, amendments, and appeals of administrative regulations within the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, also known, collectively, as the California Building Standards Code; and

WHEREAS, the Department of General Services’ California Standards Commission has published said 2022 California Building Standards Code, and thus the 2022 Fire Code, effective January 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code Section 17958, et. seq. provides that the 2022 California Building Standards Code may be adopted by reference, provided that prior to such adoption by reference a noticed public hearing has been held; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7, the City Council shall make an express finding that such modifications or changes described herein are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5 allows the City to adopt more restrictive local amendments reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions; and

WHEREAS, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exempts this Ordinance pursuant to the Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because the proposed Ordinance is a routine update that occurs every three years and does not impact the environment in that it does not directly facilitate new development or change the type and intensity of land use; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a noticed public hearing on December 6, 2022, at which time all interested persons had the opportunity to appear and be heard on the matter adopting by reference the 2022 Fire Code with noted local amendments; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the 2022 Fire Code is on file with the Richmond City Fire Department and its Fire Marshal.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT NOW THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS

The City Council finds and determines the following:

A. The following local climatic, conditions justify modifications to the Fire Code.

1. Climatic

- a. Precipitation and Relative Humidity. Precipitation ranges from 15 to 24 inches per year and averages 15 inches per year. The months of October through March receive 90% of precipitation, while April through September receives 10%.

Typically, the fire season receives an 0.8% rainfall. This is a dry period lasting at least six (6) months. Additionally, the area is subject to recurrent drought. The climatic region is currently in a drought phase that has lasted eight (8) years. A previous drought began in 1978 and lasted four (4) years. Additional droughts can be expected locally in the future.

Relative humidity remains in the middle range most of the time. It ranges from 65-75% during spring, summer, and fall and 60-75% in the winter. Occasionally occurring coastal fog can raise summer humidity, particularly at night. Summer humidity can fall as low as 12%

- b. Temperature. Temperatures have been recorded as high as 103 degrees Fahrenheit; average summer highs are in the 90 degrees Fahrenheit range.

- c. Winds. The area's prevailing winds come from the south or southwest in the mornings and from the north or northwest in the afternoons. However, winds are experienced from every direction at one time or another. Velocities are in the 14 miles per hour (mph) to 23 mph range, gusting from 25 to 35 mph. Occasionally, forty (40) mph winds occur, and winds up to 55 mph have been registered locally. During the winter half of the year, strong, dry, gusty winds from the north move through the area for several days, creating extremely dry conditions.
- d. Impact. The above-referenced local climatic conditions affect the acceleration, intensity, and size of fire within the community. Times of little or no rainfall, of low humidity, and hot temperatures create extremely hazardous conditions, particularly as they relate to wood shake and shingle roof fires and conflagrations. The winds experienced in this area can have a tremendous impact upon structure fires of buildings near one another commonly found in the City of Richmond. During wood shake and shingle roof fires, or exposure fires, winds can carry sparks and burning brands to other structures, thus spreading the fire, and causing conflagrations.

Hot, dry winds that can be experienced any time of the year can force a fire to move in any direction in heavily vegetated interface areas. In building fires, winds can force fires back into the building and can create a blow torch effect, in addition to preventing "natural" ventilation and cross-ventilation efforts. Winds, hot temperatures, and low humidity expose the entire community to the threat of conflagration.

2. Geologic

- a. Seismicity. Contra Costa County is in Seismic Risk Zone 4, which is the worst earthquake area in the United States. Buildings and other structures in Zone 4 can experience major seismic damage. Contra Costa County is near the San Andreas Fault and contains all or portions of the Hayward, Calaveras, Concord, Antioch, Rodgers, Mt. Diablo, and other lesser faults. The Hayward fault has been identified as a sight for a major earthquake event in the 7+ Richter range. Minor tremblers from seismic activity are not uncommon in the area.
- b. Impact. Earthquakes of the magnitude experienced locally can cause major damage to electrical transmission facilities which, in turn, cause power failures while at the same time starting fires throughout the city. The occurrence of multiple fires will quickly deplete existing fire department resources, thereby reducing and/or delaying their response to any given fire. Additionally, without electrical power, elevators, smoke management systems, lighting systems, alarm systems and other electrical equipment urgently needed for building evacuation and fire control in large buildings would be inoperative, thereby resulting in loss of life and/or major fire losses in such buildings.

The above local geologic conditions increase the magnitude, exposure, accessibility problems, and fire hazards presented to the City of Richmond. Fire following an earthquake has the potential of causing greater loss of life and damage than the earthquake itself. Hazardous materials, particularly toxic gases, could pose the greatest threat to the largest number, should a significant seismic event occur. Public Safety resources would have to be prioritized to mitigate the greatest threat and may be unavailable for smaller single dwelling or structure fires. Other variables may tend to intensify the situation, such as:

- i. The extent of damage to the water system.
- ii. The extent of isolation due to bridge and/or freeway overpass collapse.
- iii. The extent of roadway damage and/or amount of debris blocking the roadway.
- iv. Climatological conditions (hot, dry weather with high winds).
- v. Time of day will influence the amount of traffic on roadways and could intensify the risk to life during normal business hours.
- vi. The availability of timely mutual aid or military assistance; or
- vii. The likelihood that small fires will rapidly grow to conflagration proportions.

3. Topographic

- a. Soils. The area is replete with various soils which are unstable; clay loam and alluvial fans being predominant. These soil conditions are moderately to severely prone to swelling and shrinking, are plastic and tend to liquefy.
- b. Vegetation. Highly combustible dry grass, weeds and brush are common in the hilly and open space areas adjacent to built-up locations six to eight months of each year. Many of these areas frequently experience wildland fires which threaten nearby buildings, particularly those with wood roofs or sidings. This condition can be found throughout the City, especially in wildland interface areas.

- c. Surface Features. The arrangement and location of natural and manmade surface features, including hills, canyons, creeks, steep slopes, and historical slides, housing developments, commercial developments, fire stations, streets, and roads, combine to limit feasible response routes for fire resources. Fires moving through steep terrain can move 16-30 times faster than on level ground. Erratic terrain and erratic winds can cause fires to grow in an unpredictable manner.
- d. Buildings, Landscaping, and Terrain. Many commercial and residential buildings and apartment complexes have building and landscape features and designs which preclude or limit any approach or operational access to them by fire department vehicles. There are concentrations of houses and other buildings with untreated wood shake or shingle roofs or sidings in the city which are well within ten feet of each other. There are such buildings to which access to all, but one side is made virtually impossible due to landscaping, fences, electrical transmission lines, slopes, or other buildings.
- e. Electrical Transmission Equipment. Above-ground electrical power transmission lines suspended on poles and towers exist throughout the city. Many of the power poles are nearing the end of their useful life and would fail early in an area-wide fire. Many power line poles are located adjacent to streets and roads and the transmission wires are suspended above dry vegetation and untreated wood shake or shingle roofs. These cables are also suspended above large areas of dry vegetation and untreated wood shake or shingle roofs.
- f. Impact. The previously listed local topographical conditions increase the magnitude, exposure and accessibility problems associated with the fire hazards which arise within the City. Should a significant emergency event occur, such as an area-wide conflagration, public safety resources would have to be prioritized to mitigate the greatest threat and may be unavailable for smaller single dwelling or structure fires. Other variables may tend to intensify the situation, such as:
 - i. The extent of damage to the water system.
 - ii. The extent of isolation due to bridge and/or freeway overpass collapse.
 - iii. The extent of roadway damage and/or amount of debris blocking the roadways.
 - iv. Climatological conditions (hot, dry weather with high winds).
 - v. Time of day will influence the amount of traffic on roadways and could intensify the risk to life during normal business hours.
 - vi. The likelihood that small fires will rapidly grow to conflagration proportions.
- g. Conclusion. Local climatic, geologic, and topographic conditions impact fire prevention efforts, and the frequency, spread, acceleration, intensity, and size of fires which involve buildings in this community. Further, the local climatic, geologic, and topographic conditions impact potential damage to all structures from earthquake and subsequent fire. Therefore, it is found to be necessary that the 2022 California Fire Code be changed or modified to mitigate the effects of the risks associated with the above conditions.

4. CEQA

The City Council finds, pursuant to Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines), that this ordinance is exempt from CEQA under 15061(b)(3) on the grounds that these standards are more stringent than the State code standards, and there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT OF CODE

Chapter 8.16 of Article VIII of the Richmond Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

Chapter 8.16 FIRE PREVENTION CODE

Sections:

- 8.16.010 Adoption of the California Fire Code.
- 8.16.020 Establishment and duties of Fire Prevention Division.
- 8.16.030 Definitions.
- 8.16.040 Amendments to the California Fire Code.
- 8.16.050 New materials, processes or occupancies which may require permits.
- 8.16.060 Fire hazards and nuisances - Abatement.
- 8.16.065 Emergency Response Cost Recovery Fee.
- 8.16.070 Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- 8.16.080 Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
- 8.16.090 False Fire Alarms.

8.16.010 Adoption of the 2022 California Fire Code

There is adopted by the city for the purpose of prescribing regulations governing conditions hazardous to life property from fire, and explosion. Adoption of text of the International Fire Code and The California Fire Code, 2022 Edition (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part, 9 [based on the 2021 International Fire Code published by the International Code Council]), hereinafter referred to as the "California Fire Code" or the "Code," is hereby adopted by this reference subject to the changes, additions, and deletions (amendments) set forth in this ordinance. The California Fire Code referred to in this ordinance includes Appendix Chapters: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I & J, K as amended by the changes, additions and deletions set forth in this ordinance. In addition, all applicable reference standards will be included as part of this ordinance. Three copies of the 2022 California Fire Code are on file in the Office of the City Clerk for use and examination by the public.

8.16.020 Establishment and duties of the Fire Prevention Division.

- a) The California Fire Code shall be enforced by the Fire Prevention Division in the Fire Department of the City of Richmond, hereinafter referred to as the "Richmond Fire Department", which is hereby established and which shall be operated under the supervision of the Chief of the Richmond Fire Department, hereinafter referred to as the "Fire Chief."
- b) The Fire Marshal in charge of the Fire Prevention Division shall be appointed by the Fire Chief.
- c) The Deputy Fire Marshal in charge of the Fire Prevention Division in the absence of the Fire Marshal shall be appointed by the Fire Chief.
- d) The Chief of the Fire Department shall recommend to the City Manager the employment of technical staff members, who, when such authorization is made, shall be selected based on examination to determine their qualifications for the position.
- e) The Fire Chief may designate and direct certified and or qualified members of the suppression forces toward the enforcement of the California Fire Code.

8.16.030 Definitions.

- a) Wherever the word "**jurisdiction**" is used in the in California Fire Code, it means the City of Richmond.
- b) Wherever the words "**Fire Code Official**" are used they mean Fire Marshal or Deputy Fire Marshal in the absence of the Fire Marshal.
- c) Wherever the words "**Fire Chief**" are used in the California Fire Code they mean the Fire Chief of the City of Richmond or said Fire Chief's authorized representative. The term "**Chief**" also means Fire Chief.
- d) Wherever the words "Key Box" are used in the California Fire Code they mean Knox Box.

8.16.040 Amendments to the California Fire Code.

Pursuant to Section 17958 of the State of California Health and Safety Code, the City Council of the City of Richmond, in adopting and amending the 2022 Edition of the California Fire Code, changes or modifies such provisions which are described in the following sections. The following changes and/or modifications to the 2022 Edition of the California Fire Code are found to be reasonably necessary to mitigate the impacts described above which are caused by the above described local climatic, geological, and topographic conditions. The pertinent chapters and sections of the California Fire Code which are amended are as follows:

A. Amendment of Chapter 1, Scope and Administration is amended as follows:

- 1) Section 101.1 is amended to read as follows:
 - a) **Section 101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of the City of Richmond, hereinafter referred to as "this code."
- 2) Section 102.1 is amended by adding item (5) to the following:
 - a) **Section 102.1 Construction and design provisions.**
 - 5. Where not otherwise limited by law, the provisions of this code shall apply to vehicles, ships, boats, trains, and mobile vehicles when said vehicles are fixed in a specific location within the boundaries of this jurisdiction.

- 3) Section 103.1 is amended to read as follows:
- a) Section 103.1 Creation of agency. The Richmond Fire Prevention Division is hereby created, and the Fire Marshal is in charge thereof shall be known as the fire code official. The function of the agency shall be the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the provision of this code. In the absence of the fire marshal the deputy fire marshal shall be known as the fire code official.
- 4) Section 103.4 is amended by adding a subsection to read as follows:
- a) **Section 103.4 Fire Prevention Personnel as Peace Officers.** he Fire Chief and said Chief's designees shall have the powers of peace officers while engaging in the performance of their duties with respect to the prevention, investigation and suppression of fires and the protection and prevention of life and property against the hazards of fire and conflagration.
- b) The Fire Chief, or his/her duly authorized agents, may issue citations for violations of this ordinance in the same manner as a county or city is authorized to do so by Chapter 5C (commencing with Section 853.5), Title 3, Part 2, of the California Penal Code.
- 5) Section 104.2.1 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:
- a) **Section 104.2.1 Plan Review.** Whenever any land is to be developed or a building is to be constructed, before undertaking any construction or development, applicants shall submit building plans and specifications to the Richmond Fire Department which includes an aerial pre-fire plan for said Department's retention and review for compliance with this ordinance and other applicable regulations.
- 6) Section 104.2.2 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:
- a) **Section 104.2.2. Development Requirements.** This section shall be applicable whenever any land is developed, or a building is constructed or improved which would require:
1. Provision of a water supply for fire protection.
 2. Provision of access for fire apparatus.
 3. An occupancy for the storage, handling, or use of any hazardous substance, material process or device.
- 7) Section 104.13 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:
- a) **Section 104.13. Fire Chief Fire Prevention Scope.** The Fire Chief may order, in writing, the correction, elimination or abatement of any fire or life hazard or any violation of this ordinance including the code and standards incorporated by reference herein when the correction, elimination or abatement is necessary for the prevention or suppression of fires or conflagrations or for the protection or preservation of life or property against the hazards of fire or conflagration.
- 8) Section 105.5 is amended to read as follows:
- a) **Section 105.5 Required operational permits.** The fire code official is authorized to issue operational permits for the operations set forth in Sections 105.5.1 through 105.5.65.
- 9) Table 105.5.9 is amended to read as follows:
- a) **Table 105.5.9. Permit Amounts for Compressed Gases.** Only the listed amount for Inert and simple asphyxiant is amended to read 1,000 cubic feet at NTP. The remaining gases listed remain unchanged.

