

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 9-1. Creation.

There shall be a fire department for the city headed by a paid fire chief employed by the city.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-2. Appointment.

The regular fire-fighters of the city shall be appointed in accordance with rules and regulations laid down by the fire and police civil service system board. Non-classified personnel may be appointed to supplement the paid department and serve at the pleasure of the paid fire chief of the city.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-3. Uniforms.

The fire department shall be uniformed in such manner as may be prescribed by the chief of the paid department. Any person not connected with the fire department shall not wear the uniform prescribed for the fire department.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-4. Rules and regulations of civil service board.

The members of the fire department shall be subject to such rules, regulations and orders for the government and discharge of their duties as may be made or prescribed by the civil service board, not inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this title.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-5. Rules and regulations by paid chief of fire department.

All members of the fire department shall be subject to such rules and regulations made by the paid chief of the fire department, not inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of city ordinances.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-6. Fire ground authority.

The chief of the paid fire department or his authorized representative shall have full authority and be in charge of all fires, rescues and emergency medical scenes in the city. This authority shall extend until such incident is rendered safe by the fire ground commander. This authority shall not limit any commissioned law enforcement officer in the performance of their duties.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-7. Interfering with the operation of fire personnel or engines, etc.

It shall be unlawful to interfere with the operation of any fire personnel, fire truck, engine or equipment.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-8. Driving across fire hose, etc.

It shall be unlawful to drive any vehicle of whatever kind or character across the hose line or any other firefighting equipment, or to interfere with or damage the same while such hose or equipment is in use.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-9. Use of water from private source.

(a) *Authorized.* The chief of the fire department or his authorized representative is hereby authorized to use water from private swimming pools, ponds, lakes, streams or water systems when it is deemed necessary to use such water to attempt to save life and property threatened by fire.

(b) *Non-liability for damages.* The city, its officers, agents and employees engaging in or attempting to engage in the conduct authorized by the above section shall be held harmless and not be liable in damages to any person or thing for any damages done while engaging in or attempting to engage in the conduct authorized by the above section.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-10. Emergency closure, cease and desist order.

The chief of the fire department may order a building to be closed and occupancy denied in situations that create an immediate threat to the safety of the occupants or surrounding occupants or property. In this case what ever means necessary shall be employed to close such unsafe structure or area and have it rendered safe.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-11. Right of inspection or investigation.

The chief of the fire department or his authorized representative may, at any time, enter any building or premises for the purpose of making any emergency inspection or investigation which, it is deemed necessary to be made. Such officers and personnel are further authorized, with consent of the owner or occupant thereof, to enter any building or premises for the purpose of making inspections required in order to determine and insure compliance with the provisions of this adopted fire prevention code. Where the consent of the owner or occupant is withheld or refused, the chief of the fire department is authorized to obtain an appropriate warrant for the purpose of entering the premises in order to carry out such inspections and to conduct such investigations as may be necessary.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-12. Fire lanes on private property.

All premises which the fire department may be called upon to protect in case of fire or emergency and which is not readily accessible from public roads shall be provided with suitable gates, access roads and fire lanes so that all buildings on the premises are accessible to fire apparatus. Fire lanes as prescribed by the chief of the fire department shall be provided for all buildings. It shall be unlawful for any person to park motor vehicles on, or otherwise obstruct, any fire lane. Whatever means necessary may be taken to remove such a hazard in any fire lane.

(Ord. No. 2674, 6-25-01)

Sec. 9-13. Investigation of fires.

The chief of the paid fire department or his authorized representative shall investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring in the city to determine if the fire was a result of carelessness, design or an intentional act. Any fire that is or could possibly be due to an intentional or malicious act shall be treated as a crime scene and the department has the authority contained in LRS 40:1563.1, to further investigate the circumstances and determine the person or persons responsible. The city police shall upon request assist the fire department in the investigation of suspicious fires. Information relating to any possible criminal acts shall be forwarded to the district attorney.