TYPE OF GAS	Amount (cubic feet at NTP)
Inert and simple asphyxiant	1,000 ^a

- a) For carbon dioxide used in beverage dispensing applications, see Section 5307

- 10) Section 105.5.33 is amended to read:
- a) **105.5.33 Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities.** An operational permit is required for the operation of automotive, marine, and fleet motor fuel dispensing facilities, including for sites that allow mobile fueling from a service provider to the public.

11) Section 105.5.33.1 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.5.33.1 Tank Vehicle Dispensing.** An operational permit is required the fueling of motor vehicles at approved locations from a tank vehicle. Also includes the limited or temporary fueling operations for special events (i.e., fueling or watercraft from shore, piers, floats, or barges).

12) Section 105.5.40 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.5.40 Cannabis/Plant Extraction Related System(s)/Operations.** An operational permit is required for any of the following cannabis/plant extraction related systems operations.

1. Cultivation	2. Manufacturing
3. Plant Extraction Systems	4. Distribution
5. Testing/Lab	6. Carbon Dioxide Systems

13) Section 105.5.52 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **105.5.52 Wood products.** An operational permit is required to store chips, hogged material, wood or other combustible pallets, lumber, or plywood more than 200 cubic feet (6 m3)/34.19 square feet.

14) Section 105.5.55 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.5.55 Temporary assembly permit.** A temporary assembly permit is required 10 days prior to conduct an event that will assemble more than 1,000 people. Any event that has more than 3,000 people shall require two personnel from the Fire Prevention Division for the duration of the event to ensure that compliance of all codes is adhered to. A site floor plan review and inspection fee will be assessed. A floor plan outlining, but not limited to, the following is required.

1. Number of people expected to attend
2. Number of exits
3. Location of fire extinguisher
4. Location of tables & chairs
5. Location of stage
6. Location of tents – requires separate permit
7. Location of cooking area(s)
8. Location of any open flames used for cooking or decorating

15) Section 105.5.56 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.5.56 Christmas tree sales.** A permit is required to use a property for the purpose of selling cut Christmas trees.

16) Section 105.5.57 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.5.57 Asbestos removal.** A permit is required to conduct asbestos-removal operations regulated by Section 3319.

17) Section 105.5.58 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.5.58 Firework aerial display.** A permit is required to conduct a firework display regulated by California Code of Regulations, Title 19, and Chapter 56 of this code.

18) Section 105.5.59 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.5.59 Model rockets.** A permit is required to sell model rocket motors or launch model rockets (more than 3 launches per event) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Article 17. Permits issued in accordance with this section are for the site and are effective if site conditions have not changed.

19) Section 105.5.60 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.5.60 Battery systems.** A permit is required to operate stationary lead-acid battery systems having a liquid capacity of more than 50 gallons (189 L).

20) Section 105.5.61 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.5.61 Temporary water supply.** A permit is required to use a temporary water supply for construction of residential projects or subdivisions pursuant to Section 3313.1.
- 21) Section 105.5.62 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:
- a) **Section 105.5.62 Tire storage.** A permit is required to store more than 1,000 cubic feet (28.3m³)/100 square feet of tires inside buildings pursuant to Chapter 34.
- 22) Section 105.5.63 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:
- a) **Section 105.5.63 Automobile Wrecking or Dismantling Yard.** An operation permit is, required for all automobile wrecking yards, automobile dismantling operations, and similar operations.
- 23) Section 105.5.64 is amended by adding subsection (a) and deleting (b) to read as follows:
- a) **Section 105.5.64 Five (5) year sprinkler test.** An operational permit is required to engage in the business of conducting the five (5) year test of an automatic fire sprinkler systems or standpipe, in accordance with NFPA 25 (Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems), 2013 California Edition.
- ~~b) **Indoor Growing Operation.** A permit is required to operate an indoor growing operation. Exception: Agricultural Greenhouses in an agricultural zone.~~
- 24) Section 105.6.1 is amended to read as follows:
- a) **Section [A] 105.6 Required construction permits.** The fire code official is authorized to issue construction permits for work as set forth in Sections 105.6.1 through 105.6.29.
- 25) Section 105.6.1 is amended to read as follows:
- a) **Section [A] 105.6.1 Automatic fire-extinguishing systems.** A construction permit is required for installation of or modification to an automatic fire-extinguishing system. Routine maintenance does not require a fire permit, **except** conducting a five (5) year test of an automatic fire sprinkler system or standpipe, in accordance with NFPA 25 (Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems), 2013 California Edition.
- 26) Section 105.6.2 is amended to read as follows:
- a) **Section 105.6.2 Compressed Gases**
- Exception #1:** Routine maintenance requires a fire permit approval process including but not limited to the plan review & inspection requirements by fire code official and or designee(s).
- 27) Section 105.6.12 is amended to read exception item #1 as follows:
- a) **Section 105.6.12 Hazardous Materials**
- Exception #1:** Routine maintenance requires a fire permit approval process including but not limited to the plan review & inspection requirements by fire code official and or designee(s).
- 28) Section 105.6 is amended by adding sections 105.6.25 through 105.6.32 to read as follows:
- a) **Section 105.6.25 Access for fire apparatus.** Plans shall be submitted, and a permit is required to install, improve, modify, or remove public or private roadways, driveways, and bridges for which Fire District access is required by the Fire Code.
- b) **Section 105.6.26 Construction, Substantial Alteration, Additions of a building for which a building permit is required.** Plans shall be submitted to the fire code official for all land developments or for the construction, substantial alteration, additions, or renovation of a building within the jurisdiction where a building permit is required.
Exception: Non-sprinklered Group R-3 Occupancies where work does not involve a substantial addition or substantial alteration.

- c) **Section 105.6.27 Land Development, Subdivisions.** Plans shall be submitted to the fire code official for all land developments or improvements proposed within the jurisdiction that involve the subdivision of land.
- d) **Section 105.6.28 Water supply for fire protection.** Plans shall be submitted to the fire code official for the purpose of determining whether adequate water supplies, fire hydrants, and associated systems are provided for all facilities, buildings, or portions of buildings either constructed or moved into the City of Richmond pursuant to Section 507.
- e) **Section 105.6.28 Gates and barricades across fire apparatus access roads.** A construction permit is required for the installation of or modification to a gate or barricade across a fire apparatus access road pursuant to Section 503 of California Fire Code (2022 edition).
- f) **Section 105.6.29 Construction, alteration, or renovation of building for which a building permit is required.** Plans shall be submitted to the fire code official for all land developments or for the construction, alteration, or renovation of a building within the City where a building permit is required.
- g) **Section 105.6.29.1 Vegetation management plan.** A construction permit is required to implement a vegetation management plan for any development that is within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).
- h) **Section 105.6.30 Land Development, Subdivisions.** Plans shall be submitted to the fire code official for all land developments or improvements proposed within the jurisdiction that involve the subdivision of land.
- i) **Section 105.6.31 Water supply for fire protection.** Plans shall be submitted to the fire code official for the purpose of determining whether adequate water supplies, fire hydrants, and associated systems are provided for all facilities, buildings or portions of buildings either constructed or moved into the City pursuant to Section 507 and Section 3313.1.
- j) **Section 105.6.32 Medical gas systems.** A construction permit is required for the installation of, or modification to, a medical gas system pursuant to Section 5306.
- k) **Section 105.6.33 Refrigeration equipment.** A permit is required to install a mechanical refrigeration unit or system regulated by Chapter 6, Section 605.

29) Section 105.8 & 105.8.1 are added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 105.8 Responsibility of permittee.** Construction permits shall be presumed by Fire Department to incorporate all the work that the applicant or the applicant's agent, employees, or contractors shall carry out. Work performed shall be in accordance with the approved plans and with all requirements of this code and any other laws or regulations applicable thereto. No Fire Department approval shall relieve or exonerate any person from the responsibility of complying with the provisions of this code nor shall any vested rights be created for any work performed in violation of this code.
- b) **Section 105.8.1 Responsibility of operational permittee.** Operational permits shall be presumed by the Fire Prevention Division to incorporate all the requirements of the operational permit that the applicant, the applicant's agent, employees and/or contractors shall carry out. All requirements shall be in accordance with this code and any other laws or regulations applicable thereto. No Fire Prevention Division approval shall relieve or exonerate any person from the responsibility of complying with the provisions of this code nor shall any vested rights be created for any requirements not followed in violation of this code.

30) Section 107.2.1 is amended by adding subsection read as follows:

- a) **Section 107.2.1 Local Fees.** The City Council may, by resolution, establish a schedule of non-discriminatory fees to be charged and collected, solely to defray the Richmond Fire Department's reasonable costs for plan review of fire protection equipment and systems, including, but not limited to, the plans set forth in Section 105.1.2; requested or required inspection services; and issuance of permits. Such fees shall become effective only after the City Council has reviewed such and approved the fee schedule. At least one copy of such approved fee schedule shall be filed with the City Clerk's Office. Additional copies shall be kept in the main business office of the Richmond Fire Department for reference by, and distribution to, the public.

31) Section 107.7 is amended by adding subsection to read as follows:

- a) **Section 107.7 Fire Suppression and Emergency Mitigation Fees.** The Richmond Fire Department may charge fees that reasonably constitute the cost of suppression of any fire or emergency mitigation against a property owner or other responsible person when the fire or emergency is a result of that person's violation of any federal, state statute or local ordinance. The Richmond Fire Department may charge fees to recover the reasonable costs of services necessary to protect the public health and safety associated with motor vehicle incidents, hazardous materials spills, discharges or threatened discharge of hazardous (or suspected hazardous) materials, motor vehicle fires, motor vehicle extrications, pipeline or power line incidents, and origin and cause investigations.

32) Section 112.4 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **Section 112.4 Violation penalties.**

Every person who violates any provision of this fire code is guilty of an infraction or misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 dollars in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 13871 and Government Code Section 53069.4. The imposition of one penalty for any violation shall not excuse the violation of the permit it to continue; and all such persons shall be required to correct or remedy such violations or defects within a reasonable time; and when not otherwise specified, each ten (10) days that prohibited conditions are maintained shall constitute a separate offense. The application of the aforesaid penalty shall not be held to prevent the enforced removal of prohibited conditions.

33) Section 112.4.2 is amended by adding subsection read as follows:

- b) **Section 112.4.2 Vegetation Abatement.** In addition to the imposition of the penalties herein described, the fire code official is authorized to institute appropriate action to remove vegetation standard violations by an authorized City of Richmond contractors at the cost to the property owner, but only after the property owner has been notified and had the appropriate time to mitigate but has failed to resolve the noted violations.

34) Section 113.4 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **Section 113.4 Failure to Comply.** Any person who shall continue any work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform, remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be liable to a fine of not less than \$250.00 dollars or more than \$2,000.00 dollars.

B. Amendment of Chapter 2 Definitions is amended as follows:

1) Section 202-A Definitions is amended by adding the following.

- a) **Administrator** shall mean the Fire Chief.
- b) **Aerial Preplan** – An overhead layout of a parcel that contains structure(s) that identifies specific first responder related items to assist in effectively managing incidents and events for the protection of occupants, responding personnel, property, and the environment. The preplan shall be developed in accordance with a format approved by the AHJ. Preplan symbols shall comply with AHJ or the latest edition of NFPA 170 (Standard for Fire Safety and Emergency Symbols), and NFPA 1620 (Standard for Pre-Incident Planning).
- c) **All-weather driving surface.** A roadway with a minimum surface finish that is designed to carry the imposed weight loads of fire apparatus.

2) Section 202-C is amended by adding the following:

- a) **COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL.** Rubbish, litter, or material of any kind other than hazardous vegetation that is combustible and endangers the public safety by creating a fire hazard as determined by the fire code official.

3) Section 202-D is amended by adding the following:

- a) **Defensible space:** The area adjacent to a structure or dwelling as determined by the fire code official where wildfire prevention or protection practices are implemented to provide the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or to minimize the spread of a structure fire to wildlands or surrounding areas.

- b) **Driveway** is a private roadway that provides access to no more than two (2) single-family dwellings.
- 4) Section 202-F is amended by adding the following definitions to read as follows:
- a) **Firebreak:** A continuous strip of land upon and from which all combustible material hazardous vegetation or other growth has been removed to bare mineral soil. To stop or prevent the extension of fire from one area to another.
 - b) **Fire apparatus access road:** A road that provides fire apparatus access from a fire station to a facility, building or portion thereof. This is a general term that includes, but is not limited to a fire lane, public street, private street, driveway, parking lot lane, and access roadway.
 - c) **Fire code official:** The Fire Marshal or the Deputy Fire Marshal in the absence of the Fire Marshal or a duly authorized representative, or other person as may be designated by law, appointment or delegation and charged with the administration and enforcement of this code.
 - d) **Fire resistant plants:** A relative term used to describe plants that are more resistant or less resistant than other plants to fire. Given enough heat, all vegetation will burn. Yet plants in fact differ in how fast they burn, how high a flame they produce and their ability to survive fire. Fire resistance is enhanced by higher amounts of moisture within twigs and foliage. Fire-resistant plants can lose this quality altogether if not properly maintained and irrigated.
 - e) **Fire trail:** A graded firebreak of sufficient width, surface, and design to provide access for personnel and equipment to suppress and to assist in preventing a surface extension of fires. Must be able to support the safe travel of a Type 3 Fire Apparatus.
 - f) **Fuel break:** A strategically located block or strip, on which a cover of dense, heavy, or combustible vegetation has been changed to one of lower fuel volume or reduced combustibility, as an aid to fire control. Fuel breaks require annual and recurring maintenance.
- 5) Section 202-H is amended to add a definition and read as follows:
- a) **Hazardous Vegetation:** Vegetation that is combustible and endangers the public safety by creating a fire hazard including but not limited to seasonal and recurrent grasses, weeds, stubble, brush, dry leaves, dry needles, dead, dying, or diseased trees and any other vegetation as determined by the fire code official.
- 6) Section 202-K is amended to add a definition and read as follows:
- a) **Knox Box:** (Underwriters Laboratory) UL "Listed" box, size, and style, approved by the Fire Code Official or designee that meets the requirements and uses the same security key code adopted by the Fire Department.
- 7) Section 202-L is amended to add a definition and read as follows:
- a) **LADDER FUEL.** Fuel that provides vertical continuity between surface fuel and canopy fuel strata, increasing the likelihood that fire will carry from surface fuel into the crowns of shrubs and trees.
- 8) Section 202-M is amended to add a definition and read as follows:
- a) **Multi-Family Residential Structures:** Multi-family residential structures comprised of four (4) or more units which access to the building or common areas, mechanical or an electrical room within the building is denied through locked doors.
- 9) Section 202-N is amended to add a definition and read as follows:
- a) **Nuisance Fire Alarm.** The activation of any fire protection or alarm system which results in the response of the Fire Department and is caused by malfunction, improper maintenance, negligence, or misuse of the system by an owner, occupant, employee, or agent, or any other activation not caused by excessive heat, smoke, fire, or similar activating event.
- 10) Section 202-O is amended by adding the following:

- a) **Ornamental landscaping:** Decorative plants growing within a tended garden or yard which are appropriately irrigated, maintained, and located to provide aesthetic decoration and functional utility, such as privacy screening, shade, weed suppression and erosion control. The use of fire-resistant plants and the removal of fire hazardous vegetation will enhance fire safety.

11) Section 202-P is amended by adding the following:

- a) **Person.** Includes any agency of the county, city, district or other local public agency and any individual, firm, association, partnership, business trust, corporations, limited liability company, or company.
- b) **Public nuisance.** A declaration by the fire code official that the presence of combustible materials on any parcel creates a fire hazard or threat to public safety (Health and Safety Code 14875 and 14876) or any violation of this code.
- c) **Priority Hazard Zone.** An area where the threat from wildfire is severe due to proximity to open space, topography, degree of space, density of homes and/or amount of vegetation (native and ornamental), and/or other conditions favorable to fast moving fires.
- d) **Protected aboveground tank:** A listed tank system consisting of a primary tank provided with protection from physical damage, and fire-resistive protection from a high-intensity liquid pool fire exposure. The tank system is allowed to provide these protection elements as a unit or is allowed to be an assembly of components, or a combination thereof.

12) Section 202-R is amended by adding the following:

- a) **Responsible Party:** The person(s) charged with the responsibility for the occupancy, building or business owner.
- b) **Response time.** The elapsed time from receipt of call to the arrival of the first unit on scene.
- c) **Residential Group – R-2:** Residential occupancies containing sleeping units or more than two dwellings' units where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, including: Apartments houses, Boarding houses (non-transient) with more than 16 occupants, Condominiums, Congregate residences (non-transient) with more than 16 occupants, Convents, Dormitories, Fraternities and Sororities, Hotels (non-transient), Live/work units, Monasteries, Motels (non-transient), Vacation timeshare properties.
- d) **Rubbish.** Waste matter, litter, trash, refuse, debris, and dirt on streets or private property in the jurisdiction which is, or when dry may become, a fire hazard. See combustible material.
- e) **Rural area.** An area generally designated for agricultural or open space uses with parcels more than 10 acres (4.046873ha) in size.
- f) **Rural residential area.** An area generally designated for single family residential use with parcels between three (1.2140619ha) and 10 (4.046873ha) acres in size.

13) Section 202-S is amended by adding the following:

- a) **Security Padlock:** When a property is protected by a locked fence or gate and where immediate access to the property is necessary for lifesaving and firefighting purposes, it shall be equipped with a Knox security padlock to be installed at a location approved by the Fire Code Official or his designee. It shall then be the responsibility of the responsible party to see that the fence or gate is secured properly so that the security padlock is accessible.
- b) **Security Cap:** A Fire Department Connection (FDC) plug, and cap approved for use in the City of Richmond by the Fire Official or designee utilizing 2 1/2" National Standard thread pattern.
- c) **Sprinkler alarm and Supervisory system (SASS):** A Dedicated Function Fire Alarm System located at the protected premise installed specifically to monitor sprinkler water-flow alarm, valve supervisory, and general trouble conditions where a Building Fire Alarm is not required.
- d) **Streets.** Includes alleys, parkways, driveways, sidewalks, and areas between sidewalks and curbs, highways, public right of ways, private road, paper street and easements.
- e) **Substantial Addition.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all existing R-3 occupancy buildings where a substantial addition of new gross floor area exceeds fifty percent of the existing gross floor area, or the total new gross floor area is 3,600 or greater.

- f) **Substantial Alteration.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout an existing R-3 occupancy building where fifty percent of the combined linear length of all the exterior and interior walls are altered and fifty percent of the roof structure is being altered.

14) Section 202-T is amended by adding the following:

- a) **Temporary fire department access road for construction:** An approved temporary roadway for emergency vehicle uses during construction of residential subdivision projects.
- b) **Temporary fire department access road for construction of one (1) residential (R3) unit.** A temporary roadway for emergency vehicle uses during construction of an individual residential (R3) structure where a fire department access road is required as part of the project.
- c) **Temporary water supply.** Water stored for firefighting purposes in an approved aboveground tank during combustible construction.
- d) **Tree litter.** Any limbs, bark, branches and/or leaves in contact with other vegetation or left to gather on the ground

15) Section 202-V is amended by adding the following:

- a) **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ):** Any geographic area designated pursuant to California Government Code Section 51178 to contain the type and condition of vegetation, topography, weather, and structure density to potentially increase the possibility of wildland conflagration fires. As a community adjacent to extensive wildland areas, the City of Richmond contains several VHFHS zones. A map of these zones is available from the Richmond Fire Department. Fire hazard reduction standards are more extensive for properties located within VHFHS zones.

16) Section 202-W is amended by adding the following:

- a) **Weeds.** All weeds growing upon streets or private property in the jurisdiction, including any of the following:
 - 1. Weeds that bear seeds of a fluffy nature or are subject to flight.
 - 2. Sagebrush, chaparral (including Chamise, Coyote Brush/Greasewood, Brooms, and Buckwheat), and any other brush or weeds that attain such large growth as to become, when dry, a fire menace to adjacent improved property.
 - 3. Weeds that are otherwise noxious or dangerous.
 - 4. Poison oak and poison sumac when the conditions of growth constitute a menace to public health.
 - 5. Dry grass, brush, tree litter, litter, or other flammable materials that endanger the public safety by creating a fire hazard.

- b) **Wildland-urban interface fire area.** A geographical area identified by the City of Richmond as a “Fire Hazard Severity Zone” in accordance with the Public Resources Code, Sections 4201 through 4204, and Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189, or other areas designated by the enforcing agency to be at a significant risk from wildfires, as designated on the map titled Very High Fire Severity Zones.

C. Amendment of Chapter 3 General Requirements is amended as follows:

1) Section 311 Vacant Premises is adopted in its entirety:

2) Section 324 Automobile Wrecking Yards is added to read as follows:

3) Section 324.1 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 324.1 Automobile Wrecking Yard/Dismantling General.** The operation of automobile wrecking yards shall be in accordance with this section.

4) Section 324.2 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 324.2 Definitions** is added to read as follows:

- 1. **Automobile Wrecking Yard.** An area that stores or dismantles salvaged vehicles.

2. **Automobile Dismantling.** The operation of dismantling or removing parts from salvaged vehicles including engines or engine parts.

5) Section 324.3 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3 Requirements:** The following requirements are establishing the minimum life safety measures for an automobile wrecking and/or dismantling or similar operations.

6) Section 324.3.1 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.1 Permits.** An operation permit is required for all automobile wrecking yards, automobile dismantling operations, and similar operations.

7) Section 324.3.2 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.2 Fire Apparatus Access Roads.** Fire apparatus access roads shall be constructed throughout the site in accordance with this code and shall be maintained clear of all vehicles and stored items.

8) Section 324.3.3 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.3 Welding and cutting.** An operational permit is required for welding and cutting operations, which shall be conducted in an approved location, clear of all flammable liquids and combustible materials, including weeds, tires, and all other debris.

9) Section 321.4.4 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.4 Housekeeping.** Combustible rubbish accumulated on-site shall be collected and stored in approved containers, rooms, or vaults of non-combustible materials. Combustible vegetation, cut or uncut, shall be removed when determined by the fire code official to be a fire hazard.

10) Section 324.3.5 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.5 Fire Protection.** Offices, storage buildings and vehicles used for site operations shall each be provided with at least one portable fire extinguisher with not less than a 4-A:40-B-C rating. When required by the fire code official, additional fire extinguishers shall be provided.

11) Section 324.3.6 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.6 Tire storage.** Tires shall be stored in racks or in a manner as approved by the fire code official.

12) Section 324.3.7 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.7 Distance from Water Supply.** Tire storage shall be located on-site and no further than 500 feet from a fire hydrant or an approved water supply as determined by the fire code official.

13) Section 324.3.8 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.8 Storage Piles.** Storage piles shall be located a minimum of 20 feet from property lines and shall have an unobstructed access road on all sides of not less than 20 feet.

14) Section 324.3.9 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.9 Burning operations.** The burning of salvaged vehicles and salvaged or waste materials is prohibited.

15) Section 324.3.10 is added to read as follows:

a) **Section 324.3.10 Motor vehicle fluids.** Motor vehicle fluid shall be drained from salvaged vehicles when such liquids are leaking onto the ground and prior to dismantling or removing engine/motor parts.

16) Section 324.3.10.1 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 324.3.10.1 Mitigation of leaking fluids.** Precautions shall be taken to prevent fluids from salvaged vehicles from leaking on to the ground. Supplies or equipment capable of mitigating leaks from fuel tanks, crankcases, brake systems and transmissions shall be kept available on-site. Single-use plugs, diking and absorbent materials shall be disposed of as hazardous waste and removed from the site in a manner in accordance with federal, state, and local requirements.

17) Section 324.3.11 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 324.3.11 Fuel tanks.** Fuel tanks of salvaged vehicles shall be emptied of all flammable fuels (gasoline, diesel) in an approved manner and stored in approved tanks.

18) Section 324.3.11.1 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 324.3.11.1 Repair of vehicle fuel tanks.** The repair of fuel tanks, including cutting, welding, or drilling of any kind, is prohibited.

19) Section 324.3.12 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 324.3.12 Lead acid batteries.** Lead acid batteries shall be removed from all salvaged vehicles and stored in an approved manner in a location approved by the fire code official.

D. Amendment of Chapter 4 Emergency Planning and Preparedness is amended as follows:

1) Section 401.5.1 is added to read as follows.

- a) **Section 401.5.1 Nuisance Fire Alarm.** A fee may be charged for false/ or nuisance fire alarms in accordance with a fee schedule adopted by City Council.

2) Section 401.10 is added to read as follows.

- b) **Section 401.10 Aerial Pre-Plans.** The fire official is authorized to require an approved fire aerial pre-plan and evacuation plan to be prepared and maintained for the occupancies outlined in section 408.2.

3) Section 401.11 is added to read as follows.

- a) **401.11 Standby Personnel.** Where, in the opinion of the fire code official or Fire Chief, it is essential for public safety in a place of assembly, or any other place where people congregate, because of the number of persons, or the nature of the performance, exhibition, display, contest, or activity, the owner, agent, or lessee shall provide standby personnel as required and approved by the fire code official or Fire Chief. If the activity requires fire watch, fire watch shall be provided in accordance with Sections 403.11.1.1 and 403.11.1.2. Standby personnel needed for EMS standby shall be provided in accordance with Contra Costa County EMS Protocols.

4) Section 407.8 Facility Hazard Analysis is added to read as follows.

- a) **Section 407.8 General.** A fire protection engineer stamped hazard analysis shall be completed every three (3) years or when a facility area(s) has added, removed, or modified the facility or area(s) of operations within the facility as deemed by the code official to update the existing plan.

5) Section 408 Aerial Pre-Plans is added to read as follows.

- a) **Section 408.1 General.** Where required by the fire code official aerial pre-plans, evacuation plans shall comply with the requirements of Sections 408.2 through 408.3

6) Section 408.2 is added to read as follows.

- a) **Section 408.2 Where required.** An approved fire aerial pre-plan and evacuation plan shall be prepared and maintained for the following occupancies and buildings.
 1. Group A, other than Group A occupancies used exclusively for purposes of religious worship that have an occupant load less than 1,000.
 2. Group B buildings having an occupant load of 500 or more persons or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge.
 3. Group E.

4. Group F buildings having an occupant load of 500 or more persons or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge. In addition, any facility that has plant cultivation, extraction process within the facility regardless of occupant load or portion of the facility deemed as an F occupancy.
5. Group H. including any occupancy that is in the Contra Costa Health Services Hazardous Materials Programs larger than 5,000 square feet.
6. Group I.
7. Group R-1. Residential occupancies containing twenty (20) or more sleeping units in complex.
8. Group R-2. Residential occupancies containing twenty (20) or more sleeping units in complex.
9. Group R-4 Residential occupancies exceeding 3,000 square feet in aggregate floor area.
10. High-rise buildings.
11. Group M buildings having an occupant load of 500 or more persons or more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge.
12. Covered malls exceeding 50,000 square feet in aggregate floor area.
13. Open mall buildings exceeding 20,000 square feet in aggregate area within perimeter line.
14. Underground buildings.
15. Buildings with an atrium and having an occupancy in Group A, E or M.

7) Section 408.3 is added to read as follows.

a) **Section 408.3 Contents of aerial pre-plans.** Aerial pre-plans contents shall include but not be limited to the following in accordance with Section 408.1 & and 408.2:

1. Knox Box and/or Haz Mat Knox cabinet location
2. Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP)
3. Emergency vehicle access
4. Post Indicator Valve (PIV)
5. OS&Y valve
6. Location of hazardous materials
7. Sprinkler riser
8. Gas valve
9. Electrical main valve
10. Fire Department Connection (FDC)
11. Hydrant location
12. Elevator equipment room

E. Amendment of Chapter 5 Fire Service Features is amended as follows:

1) Section 503.1.4 is added to read:

a) **Section 503.1.4 Access to open spaces.** When access to open land/space or fire trail systems maintained for public or private use is obstructed by new development of any kind, the developer shall provide alternate acceptable access into the area that is sufficient to allow access for fire personnel and apparatus. The alternate means of access requires the approval of the fire code official.

2) Section 503.1.5 is added to read:

a) **Section 503.1.5 Existing fire trail systems shall be maintained.** When conditions make maintenance of existing trails impractical, alternate means of access shall be provided and requires approval by fire code official.

3) Section 503.2.1.1 is amended by adding the following:

a) **Section 503.2.1.1 Access to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Open Space.**

1. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 26 feet (7,925.8 mm), exclusive of shoulders, except for approved security gates in accordance with section 503.6 and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches (4,145.28mm).
2. It shall be unlawful to block access to any of the fire access roads into open space which are identified on lists or maps contained in the document entitled "Exhibit B - Access Roads in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones," copies of which shall be maintained at the City Clerk's Office and at the Richmond Public Library. Any obstruction of an access road identified on said map shall be deemed to be a nuisance and shall be subject to abatement as set forth in Section 8.16.060 (c) of the Municipal Code of the City of Richmond.

3. When access to open land/space or a fire trail system maintained for public or private use is obstructed by new development, the developer shall provide alternate access, approved by the Fire Department, for fire personnel and equipment. Any obstruction of access to open land/space or a fire trail system maintained for public or private use shall be deemed to be a nuisance and shall be subject to abatement as set forth in Section 8.16.060 (c) of the Municipal Code of the City of Richmond.
- 4) Section 503.2.6.1 is amended by adding the following:
 - a) **Section 503.2.6.1 Evaluation and maintenance.** All existing private bridges and elevated surfaces that are a part of the fire department access roadway shall be evaluated by a California licensed civil engineer experienced in structural engineering or a California licensed structural engineer, for safety and weight rating, in accordance with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual: "The Manual for Bridge Evaluation," Second Edition, or other approved standard. Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges. All bridges and elevated structures providing fire department access shall be routinely maintained in accordance with Section 503.2.6 or when directed by the fire code official or authorized designee.
- 5) Section 503.2.6.1 is amended to read as follows:
 - a) **Section 503.3 Marking.** Where required by the fire code official, approved signs or other approved notices or markings that include the words "NO PARKING – FIRE LANE" in accordance with the California Vehicle Code, shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof. The means by which fire lanes are designated shall be always maintained in a clean and legible condition and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.
- 6) Section 503.4.1 is amended to read as follows:
 - a) **Section 503.4.1 Traffic calming devices.** Traffic calming devices shall be prohibited in all VHFHSZ, WUI-FA and shall have a second unobstructed fire apparatus access road for evacuations. All applications for traffic calming devices shall provide the following information.
 1. Traffic volume,
 2. Posted speed limit,
 3. Number of accidents in the three previous attributed to speed
 4. Traffic Engineer shall determine the site is suitable
 5. Summary of education efforts
 6. Summary of enforcement efforts
 7. Number of citations or warning issued
- 7) Section 505.1 is amended to read as follows:
 - b) **Section 505.1 Address identification.** New and existing buildings shall be provided with approved illuminated or other approved means of address identification. The address identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property. Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabetic letters. Numbers shall not be spelled out. Character size and stroke shall be in accordance with Section 505.1.1 through 505.1.2. Where required by the fire code official, address identification shall be provided in additional approved locations to facilitate emergency response in accordance with this code and Section 505.1.3. Where access is by means of a private road and the building cannot be viewed from the public way or when determined by the fire code official, a monument, pole, or other approved illuminated sign or other approved means shall be used to identify the structure. Address identification shall be maintained.
- 8) Section 505.1.1 is added to read as follows:
 - a) **Section 505.1.1 One- and two- family dwellings.** Each address identification character shall be not less than four (4) inches high with a minimum stroke width of one-half (0.5) inch.
- 9) Section 505.1.2 is added to read as follows:
 - a) **Section 505.1.2 Other than one and two-family dwellings.** Each address identification character shall be not less than twelve (12) inches high with a minimum stroke width of one (1) inch. Suite and unit directional numbers shall be not less than six (6) inches high with a minimum stroke width

of three-quarter (0.75) inch. Numbers shall be not less than four (4) inches high with a minimum stroke width of one-half (0.5) inch.

10) Section 505.1.3 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 505.1.3 Complex directory.** Where two or more buildings cannot be viewed from the public way or when determined by the fire code official, an approved illuminated complex directory, monument, pole, or other approved sign or means shall be used to identify the structures at the main entrances to the property.

11) Section 505.3 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 505.3 Street names and addressing.** Street names and addressing shall be submitted for review and approval to the fire code official, whose approval will not be unreasonably withheld. The purpose of the review is to verify that new street names and addressing will not duplicate existing street names and addressing.

12) Section 506.1 is amended by adding Subsection 506.1 items number one (1) through number eight (8) to read as follows:

- a) **Section 506.1 Where required.** Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for lifesaving or fire-fighting purposes, the fire official is authorized to require a Knox Rapid Entry System to be installed in an approved location. The Knox Rapid Entry System shall be of an approved type listed in accordance with UL 1037 and shall contain keys to gain necessary access as required by the fire code official. If any of the following items listed (1) thru (8) is located at an occupancy, then a Knox Rapid Entry System shall be required.

1. **Fire suppression and standpipe systems.** When a building within the city limits is protected by an automatic fire suppression and/or standpipe system, it shall be equipped with a Knox Rapid Entry System, installed at a location approved by the Fire Code Official or designee.
2. **Automatic Alarm Systems.** When a building within the city limits is protected by an automatic fire suppression and/or standpipe system, it shall be equipped with a Knox Rapid Entry System, installed at a location approved by the Fire Code Official or designee.
3. **Multi-family residential structures.** Multi-family residential structures comprised of four (4) or more units which access to the building or common areas or mechanical or an electrical room within the building is denied through locked doors.
4. **Automatic Gates.** When a property is accessed through a gate or cross arm that impedes ingress through required fire lanes by means of a key or swipe card, it shall be equipped with a key switch to be installed at a location approved by the Fire Code Official or designee.
5. **Security Padlock.** When a property is protected by a locked fence or gate and where immediate access to the property is necessary for life saving and firefighting purposes, it shall be equipped with a security padlock to be installed at a location approved by the Fire Code Official or designee. It shall then be the responsibility of the responsible party to see that the fence or gate is secured properly so that the security padlock is accessible.
6. **Construction Sites.** When a construction site is to be secured by a locked fence or gate, that site will fall under section 2 subsection E, during the duration of construction or until said fence or gate is removed. It shall then be the responsibility of the construction company to see that the fence or gate is secured properly so that the security padlock is accessible.
7. **Security of Fire Department Connections (FDC).** When a building is protected by an automatic sprinkler and/or standpipe system and the fire department connection is exposed to vandalism, the Fire Code Official or designee shall require that a security gate be installed around the standpipe and that a Knox security cap be installed.

Exception: This shall not apply to any owner-occupied one- and two-family dwellings. Owners of single- and two-family occupancies are encouraged to participate voluntarily utilizing a residential key box.

8. **Remote Power Box.** Where a building is equipped with the following items: the fire code official, can required to be installed a Knox Remote Power Box, to safely gain access to high-risk electrical areas by tripping the power on equipment and machinery.
 1. Generators
 2. Power distribution centers
 3. Light rail systems
 4. Telecommunication equipment

5. HVAC controls
6. Solar, photovoltaic, wind-powered systems

13) Section 506.1.1 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **Section 506.1.1 Locks.** An approved lock(s) shall be installed on gate(s), or similar barrier(s) and security caps for all fire department connections to an automatic sprinkler and/or standpipe system(s) where required by the fire code official.

14) Section 506.1.3 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 506.1.3 Knox Rapid Entry System storage cabinet contents.** Any facility, firm, or corporation that handles, uses, or stores hazardous material and or total aggregate is more than 55 gallons of liquid, 500 pounds of solid, or 200 cubic feet of gas, shall have a Knox Box Haz Mat Cabinet, model #1100, for Richmond Fire Department use. A weatherproof cabinet, model #1201-WH, shall be installed when appropriate. Exception: not required for Underground Storage Tanks (UST).

The cabinet shall contain the following items:

1. Binder for Haz Mat Knox Box with:
2. List of responsible parties' phone numbers (i.e., plant manager, owner, all principal employees, management types, and major chemical manufacturers).
3. An aerial pre-plan of the facility, to include room numbering, extinguishing systems (outside stem and yoke (OSY), post indicator valves (PIV), fire department connections (FDC), drains, secondary containment, ventilation systems, and hydrant locations (See attached aerial pre-plan sample).
4. Alphabetical list of chemicals, room number location, and approximate quantity and strength (i.e., 50%, 60%, 85%, etc.).
5. Safety Data Sheet (SDS) of all chemicals in alphabetical order.
6. Keys for Haz Mat Knox Box:
 - a. Keys to all locked doors with plastic identification tags corresponding to complex aerial pre-plan.
7. Location of Haz Mat Knox Box:
 - a. The Knox Box shall be located on the exterior of the building near the front entrance as shown by Fire Code Official or designee.

15) Section 506.1.4 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 506.1.4 Knox Rapid Entry System key box contents.** The Key boxes shall contain, but not be limited to, the following items as designated by the Fire Code Official or designee.

The Key Box shall contain the following items:

1. Labeled keys to locked points of egress, whether in interior or exterior of such buildings.
2. Labeled Keys to the locked mechanical rooms.
3. Labeled keys to any fence or secured areas not covered in Section 506.1 subsection (4), (5), or (6).
4. Labeled keys to any other areas that may be required by the Fire Code Official or designee.
5. A card containing the emergency contact people and phone numbers for each occupancy.
6. Hazardous Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
7. Aerial pre-plan.

16) Section 506.1.5 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 506.1.5 Alert Decals.** Alert decals approved by the Fire Code Official or designee, to alert fire companies of the presence of security features covered by this ordinance, will be displayed on any outside doors or windows as designated by the Fire Code Official or designee.

17) Section 506.2 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **Section 506.2 Knox Rapid Entry System maintenance.** The operator of the building shall immediately notify the Fire Code Official or designee and provide the new key when a lock is changed or re-keyed. The key to such lock shall be secured in the Knox Rapid Entry System.

18) Section 507.5.1.1 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **507.5.1.1 Hydrant for fire department connections.** Buildings equipped with a water-based fire protection system installed in accordance with Section 903 through 905 shall have a fire hydrant within 100 feet of the fire department connections, or as approved by the fire code official. (Also see Section 912.2 for additional information).

19) Section 510 is amended to read as follows:

1. Section 510 Emergency Responder Radio Coverage (ERRC) is adopted in its entirety, with the exceptions of the following.

- a) **Section 510.1 Emergency responder radio coverage in new buildings, exception #1.** Exception #1 is deleted.
- b) **Section 510.3 Permits required.** Permits shall be required as set forth in Sections 105.6 and 105.7. Maintenance performed in accordance with this code is not considered a modification and does not require a permit.

F. Amendment of Chapter 6 Fire Service Features is amended as follows:

1) Section 605.3.1 is added to read:

- a) **Section 605.3.1 Spark Arrestors.** All Chimneys attached to any appliance or fireplace that burns solid fuel shall be equipped with an approved spark arrestor per CBC 2113.9.2

G. Amendments of Chapter 8 Interior Finish, Decorative Materials and Furnishings:

1) Section 806.1.5 is added, to read as follows:

- a) **Section 806.1.5 Tags.** Trees shall bear a tag stating date of placement in the public building, type of flame-retardant treatment used, name of the person who applied the flame retardant, the name of the person affixing the tag, a permit expiration date, and the name of the designated individual making daily tests.

2) Section 806.1.6 is added, to read:

- a) **Section 806.1.6 Daily tests.** Trees shall be tested daily by a designated individual. The test shall include a check for dryness in accordance with Section 806.1.3 and for adequate watering.

H. Amendment of Chapter 9 Fire Protection Systems is amended as follows:

1) Section 901.6.3.2 is amended to read:

- a) **Section 901.6.3.2 Records.** Records of all system inspections, tests, and maintenance required by the reference standards shall be submitted to a third-party electronic record keeping service as chosen by the fire department.

2) Section 902.1 is amended by adding 902.1 two definitions to read as follows:

Section 902.1 Definitions.

- a) **Substantial Addition.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all existing R-3 occupancy buildings where a substantial addition of new gross floor area exceeds fifty percent of the existing gross floor area, or the total new gross floor area is 3,600 or greater.
- b) **Substantial Alteration.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout an existing R-3 occupancy building where fifty percent of the combined linear length of all the exterior and interior walls are altered and fifty percent of the roof structure is being altered.

3) Section 903.1 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **Section 903.1 General.** Automatic sprinkler systems shall comply with this section. For the purposes of this section, fire walls shall not be considered as creating separate buildings. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for all new buildings with a gross floor area that exceeds 5,000 square feet (464.51 m²), and in the locations set forth in Section 903.

Exception: Group U occupancies.

4) Section 903.2 is adopted in its entirety except as amended below

- a) **Section 903.2.1.1 Group A-1.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group A-1 occupancies where the following condition exist:
1. The fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464.51 m²).
- 5) **Section 903.2.1.3 Group A-3.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all stories containing Group A-3 occupancy to and including the levels of exit discharge serving that occupancy where the following condition exist:
1. The fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464.51 m²).
 4. The structure exceeds 10,000 square feet, contains more than one fire area containing exhibition and display rooms, and is separated into two or more buildings by fire walls of less than 4-hour fire resistance rating without openings.
- 6) **Section 903.2.1.4 Group A-4.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout stories containing Group A-4 occupancies and throughout all stories from the Group A-4 occupancy to and including the levels of exit discharge serving that occupancy where the following condition exist:
1. The fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464.51 m²).
- 7) **Section 903.2.2.1 Ambulatory care facilities.** automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout the entire floor containing an ambulatory care facility where either of the following conditions exist at any time:
1. Four or more care recipients are incapable of self-preservation.
 2. One or more care recipients that are incapable of self-preservation are located at other than the level of exit discharge serving such a facility.
 3. In buildings where ambulatory care is provided on levels other than the level of exit discharge, an automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout the entire floor as well as all floors below where such care is provided, and all floors between the level of ambulatory care and the nearest level of exit discharge, the level of exit discharge, and all floors below the level of exit discharge.
- 8) **Section 903.2.3 Group E.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for new Group E occupancies as follows:
1. Throughout all Group E fire areas greater than 5,000 square feet in area.
Exception: An automatic sprinkler system is not required in any Group E Day Care Facility less than 5,000 square feet
 2. The Group E fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.
Exception: In buildings where every classroom has not fewer than one exterior exit door at ground level, an automatic sprinkler system is not required in any area below the lowest level of exit discharge serving that area.
 3. The Group E fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.
 4. In rooms or areas with special hazards such as laboratories, vocational shops, and other such areas where hazardous materials in quantities not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity are used or stored.
 5. Throughout any Group E structure greater than 5,000 square feet in area, which contains more than one fire area, and which is separated into two or more buildings by fire walls of less than 4-hour fire resistance rating without openings.
 6. For public school state-funded construction projects, see Section 903.2.19.
 7. For public school campuses, Kindergarten through 12th grade, see Section 903.2.20.
- 9) **Section 903.2.4 Group F-1.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings containing a Group F occupancy.
- 10) **Section 903.2.7 Group M & B.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings containing a Group M occupancy where the gross floor area exceeds 500 square feet:
- 11) **Section 903.2.8 Group R.** An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided throughout all Group R occupancies, other than manufactured and mobile homes and multifamily manufactured homes. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in new manufactured and mobile homes and multifamily manufactured homes with two dwelling units, including those located in mobile home parks, in accordance with Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations.
- 12) **Section 903.2.8.1.1 Group R-3 Substantial Addition or Alteration.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all existing Group R-3 dwellings where either of the following occurs:

- a) **Substantial Addition.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all existing R-3 occupancy buildings where a substantial addition of new gross floor area exceeds fifty percent of the existing gross floor area, or the total new gross floor area is 3,600 or greater.
 - b) **Substantial Alteration.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout an existing R-3 occupancy building where fifty percent of the combined linear length of all the exterior and interior walls are altered and fifty percent of the roof structure is being altered.
- 13) **Section 903.2.8.1.2. Eave Protection.** Sprinkler protection shall be provided under roof eaves as defined in CBC 702A definitions in Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Wildland Urban Interface Fire Areas
 - 14) **Section 903.2.9 Group S-1.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings containing Group S-1 occupancy.
 - 15) **Section 903.2.9.1 Repair garages.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings used as repair garages in accordance with Section 406 of the California Building Code, as shown:
 1. Buildings having two or more stories above grade plane, including basements, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding 5,000 square feet (464.51 m²).
 2. Buildings no more than one story above grade plane, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding 5,000 square feet (464.51 m²).
 3. Buildings with repair garages servicing vehicles parked in basements.
 4. A Group S-1 fire area used for the repair of commercial motor vehicles where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464.51 M²) or any tenant improvement to the structure exceeds 49% of the S-1 area.
 - 16) **Section 903.2.10 Group S-2 Parking garages.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings classified as parking garages where any of the following conditions exists:
 1. Where the fire area of the enclosed parking garage, in accordance with Section 406.6 of the California Building Code, exceeds 5,000 square feet.
 2. Where the enclosed parking garage, in accordance with Section 406.6 of the California Building Code, is located beneath other groups.
Exception: Enclosed parking garages located beneath Group R-3 occupancies.
 3. Where the fire area of the open parking garage, in accordance with Section 406.5 of the California Building Code, exceeds 48,000 square feet.
 - 17) **Section 903.2.11.7 High-piled storage.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings containing high-pile combustible storage.
Exception: An automatic sprinkler system is not required for 500 square feet or less, including aisles, of high-piled storage.
 - 18) **Section 903.2.22 Fire Department Delivery Capability.** An automatic fire sprinkler shall be installed in all new buildings and occupancies or in existing buildings or structures that change occupancy classification or use when the required fire flow exceeds 2,000 gallons per minute.
 - 19) **Section 903.2.23 Response Times.** An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed in all new buildings or occupancies which exceed a maximum running time of three minutes or a maximum response time of 5 minutes from the first-due station. Times shall be measured by the most direct route on surface streets.
 - 20) **Section 903.2.24 Area Separation.** For the purpose of this section, buildings separated by fire walls without openings, constructed in accordance with the California Building Code, shall not be considered to create separate buildings.
 - 21) Section 903.3.1.2.4 is added to read as follows.
 - a) **Section 903.3.1.2.4 Undeclared Use.** In buildings of undeclared use with floor to structure height greater than 14 feet (356 mm), the fire sprinkler system shall be designed to conform to Extra Hazard Group I design density. In buildings of undeclared use with floor to structure height less than 14 feet (356 mm), the fire sprinkler system shall be designed to conform to Ordinary Group II design density. Where a subsequent occupancy requires a system with greater capability, it shall be the responsibility of the owner and/or the occupant to upgrade the system.
 - 22) Section 903.3.8.6 is added to read:

- a) **Section 903.3.8.6 Pipe limitations.** Where CPVC pipe is installed above the insulation or is otherwise located in an unconditioned space, such as in an attic space, or a garage without conditioned living space above, CPVC pipe shall be adequately insulated to a minimum R-19 value, or equivalent, or pipe shall be limited to Type K or L copper, or ferrous piping.
- 23) Section 903.4.2 is amended to read as follows:
- a) **Section 903.4.2 Alarms.** One approved all weather audible and visual device shall be connected to every automatic sprinkler system at an approved location. Such sprinkler water-flow alarm devices shall be activated by water flow equivalent to the flow of a single sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed in the system. Audible and visual alarm devices shall be provided on the exterior of the building in an approved location. Where a fire alarm system is installed, actuation of the automatic sprinkler system shall actuate the building fire alarm system.
- 24) Section 903.4.2.1 Alarms is added to read as follows.
- a) **Section 903.4.2.1 Multi-Family Residential Alarm.** Any building with three (3) or more residential structure, multi-family structure, that share a common wall(s) or is identified by its own address or separate unit identification shall have at least one exterior approved alarm notification appliance per residential structure that identifies the specific residential structure that has activated the fire alarm and/or sprinkler system.
- 25) Section 903.4.3 is amended to read as follows.
- a) **Section 903.4.3. Floor Control Valves.** Floor control valves. Individual floor control valves and water flow detection assemblies shall be provided for each floor in multi-floor buildings at an approved location.
Exception: Group R-3 and R-3.1 Occupancies.
- 26) Section 903.6 is amended by adding subsections 903.6.1, 903.6.2, and 903.6.3 to read as follows:
- a) **Section 903.6.1 Substantial Addition.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all existing R-3 occupancy buildings where a substantial addition of new gross floor area exceeds fifty percent of the existing gross floor area, or the total new gross floor area is 3,600 or greater.
- b) **Section 903.6.2 Substantial Alteration.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout an existing R-3 occupancy building where fifty percent of the combined linear length of all the exterior and interior walls are altered and fifty percent of the roof structure is being altered.
- c) **Section 903.6.3 Change of occupancy classification.** Change of occupancy classification. Any existing building that undergoes a change of occupancy classification into a higher hazard category shall comply with the requirements of Section 903.2. Relative hazard categories of occupancy groups shall be established based upon the Heights and Areas Hazard Categories of Table 1011.5 of the current edition of the International Existing Building Code, as published by the International Code Council. The requirements of Section 903.2 shall not be required when a change of occupancy classification is made to an equal or lesser hazard category. Group L occupancies shall be considered a relative hazard of 1 (highest hazard).
- 27) Section 905.3.1 subsection (2) is amended in its entirety to read as follows.
- a) **Section 905.3.1 Height subsection (2).** Any building three (3) stories in height shall have a Class I standpipe installed that is interconnected with the fire sprinkler system.
- 28) Section 907.4.2.3 is adopted in its entirety.
- 29) Section 907.4.4 is added to read as follows:
- a) **Section 907.4.4 Monitoring of other fire systems.** In buildings equipped with a fire alarm system or sprinkler alarm and supervisory service (SASS) system, where other fire suppression or extinguishing systems are installed in the building (including but not limited to commercial kitchen suppression systems, pre-action fire suppression systems, dry chemical systems, and clean agent systems), these other suppression systems shall be monitored by the SASS dedicated function fire alarm system and transmitted as a specific signal to the Central Station. The system shall be monitored in compliance with Section 907.6.6.

30) Section 907.5.2.3.1 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **Section 907.5.2.3.1 Public use areas and common areas.** Visible alarm notification appliances shall be provided in public use areas and common use areas, including but not limited to:
1. Sanitary facilities including restrooms, bathrooms, shower rooms and locker rooms.
 2. Corridors, hallways, aisles with shelving and/or fixtures obstructing the required light intensity for that area.
 3. Music practice rooms.
 4. Band rooms.
 5. Gymnasiums.
 6. Multipurpose rooms.
 7. Occupational shops.
 8. Occupied rooms where ambient noise impairs hearing of the fire alarm.
 9. Lobbies
 10. Meeting/Conference rooms.
 11. Classrooms.
 12. Medical exam rooms.
 13. Open office areas.
 14. Sales floor areas.
 15. Break or lunchrooms
 16. Copy or work rooms.
 17. Computer server rooms exceeding 200 sq. ft.
 18. File or storage rooms exceeding 200 sq. ft.

31) Section 907.6.6 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **907.6.6 Monitoring of fire alarm systems.** A fire alarm system required by this chapter, or by the California Building Code, shall be monitored by a UL-listed Central Station service in accordance with NFPA 72, and this code.

Exception: Monitoring by a UL listed central station is not required for:

1. Single and multiple station smoke alarms required by section 907.2.11.
2. Group I-3 occupancies shall be monitored in accordance with section 907.2.6.3.
3. Residential Day Care Facilities (occupancy load of 14 or less).
4. One- and two-family dwellings.
5. Residential care facilities licensed by the state with an occupant load of 6 or less.
6. Occupancies with a local fire alarm system that will give an audible and visible signal at a constantly attended location, as approved by the Fire Code Official.

32) Section 907.6.7 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 907.6.7 Certification.** New fire alarm systems shall be UL-Certified. A Certificate of Completion and other documentation as listed in NFPA 72 shall be provided for all new fire alarm system installations. It is the responsibility of the building owner or owner's representative to obtain and maintain a current and valid certificate.

33) Section 907.7.1 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 907.6.7 Posting of Certificate.** The UL certificate shall be posted in a durable transparent cover within 3 feet of the fire alarm control panel within 45 days of the final acceptance test/inspection.

I. Amendment of Chapter 10 Means of Egress is amended as follows:

1) Section 1028.6 is amended by adding subsection 1028.6 to read as follows:

- a) **Section 1028.6. Exit discharge surface.** Exterior exit pathway surfaces including permeable materials, shall be suitable for pedestrian use in inclement weather, and shall terminate at a public way as defined in the California Building Code.

J. Amendment of Chapter 33 Fire Safety during Construction & Demolition is amended as follows:

1) Section 3303.1.2 is added to read:

- a) **Section 3303.1.2 Additional amendments.** May be required to an approved site safety plan if deemed necessary by both the building official and fire official, based on previous fires or hazards that occurred on site or within the jurisdiction.
- 2) Section 3303.1.3 is added to read:
 - a) **3303.1.3 Site Security requirements.** Shall include the following if deemed necessary by both the building official and fire official:
 1. Controlled access points
 2. Site fencing, up to 12 feet in height with tamper sensors and security wires on top
 3. Security guards, full-time 24/7 presence on-site, to perform fire watch and patrols
 4. Detection check points located throughout the buildings for fire watch and patrol verification
 5. Security camera coverage throughout the site with motion detection notifications
 6. Identify measures taken to prevent tampering with security cameras and motion sensors
 7. Necessary lighting throughout the project site
- 3) Section 3319 Asbestos Removal is added to read as follows:
 - a) **3319.1 General.** Operations involving removal of asbestos or asbestos-containing materials from buildings shall be in accordance with Section 3319.

Exception: Section 3319 does not apply to the removal of asbestos from:

 1. Pumps, valves, gaskets, and similar equipment.
 2. Pipes, ducts, girders, or beams that have a length less than 21 linear feet (6400 mm).
 3. Wall or ceiling panels that have an area of less than 10 square feet (0.93 m²) or a dimension of less than 10 linear feet (3048 mm).
 4. Floor tiles when their removal can be completed in less than four hours.
 5. Group R-3 occupancies.
 - b) **3319.2 Notification.** The fire code official shall be notified 24 hours prior to the commencement and closure of asbestos-removal operations. The permit applicant shall notify the building official when asbestos abatement involves the removal of materials that were used as a feature of the building's fire resistance.
 - c) **3319.3 Plastic Film.** Plastic film that is installed on building elements shall be flame resistant as required for combustible decorative material, in accordance with Section 807.
 - d) **3319.4 Signs.** Approved signs shall be posted at the entrance, exit and exit-access door, decontamination areas and waste disposal areas for asbestos-removal operations. The signs shall state that asbestos is being removed from the area, that asbestos is a suspected carcinogen, and that proper respiratory protection is required. Signs shall have a reflective surface. Lettering shall be a minimum of 2 inches (51 mm) high.

K. Amendment of Chapter 39 Plant Processing and Extraction Facilities is amended as follows:

- 1) Section 3901.1.1 is added to read as follows:
 - a) **Section 3901.1.1 Cannabis growing, processing, or extraction facilities.** Cannabis growing, processing and extraction facilities shall be designed and constructed in accordance with this chapter and NFPA 1, Chapter 38.

L. Amendment of Chapter 49 Requirements for WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Fire Areas is amended as follows:

- 1) Section 4902.1 is amended to read as the follows:
 - a) **Section 4902.1 WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREA.** A geographical area identified by the City of Richmond as a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone - VHFHSZ" in accordance with the Public Resources Code, Sections 4201 through 4204, and Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189, or other areas designated by the enforcing agency to be at a significant risk from wildfires, as designated on the map titled Very High Fire Severity Zone.
- 2) Section 4905.2 is amended to read as follows:
 - a) **Section 4905.2 Construction methods and requirements within established limits.** Within the limits established by law, construction methods intended to mitigate wildfire exposure shall comply

with the wildfire protection building construction requirements contained in the California Building Standards Code including the following:

1. California Building Code Chapter 7A
2. California Residential Code Section R327
3. California Reference Standards Code Chapter 12-7A
4. City of Richmond Local Amendments
5. Any other applicable Amendment

M. Amendment of Chapter 50 Hazardous Materials – General Provisions is amended as follows:

1) Section 5001.1.2 is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 5001.1.2 Research & Development Laboratory.** The design, installation, and operation of Research and Development Laboratory systems including reaction set-ups are exempt from the design and installation requirements for equipment provided that the Laboratory is constructed and managed in accordance with nationally recognized standards including but not limited to:
1. Is under the supervision of a technically competent individual approved by the fire code official.
 2. Adheres to prudent or good laboratory practices; and
 3. Uses volumes of chemicals that are usually associated with Research and Development operations.

2) Section 5001.5.1 item number ten (10) & (11) is added to read as follows:

- a) **Section 5001.5.1 Hazardous Material Management Plan (HMMP).** Where required by the fire code official, an application for permit shall include an HMMP and aerial pre-plan. The HMMP shall include an aerial pre-plan of the facility to include, but not be limited by the following:
10. Fire Department related safety equipment
 - a. Fire alarm control panel (FACP)
 - b. Sprinkler riser
 - c. Fire department connection (FDC)
 - d. Knox Box location
 - e. Gas valve shutoff
 - f. Electrical main shutoff
 - g. Water shutoff
 - h. Elevator equipment room
 11. A Site Fire/Explosion/Hazardous Material Release Analysis Assessment. A Fire Protection Engineer (FPE) stamped risk assessment is required for each possible hazard risk associated with fire, explosion, smoke, and toxicity associated with the possible incident at a facility that is identified as a bulk transfer/process/storage facility. Refer to NFPA 550 & 551 for references.

3) Section 5001.5 is amended by adding subsection 5001.5.3 to read:

- a) **Section 5001.5.3 Emergency response support information.** Floor plans, material safety data sheets, Hazardous Materials Management Plans (HMMP), Hazardous Material Inventory Statements (HMIS), and other information must be stored at a readily accessible location as determined by the fire code official. This location may be in cabinets, located outside of facilities or buildings. Information may be required to be maintained in a specific electronic media format to facilitate computer aided dispatching.

4) Section 5003.9.1 is amended by adding subsection 5003.9.1.2 to read as follows:

- a) **Section 5003.9.1.2 Documentation.** Evidence of compliance with provisions of this chapter as well as with state and federal hazardous material regulations shall be maintained on site and available for inspection by fire department personnel.

N. Amendment of Chapter 53 Compressed Gases is amended as follows:

1) Section 5307.2 is amended to delete exception #1.

2) Section 5307.3.2 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **5307.2.1 Gas detection system.** Indoor storage and use areas and storage buildings shall be provided with a gas detection system complying with Section 916.

3) Section 5307.3.2 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **5307.3.2 Gas detection system.** A gas detection system complying with Section 916 shall be provided in rooms or indoor areas in which the carbon dioxide enrichment process is located, in rooms or indoor areas in which container systems are located, and in other areas where carbon dioxide is expected to accumulate. Carbon dioxide sensors shall be provided within 1 inch (305 mm) of the floor in the area where the gas is expected to accumulate, or leaks are most likely to occur. The system shall be designed as follows:
 - 1. Activates all audible and visible supervisory alarm at a normally attended location upon detection of a carbon dioxide concentration of 5,000 ppm.
 - 2. Activates an audible and visible alarm within the room or immediate area where the system is installed upon detection of a carbon dioxide concentration of 10,000 ppm.

O. Amendment of Chapter 56 Explosives & Fireworks is amended as follows:

1) Section 5601 is amending Sections 5601.1.3, 5601.2.2, and 5601.2.4 to read as follows:

- a) **Section 5601.1.3 Fireworks.** The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling, and use of fireworks within the jurisdiction of the City of Richmond are prohibited.

Exceptions:

- 1. Storage and handling of fireworks by a Public Safety Agency.
- 2. The use of fireworks for fireworks displays pyrotechnics before a proximate audience and pyrotechnic special effects in motion pictures, television, theatrical or group entertainment productions as allowed in Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 6 Fireworks reprinted in Section 5608 and Health and Safety Code Division 11.
- 3. Snap Caps and Party Poppers classified by the State Fire Marshal as pyrotechnic devices.

- b) **Section 5601.2.2 Sale and retail display.** No person shall construct a retail display or offer for sale any explosives, explosive materials, or fireworks within the City of Richmond.

Exception: Snap Caps and Party Poppers classified by the State Fire Marshal as pyrotechnic devices.

- c) **Section 5601.2.4 Financial responsibility.** Before a permit is issued pursuant to Section 5601.2, the applicant shall file with the jurisdiction a corporate surety bond in the principal sum of \$2,000,000 or a public liability insurance policy for the same amount, for the purpose of the payment of all damages to persons or property which arise from, or are caused by, the conduct of any act authorized by the permit upon which any judicial judgment results. The fire code official is authorized to specify a greater or lesser amount when, in his or her opinion, conditions at the location of use indicate a greater or lesser amount is required. Government entities shall be exempt from this bond requirement.

2) Section 5608 is adding Sections 5608.2 to read as follows:

- a) **Section 5608.2 Permit required.** A permit is required to conduct an aerial display in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Chapter 6. (See Chapter 1, Section 105.5.59).

Exception: Fireworks in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 6, see Section 5608.

P. Amendment of Chapter 57 Flammable & Combustible Liquids is amended as follows:

1) Section 5703.3.1 is added to read as follows:

- b) **Section 5703.3.1 Facility site Fire/Explosion/Hazardous Material Release Analysis Assessment.** A Fire Protection Engineer (FPE) stamped risk assessment is required for each possible hazard risk associated with fire, explosion, smoke, and toxicity associated with the possible incident at a facility that is identified as a bulk transfer/process/storage facility. Refer to NFPA 550 & 551 for references.

2) Section 5704.2.9.6.1 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **Section 5704.2.9.6.1 Locations where above-ground tanks are prohibited.** The storage of Class I and II liquids in above-ground tanks outside of buildings is prohibited in all zoning districts except districts zoned for commercial, industrial, or agricultural uses.

Exception: Protected above-ground tanks for the purpose of emergency power generator installations in areas zoned commercial, industrial, agricultural, business district, rural or rural residential, and for facilities on an individual basis consistent with the intent of this provision. Tank size shall not exceed 500 gallons (1892.706L) for Class I or II liquids, or 1,000 gallons (3785.412L) for Class III liquids.

- 3) Section 5706.2.4.4 is amended to read:

- a) **Section 5706.2.4.4 Locations where above-ground tanks are prohibited.** Storage of Class I and II liquids in above-ground tanks is prohibited in all zoning districts except district zoned for commercial, industrial, or agricultural uses.

Q. Amendment of Chapter 58 Flammable Gases & Flammable Cryogenic Fluids is amended as follows:

- 1) Section 5806.2 is amended to read as follows:

- a) Section 5806.2 Limitation. The storage of flammable cryogenic fluids in stationary containers outside of buildings is prohibited in any area which is zoned for other than industrial use.

Exception: Liquid hydrogen fuel systems in compliance with Section 5806.3 or 5806.4. Chapter 58. Flammable Gases and Flammable Cryogenic Fluids.

R. Amendment of Chapter 61 Liquefied Petroleum Gases is amended to read as follows:

- 1) Section 6103.2.1.7 is amended in its entirety to read:

- a) **Section 6103.2.1.7 Use for food preparation.** Individual portable L-P containers used, stored, or handled inside a building classified as a Group A, Group B, or Group M occupancy for the purposes of cooking, food display, or a similar use, shall be limited in size to one quart capacity and shall be of an approved type. The number of portable containers permitted will be at the discretion of the fire code official. LP-gas appliances used for food preparation shall be listed for such use in accordance with the California Mechanical Code and NFPA 58.

- 2) Section 6104.2 is amended to read as follows:

- a) **Section 6104.2 Maximum capacity within established limits.** The storage of liquefied petroleum gas is prohibited in any central business district and in all zoning districts except districts zoned for commercial, industrial, rural, or agricultural uses. The aggregate capacity of any one installation used for the storage of liquefied petroleum gas shall not exceed a water capacity of 2,000 gallons (7570 L).

S. Amendment of Chapter 80 Reference Standards are amended to read as follows:

- 1) **NFPA 3 (2015):** Recommended Practice for Commissioning of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

- 2) **NFPA 850 (2015):** Recommended Practice for Fire Protection for Electric Generating Plants and High Voltage Direct Current Converter Stations

- 3) **Chapter 80** is further amended by amending the NFPA 13D (2016) (Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes) standard as follows:

- a) Section .7.1 is added, to read:

Section 7.7.1 Where CPVC pipe is installed above the normal insulation in an unconditioned space, such as in an attic space, or a garage without conditioned living space above, CPVC pipe shall be adequately insulated to a minimum R-19 value, or equivalent, or pipe shall be limited to Type K or L copper, or ferrous piping.

- b) Section 8.3.5.1.2 is amended to read:

Section 8.3.5.1.2 Where fuel-fired equipment is below or on the same level as occupied areas of the dwelling unit, at least one quick-response intermediate temperature sprinkler shall be installed above the equipment or at the wall separating the space with the fuel-fired equipment from the occupied space. In unconditioned spaces, CPVC pipe shall be adequately insulated to a minimum R-19 value, or equivalent, or pipe shall be limited to Type K or L copper, or ferrous piping.

T. Amendment of Appendices are amended to read as follows:

1) Appendix B. Fire-Flow Requirements for Buildings.

a) Table B105.2 is amended to read:

TABLE B105.1 (1)

Required Fire-Flow for Buildings Other Than One- and Two-Family Dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 Buildings and Townhouses

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM (DESIGN STANDARD)	MINIMUM FIRE-FLOW (GALLONS PER MINUTE)	FLOW DURATION (HOURS)
No automatic sprinkler system	Value in Table B105.1(2)	Duration in Table B105.1(2)
Section 903.3.1.1 of the California Fire Code	50% of the value in Table B105.1(2)	Duration in Table B105.1(2) at the reduced flow rate
Section 903.3.1.2 of the California Fire Code	50% of the value in Table B105.1(2)	Duration in Table B105.1(2) at the reduced flow rate
For SI: 1 gallon per minute= 3.785 L/M		
a. The reduced fire-flow shall be not less than 1,500 gallons per minute.		

2) Appendix C. Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution.

a) **Table C102.1 footnotes h and i** are added to read as follows:

- h. A fire hydrant shall be provided within 250 feet of a fire trail access point off a public or private street.
- i. For infill projects within existing single-family residential developments, Section 507.5.1 applies.

3) Appendix D. Fire Apparatus Access Roads.

a) **Section D102.1** is amended to read as follows:

1. **Section D102.1 Access and loading.** Facilities, buildings, or portions of buildings hereafter constructed shall be accessible to fire department apparatus by way of an approved fire apparatus access road with an asphalt, concrete, or other approved all-weather driving surface capable of supporting the imposed load of fire apparatus weighing at least 76,000 pounds (34,473 kg) in accordance with Caltrans Design Standard HS- 20-44.

Exception: Driveways serving one or two single-family dwellings may be constructed of an alternate surface material, providing the imposed weight load design minimums are met and the grade does not exceed 10 percent.

b) **Section D103.2** is deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following, to read as follows:

1. **Section D103.2 Grade.** Fire department access roadways having a grade of between 16 percent and 20 percent shall be designed to have a finished surface of grooved concrete sufficient to hold a 45,000-pound (19 958 kg) traction load. The grooves in the concrete surface shall be ½ inch (13 mm) wide by ½ inch (13 mm) deep and 1 ½ inch (38 mm) on center and set at a 30-to-45-degree angle across the width of the roadway surface. No grade shall exceed 20 percent, nor shall the cross slope exceed 8%, unless authorized in writing by the fire code official.

c) **Section D103.2.1** is added to read as follows:

1. D103.2.1 Angles of approach and departure. The angles of approach and departure for any means of access shall not exceed 10 percent at 10 feet of the grade break.

d) **Section D103.3** is deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following, to read:

1. **Section D103.3 Turning radius.** Based on a minimum unobstructed width of 20 feet, a fire apparatus access roadway shall be capable of providing a minimum standard turning radius of 25 feet (7620 mm) inside and 45 feet (13 716 mm) outside.

e) **Section D103.3.1** is added to read:

1. **Section D103.3.1 Turning radius with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).** Based on a minimum unobstructed width of 26 feet, a fire apparatus access roadway shall be capable of providing a minimum standard turning radius of 25 feet (7620 mm) inside and 45 feet (13 716 mm) outside.

f) Table D103.4 is amended to add the following footnotes:

- a. A driveway with a minimum width of 16 feet is acceptable for access to no more than two single-family dwellings.
- b. Any fire apparatus access roadway or driveway that is approved to be less than 20 feet wide and to exceed 750 feet in length shall have outsets or turnouts every 300 feet along the length of the road or driveway, or at locations approved by the fire code official. Each outset or turnout shall be of the following dimensions: an 8-foot-wide turnout that extends at least 40 feet in length.

g) Section D103.5 is amended to add Criteria 9:

9. All gates shall be installed and located a minimum of 30 feet off the street.

h) Section D103.6.1 is amended to read:

1. **Section D103.6.1 Roads less than 28 feet in width.** Fire apparatus access roads less than 28 feet wide shall be posted on both sides as a fire lane.

i) Section D103.6.2 is amended to read:

1. **D103.6.2 Roads 28 feet in width or greater, but less than 36 feet in width.** Fire apparatus access roads 28 feet wide or greater, but less than 36 feet wide, shall be posted on one side of the road as a fire lane.

j) Section D106.6 is amended by deleting the exception and to read:

1. **Section D106.1 Projects having more than 100 dwelling units.** Multiple-family residential projects having more than 100 dwelling units shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads and shall meet the requirements of Section D104.3.

k) Section D106.2 is deleted in its entirety

4) Appendix J. Building Information Sign.

b) **Section J101.1.2.** is amended to read as follows:

J101.1.2 Sign features. Either temporary or permanently affixed to the building or structure in an approved manner specified by fire code official.

c) **Section J101.1.3.1.** is amended to read as follows:

J101.1.3.1 Sign shape. Buildings that require a fire department inspection shall have an approved fire code official sign designating a completed fire inspection in the shape of a rectangle.

d) **Section J101.1.3.2.** is added to read as follows:

J101.1.3.2 Apartment Sign shape. Residential buildings including apartments, condominiums, and multi-family units that require a fire department inspection shall have an approved fire code sign indicating the length required to reach the furthest unit from the closest designated starting point in front of the structure. The sign shall also include each associated floor and its furthest unit.

e) **Section J101.1.3.2.1** is added to read as follows:

J101.1.3.2.1 Apartment Sign color. Residential buildings including apartments, condominiums, and multi-family units that require a fire department inspection shall have an approved fire code sign with designated colors associated with the specific hose length to reach the furthest unit from the closest designated starting point in front of the structure. The sign shall also include each associated floor and its furthest unit.

Color	Associated length
Red	100'
Blue	150'
Orange	200'
Purple	250'
Green	300'
Black	350'

f) **Section J101.1.4.1.** is amended to read as follows:

J101.1.4.1. Fire inspection sign size and lettering. The minimum size of the fire inspection information sign and lettering shall be designated by the fire code official on an annual basis.

8.16.050 New materials, processes or occupancies which may require permits.

The Fire Prevention Division shall determine and specify, after giving affected persons an opportunity to be heard, any new materials, processes, or occupancies, which shall require permits, in addition to those now enumerated in this Code. The Fire Code Official shall post such list in a conspicuous place in his office and distribute copies thereof to interested persons.

8.16.060 Fire hazards and nuisances – Abatement.

A. All violations of this chapter are fire hazards and public nuisances and shall be abated.

B. General Abatement.

1. When a fire hazard and nuisance as generally described in Section 8.16.010 through 8.16.050 above; as described in Section 8.16.070 and 8.16.090 below; or as in Section 111 of the California Fire Code exists, it shall be the duty of the Fire Chief or designee to notify in writing the owner or occupant of such premises to abolish and abate such nuisance and, if necessary, remove said matter provided that such notification shall not be required in a situation which, in the Fire Chief or designee judgment, constitutes an emergency requiring immediate abatement of such nuisance. In such an emergency, the Fire Chief or designee may order the owner or occupant, orally or in writing, to abate the nuisance immediately or may proceed to cause the nuisance to be abated without any such notice if, in the Fire Chief or designee's judgment, the situation warrants such action in the interest of the public health, safety or welfare.
2. The required notice shall provide a specified time in which such nuisance must be abated or removed.
3. Before complying with the requirements of the required notice, the owner may request a hearing before the Fire Chief or designee at a time and place fixed by the Fire Chief or designee. The hearing request must be made in writing and must be made within the time limit specified in the required notice.
4. The Fire Chief or designee shall:

- (a) Conduct the hearing.
 - (b) Re-determine whether a nuisance as described in subsection (a) hereof exists and whether the owner or occupant shall abate the nuisance; and
 - (c) Specify the time within which the work shall be completed.
5. In the event the nuisance is not abated within the time specified in the original required notice and/or the time specified at the hearing, the City may abate such a nuisance.
 6. The person whose duty it was to abate or abolish a nuisance as ordered by the Fire Chief or designee pursuant to this chapter, in addition to incurring penalties as provided in these regulations, shall become indebted to the City of Richmond for the damages; costs and charges incurred by the City by reason of the existence of said nuisance or removal of said matter. This cost may become a lien upon the property upon which the nuisance existed.
 7. Those properties which are deemed public nuisances because of the presence of weeds (as *weeds* are defined in Chapter 9.50 of this Municipal Code), dry grass, stubble, brush, rubbish, litter or other combustible or flammable material which creates a fire hazard, a menace to the public health or which is otherwise noxious or dangerous shall be subject to the abatement procedures set forth in Sections 9.22.100, 9.22.110 and 9.22.120 of the City of Richmond Municipal Code.
 8. Firebreaks. In lieu of ordering the abatement of fire hazards as provided in this Section, the Fire Chief or designee may order the preparation of firebreaks around parcels of property when combustible weeds, crops, or brush are present. In determining the proper width for firebreaks, the Fire Chief or designee shall consider the height of the growth, weather conditions, topography, and the accessibility to the property of fire protection equipment. The procedure set forth in subsection (b) above shall also apply to the preparation of firebreaks.
 9. Alternate Procedures. The procedures provided for by this section are an alternative to any other procedure adopted by the City Council for the abatement of public nuisances, or any procedure which may be authorized by the laws of the State of California.

8.16.065 Emergency response cost recovery fees

1. The City Council finds and determines that the Richmond Fire Department is authorized to provide any service relating to the protection of lives and preservation of property including, but not limited to, fire protections services, rescue services, emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response services, and other emergency response services.
2. The City Council finds and determines that these emergency responses by the Richmond Fire Department sometimes generate additional unanticipated operational services provided by the department are an increased cost to the City of Richmond.
3. The City Council finds that the Richmond Fire Department may charge a fee to recover the reasonable costs of services necessary to protect the public health and safety associated with motor vehicle incidents, hazardous materials spills, discharges or threatened discharge of hazardous (or suspected hazardous) materials, motor vehicle fires, motor vehicle extrications, pipeline, or power line incidents (Pacific Gas & Electric), and origin and cause investigations.

(1) Fees for recovery of emergency response.

- a) The City of Richmond shall charge reasonable fees for the cost of services necessary to protect the public health that the Richmond Fire Department provides related to motor vehicle incidents, hazardous materials spills, discharges or threatened discharge of hazardous (or suspected hazardous) materials, motor vehicle fires, motor vehicle extrications, pipeline, or power line incidents (Pacific Gas & Electric), and origin and cause investigations. The fees shall not exceed the reasonable cost to provide such services and shall be charged according to the fees set in the Fire Prevention Services Division fee schedule. A motor vehicle incident, for the purposes of this section, means any matter involving an emergency response to a motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, collisions, accidents, fire, extrication, and investigation.

(2) Adoption of fee schedule for recovery of emergency response costs.

- a) The City of Richmond adopts the fee schedule set forth in Exhibit A. The City Council may amend, as needed, the schedule of fees in Exhibit A by resolution.

- b) The fees shall be billed, as determined by the Fire Chief, his or her designee or third-party billing service, to any person or persons whose negligent or willful act is a cause of any motor vehicle incidents, motor vehicle fires, motor vehicle extrications, hazardous materials spills or discharges, pipeline, or power line incidents (Pacific Gas & Electric), and origin & cause investigations. Fees for motor vehicle incidents shall not be billed to residents of the City of Richmond. Fees shall be billed to the responsible party regardless of fault or residency (except for Richmond residents), as determined by the Fire Chief, his designee or third-party billing service.

8.16.070 Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

a) **Requirements.**

- (1) Every floor of every dwelling unit in an apartment house, motel, hotel, or lodging house shall be provided with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors (when fossil fuel appliances are located inside, or duct system enters inside the dwelling unit).
- (2) Every dwelling unit in a single-family dwelling, duplex, or residential occupancy not listed in subsection (1) above shall be provided with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Each smoke and carbon monoxide detector provided or installed pursuant to this section shall conform to the requirements of the 2022 California Building Code. Each smoke and carbon monoxide detector shall also be maintained as set forth herein.

- b) **Fixtures.** Every smoke and carbon monoxide detector required under this section shall be deemed to be a fixture for purposes of transfer of title.

c) **Maintenance.**

- (1) Every smoke and carbon monoxide detector required under this section shall be maintained in operable condition.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall preclude a rental or lease agreement from providing that a tenant has the responsibility for repair or maintenance of the smoke and carbon monoxide detector(s). However, such provision notwithstanding, the owner shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this section.

- d) **Holder of Certificate of Occupancy.** Where the holder of a Certificate of occupancy, as provided in Chapter 6.02.40 of the Richmond Municipal Code and Section 15.04.210 of this Municipal Code, is some person other than the owner of the real property, such person shall be deemed to be an owner for purposes of this section.

- e) **Notice.** Every property owner or owner's authorized agent offering to rent, lease or let residential property shall give notice of the requirements of this section to the tenant prior to occupancy. The giving of such notice shall not relieve the property owner from compliance with the requirements of this Section.

- f) **Liability.** Nothing in the provisions of this section shall be construed to require the City, its officers, employees, or representatives to conduct any inspection of the smoke detectors herein required nor shall any actual inspections made imply a duty to inspect other detectors. Furthermore, this section shall not be construed to hold the City or any officer, employee, or representative of the City responsible for any damage to persons or property by reason of making or not making inspection or by reason of any failure to inspect or re-inspection.

- g) **Penalty.** Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

8.16.080 Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

a) **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Regulations**

- 1. Purpose. The purpose of the very high fire hazard severity zone ("VHFHSZ") regulations is to minimize danger to public health and safety caused by building in an area with a high risk of grass and brush fire.
- 2. Applicability. The VHFHSZ regulations apply to any area of the city which is designated as a very high fire hazard severity zone. For purposes of this subsection, VHFHSZ shall be those shown on that certain map entitled *Exhibit A - Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones* and dated September 1995 which has been prepared by, and is on file in the office of, the Fire

Chief. Exhibit A also constitutes the official designation of the hazardous fire areas within the City of Richmond.

3. Regulations. Within the very high fire hazard severity zones established by this Section, all new roads, new buildings, other new structural improvements, and existing structures shall be subject to the following regulations:
 - (a) All buildings shall be designed and sighted so that the roof and other areas may be kept free of leaves, needles, and other dead vegetative growth.
 - (b) All new buildings shall have a Class B roofing tested in accordance with ASTM E108 or UL 790. In addition, fire-retardant-treated wood roof coverings shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D2898, as adopted in the California Building Code. Every existing building, when 50 percent or more of the total roof area is re-roofed within any one-year period, shall have a fire-retardant roof covering that is at least Class B as defined in the California Building Code. The installer of the roof covering shall provide certification of the roof covering classification to the building owner and, when requested, to the City Building Official.
 - (c) Wood shingles or wood shakes shall not be used for exterior wall covering.
 - (d) All buildings shall have the underside of balconies, unenclosed roofs and floors, and other similar horizontal surfaces protected by at least one-hour fire-resistive construction as required by the Fire Chief. Combustible eaves shall be protected as approved by the Fire Chief.
 - (e) Unprotected vertical or horizontal wood supports for stilt type or cantilevered buildings shall be of not less than five and one-half inches in the least dimension.
 - (f) All openings into the interior of a building for ventilation purposes shall be protected by non-corrosive metallic screening having a mesh no larger than 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) and shall not exceed 1/8 inch (3.2 mm).
 - (g) Access openings to under-floor areas shall be protected by either non-corrosive metallic screening having a mesh no larger than no larger than 1/16-inch (1.6 mm) and shall not exceed 1/8-inch (3.2 mm) inch solid wood door or equivalent.
 - (h) When difficulty of access or topography occurs, or structures do not meet fire flow requirements, or the fire department response time is 10 minutes or more, per NPFA 1710 (2020 Edition), chapter 5, section 5.7.4.2.1, the Fire Chief may require other fire mitigation measures as for all occupancies.

b) Vegetation management standards in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Any person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains any property in a very high fire hazard severity zone shall maintain such property in conformance with the most current vegetation maintenance standards established by the City Council by Resolution 192-95, or said resolution's successor. Copies of Resolution 192-95 and any successor resolution shall be maintained by and be available in the City Clerk's Office.

c) Violations and penalties

Any violation of this section shall constitute an infraction punishable by the policies, enforcement procedures and fines established by RMC Chapter 2.62 Administrative Citations.

d) Public nuisance

Any violation of this section shall constitute a public nuisance which may be abated, and abatement costs shall be recovered in the manner provided in RMC Sections 9.22.100, 9.22.110, and 9.22.120.

e) Firebreaks

In lieu of ordering the abatement of fire hazards as provided in this Section, the Fire Chief may order the preparation of firebreaks around parcels of property when combustible weeds, crops, or brush are present. In determining the proper width for firebreaks, the Fire Chief or designee shall consider the height of the growth, weather conditions, topography, and the accessibility to the property of fire

protection equipment. The procedure set forth in subsection (d) above shall also apply to the preparation of firebreaks.

f) **Alternate Procedures**

The procedures provided for by this section are an alternative to any other procedure adopted by the City Council for the abatement of public nuisances, or any procedure which may be authorized by the laws of the State of California. Including a third-party contractor to mitigate any identified public nuisance.

8.16.090 False Fire Alarms.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to promote the responsible use of fire alarm systems, to set forth additional standards to improve the reliability of these systems, and to establish procedures for assessing fee penalties for excessive false fire alarm responses in violation of this ordinance.

2. Findings

The City Council finds and determines that fire alarm systems not properly installed, maintained and/or operated create a nuisance to the peace and safety of the community. Such alarm systems cause excessive and unnecessary use of fire services in responding to assumed emergencies which results in a significant expenditure and increased costs to the public.

3. Definitions

Alarm business is defined as any business which is engaged in the selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving, or installing any alarm system in or on any building, place, or premises.

Alarm user is defined as any person using an alarm system at such person's residence or place of business.

Audible alarm system is defined as an alarm system which when activated generates sound perceptible from the exterior of the building structure or facility in which the alarm system is located. Audible alarm systems may or may not be monitored by a central alarm system.

Central Station is defined as a supervising station that is listed for central station service.

Central Station Service is defined as the use of a system or a group of systems in which the operations of circuits and devices at a protected property are signaled to, recorded in, and supervised from a listed central station having competent and experienced operators who, upon receipt of a signal, take appropriate action as required. Central station service is controlled and operated by a person, firm, or corporation whose business is the furnishing of such contracted services or whose properties are the protected premises.

Central Station Fire Alarm System is defined as a system or group of systems in which the operations of circuits and devices are transmitted automatically to, recorded in, maintained by, and supervised from a listed central station having competent and experienced servers and operators who, upon receipt of a signal, take such action as required by NFPA 72.

Certificate of Completion is defined as a document that acknowledges the features of installation, operation (performance), service, and equipment with representation by the property owner, system installer, system supplier, service organization, and the authority having jurisdiction.

Certification is defined as a systematic program using randomly selected follow-up inspections of the certified systems installed under the UL Fire Alarm Certificate Program, which allows the listing organization (Underwriters Laboratories) to verify that a fire alarm system complies with all the requirements of NFPA 72. A system installed under such a program is identified by the issuance of a UL certificate and is designated as a UL certified system.

City is defined as the City of Richmond

Emergency is defined as an occasion that reasonably calls for a response by the fire department. A response due to failure of the alarm system, personnel error in transmission or reporting of an alarm, or repair or maintenance of an alarm system is not an emergency.

False Alarm is defined as the activation of an alarm system necessitating a response by the Richmond Fire Department where an emergency does not exist; provided however, that activation of alarms by natural disaster will not be considered false alarms.

Fire Alarm System is defined as a system or a portion of a combination system consisting of components and circuits arranged to monitor and annunciate the status of fire alarm or supervisory signal initiating devices and to initiate the appropriate response to those signals.

Fire Chief, wherever the words “Fire Chief” are used in this section, they mean Fire Chief of the City of Richmond, or said Fire Chief’s authorized representative. The term “Chief” also means Fire Chief.

Local alarm system is defined as an alarm system which is annunciated only on the premises and not intended to cause a request for emergency response.

Monitored is defined as an alarm system that is both designed to communicate with a UL central alarm station protection system and is currently being provided with that service.

Nuisance Alarm System Is the activation of any fire protection or alarm system which results in the response of the Richmond Fire Department and is caused by malfunction, improper maintenance, negligence, or misuse, of the system by an owner, occupant, employee, or agent, or any other activation not caused by excessive heat, smoke, fire, or similar activating event.

Subscriber is defined as a person who has contracted with an alarm business for the monitoring services for a central alarm station protection system.

4. **Fire Alarm Standards**

- a. All fire alarm systems and appurtenant equipment installed or used within the city of Richmond shall meet or exceed industry standards and those standards established under the Richmond Fire Prevention Code.
- b. **Certification Required:** All fire alarm system installations shall have UL certification and a UL certificate of completion issued indicating that the system meets the standards of the laboratory and that it was installed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The certificate shall be requested and obtained by a company that is on a list of UL approved vendors maintained by the Fire Department. The property owner shall always continue the UL certificate.

5. **Testing Fire Alarms**

Persons shall notify the Richmond Fire Department through the Fire Dispatch Communications Center prior to any service, test, repair, maintenance, adjustment, alterations, or installations of automatic fire sprinkler or fire alarm, which might normally result in an emergency response. Any alarm activated where such prior notice has been given shall not constitute a false alarm for the purpose of this section.

6. **False Fire Alarms**

- a. **Multiple Occurrences Unrelated to Testing.** The maximum number of allowable false alarms shall be no more than one (1) in a six-month period from January 1st through June 30th and no more than one (1) in the six-month period from July 1st through December 31st, before an alarm subscriber/owner is assessed false alarm service assessment fees in accordance with item 7 (False Fire Alarm Fees).
- b. **Occurrences Related to Improperly Noticed Testing.** Persons or businesses engaged in servicing, testing, repairing, maintaining, adjusting, altering, or installing and automatic fire sprinkler system or fire alarm system shall be subject to such assessment as may be established by ordinance for false alarms on any occurrence of a false alarm resulting from the failure to provide notice of testing as required by section 5 above.

7. **False Fire Alarm Fees**

1. The initial false alarm in the six-month period from January 1st through June 30th and the initial false alarm in the six-month period from July 1st through December 31st: **No Fee.**
2. After receiving notice of initial false alarm (no fee), the subsequent first false alarm in the six-month period from January 1st through June 30th and first false alarm in the six-month period from July 1st through December 31st: **\$294**
3. After receiving notice of first false alarm (\$261 fee), the second false alarm in the six-month period from January 1st through June 30th and the second false alarm in the six-month period from July 1st through December 31st: **\$591.00**

4. After receiving notice of second false alarm (\$522 fee), the third or more false alarm in the six-month period from January 1st through June 30th and the third or more false alarm in the six-month period from July 1st through December 21st: **\$1,182.00**

8. Nuisance Fire Alarm Systems

- a. An alarm system may be declared a nuisance alarm system by the Fire Chief under any one of the following:

(1) More than five (5) false alarms do not exempt under section 9 were generated and not canceled in a false alarm period (six months).

- b. The Fire Chief or designee shall notify the alarm user, in the same manner as for the imposition of false alarm fees, of the determination that the alarm system is a nuisance alarm system.
- c. Nuisance fire alarm systems shall be referred to Underwriters Laboratory Inc. (UL) or representing alarm business for a re-qualification audit or be retroactively placed in a UL Fire Alarm Certification program as required by the Fire Chief or designee.
- d. The determination that an alarm system is a nuisance may be revoked by the Fire Chief upon finding proof that the cause of the excessive false alarm or audible disturbance has been remedied.

9. Exempt from False Alarm Fees

False alarms reported to the Richmond Fire Department shall not be counted for the imposition of false alarm fees under the following conditions:

- a. The Fire Chief has granted an exemption, based upon verifiable proof that the alarm user is taking all reasonable measures to eliminate the cause of false alarms. A request for exemption must be made in writing and will be determined on a case-by case-basis.
- b. False alarms reported to the Richmond Fire Department, but subsequently cancelled prior to department units starting actual response. If at the discretion of the department, a response is continued after a valid cancellation is received prior to commencement of a response, the response will not be counted as a false alarm for the purpose of imposing a false alarm fee.

10. Procedure for Imposition of False Alarm Fees

- a. Notice of Imposition. The Fire Chief or designee shall deliver to the alarm user at the address where the false alarms originate a notice of the imposition of false alarm fees. The notice shall specify the date, time and nature of the events which are the basis for the imposition of false alarm fees. The notice shall state that the alarm user has the right to request a hearing before a Hearing Officer as established pursuant to Administrative Citations, Section 2.62 of the Richmond Municipal Code by submitting a written request to the Fire Chief within 14 days of notification. The appeal must be in writing and set forth the basis of the appeal.
- b. Collection of fees. Collection of fees shall be as described in 2.62.120 or 9.22.110, including a lien against the real property on which the false alarm occurred. In the event of the failure of any person to pay the fees assessed pursuant to the provisions of this section, the city of Richmond may institute an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to collect any charges, together with interest, which may be due and payable and all administrative costs of collection in the same manner as any other debt owing to the city may be collected.

SECTION 3.

Any provisions of the Richmond Municipal Code, or appendices thereto, or any other ordinances of the City inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed only to the extent of such inconsistencies. References to the Fire Code of the City of Richmond are also hereby updated.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance irrespective of the unconstitutionality or invalidity of any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

All building permit applications filed after the effective date of this Ordinance shall be subject to this Ordinance. This Ordinance becomes effective thirty (30) days after its final passage and adoption however, no sooner than January 1, 2023, as mandated by the State.

First introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Richmond held December 6, 2022, and finally passed and adopted at a regular meeting held January 17, 2023, by the following vote:

- AYES:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Robinson, Willis, Zepeda, Vice Mayor McLaughlin, and Mayor Martinez.
- NOES:** None.
- ABSTENTIONS:** Councilmember Bana.
- ABSENT:** None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

EDUARDO MARTINEZ
Mayor

Approved as to form:

DAVE ALESHIRE
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Ordinance No. 01-23 N.S.**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on January 17, 2023.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond