

CHAPTER VII. FIRE

- Article 1. Fire Department
- Article 2. Fire Prevention
- Article 3. Fireworks

ARTICLE 1. FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 7-101. CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED. The fire department of the city is hereby established and the department shall be organized to consist of a fire chief, an assistant fire chief and not less than 10 nor more than 25 firefighters. Members of the fire department shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council. (Code 2016)
- 7-102. MEMBERSHIP; FIRE DRILL. Members of the fire department shall all be volunteers. They shall meet at least once each month for practice and drill. The chief of the fire department shall keep a record of attendance of such meetings. Any member who shall fail to attend six consecutive meetings shall automatically become expelled from membership. (Code 2016)
- 7-103. SUPERVISION OF DEPARTMENT. The chief of the fire department shall be under the supervision of the mayor and shall have immediate superintendency and control over and be responsible for the care and condition of the fire apparatus and equipment. It shall be the chief's duty to see that all such apparatus and equipment is ready at all times for immediate use. It shall also be the chief's duty to submit a written report as to the condition of all fire apparatus and equipment to the governing body at their first meeting in October of each year. (Code 2016)
- 7-104. FIRE CHIEF; POWERS. (a) The fire chief shall be responsible for the discipline of the members and is hereby given authority to suspend or expel any member for refusal to obey orders or for misconduct or failure to do his or her duty at a fire.
(b) The chief shall also have the right to summon any and all persons present to aid in extinguishing a fire or to aid in removing personal property from any building on fire or in danger thereof and in guarding the same.
(c) At fires the chief shall have full power, control and command of all persons present and shall direct the use of the fire apparatus and equipment, and command the fire fighters in the discharge of their duties. He or she shall take such measures as he or she shall deem proper and necessary in the preservation and protection of property and extinguishing of fires.
(Code 2016)
- 7-105. SAME; RECORDS. The chief of the fire department shall keep in convenient form a complete record of all fires. Such information shall include the time and location, construction of building, owner, occupancy, how extinguished, value of building and contents, loss on building and contents, insurance on building and contents, members responding to the alarm, and any other information deemed advisable. (Code 2016)

- 7-106. ASSISTANT CHIEF. In the absence of the chief, the assistant fire chief shall perform all the duties and have all the authority and responsibility of the chief as conferred by this chapter. (Code 2016)
- 7-107. PRIVATE USE OF FIRE EQUIPMENT. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to take away or use any fire apparatus or equipment for any private purpose or for any person willfully and without proper authority to remove, take away, keep or conceal any tool, appliance, equipment or other article used in any way by the fire department. (Code 2016)
- 7-108. FIRE EQUIPMENT; EMERGENCY RIGHT-OF-WAY AND USE. (a) All fire apparatus and equipment is hereby given and granted the exclusive right-of-way over and through all streets, avenues, alleys and public thoroughfares in the city while enroute to fires or in response to any alarm, and it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to in any manner obstruct or hinder the apparatus or equipment.
(b) All emergency vehicles of the fire department, while proceeding on official business, shall be operated in strict accordance with the requirements of the Kansas Statutes regarding the operation of emergency vehicles, and each departmental member assigned to the operation of emergency vehicles shall familiarize himself or herself with the requirements of the law and govern himself or herself accordingly. Any operator violating the provisions of the state law shall be liable for disciplinary action.
(Code 2016)
- 7-109. SAME; FIRE HOSE. (Reserved)
- 7-110. OBSTRUCTION OF FIRE HYDRANT. It shall be unlawful for any person to place or cause to be placed upon or about any fire hydrant any rubbish, building material, fence or other obstruction of any character, or in any manner obstruct, hinder, or delay the fire department in the performance of its duties in case of fire. Nor shall any person fasten to any fire hydrant any guy rope or brace, nor stand any vehicle within 15 feet of any such hydrant. (Code 2016)
- 7-111. FALSE ALARM. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly make or sound or cause to be made or sounded, or by any other means, any false alarm.
(Code 2016)

ARTICLE 2. FIRE PREVENTION

- 7-201. FIRE PREVENTION CODE INCORPORATED. There is hereby adopted by the governing body of the city, for the purpose of prescribing regulations, governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion, that certain code and standards known as the International Fire Code, edition of 2015, including all the Appendix chapters, published by the International Code Council, one copy shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the City of Argonia, Kansas, and the same are hereby adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein, and from the date on which this ordinance shall take effect, the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the limits of the city. (Code 2016)
- 7-202. SAME; ENFORCEMENT. The code hereby adopted shall be enforced by the chief of the fire department. (Code 2016)
- 7-203. SAME; AMENDMENTS. (a) Wherever the word municipality is used in the code hereby adopted, it shall be held to mean the City of Argonia.
(b) All sections of the Uniform Fire Code relating to fireworks are hereby deleted in their entirety.
(Code 2016)
- 7-204. OPEN BURNING. (a) DEFINITIONS. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to this in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
(1) Burn Permit means a written permit designed to license, specify and document open burning.
(2) Burn Permit Officer means the Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief. Any such burn permit officers may individually issue burn permits in conformance with this article and any other applicable law.
(3) Burn Permit Ordinance means a written ordinance, which sets forth the conditions for the issuance of a burn permit. It may be reviewed and amended at any time by the governing body. Such ordinance shall be made available for public examination at the city hall during normal business hours.
(4) Fire Department means the City Fire Department or successor.
(5) Open Burning means any burning that takes place outside a residential or business structure or any accessory structure.
(6) Premises means the location of the proposed open burning and shall not include the interior of any residence or accessory structure.
(7) Fire Pit means on the ground with a non-combustible rim, which stands at least 8 inches above the ground and is not larger than 9 square feet in area only allowed at the Argonia River Park.
(b) PURPOSE OF ARTICLE. The governing body has found that open burning within the corporate limits of the city creates potential hazards. It is hereby deemed necessary by the governing body to prohibit such open burning without a burn permit, and to set forth requirements for such a permit.
(c) FINES. Any person, who conducts an open burn without a burn permit or in violation of a burn permit and must immediately extinguish the fire or be subject to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$250 per offense. A second or subsequent violation shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 per offense.

(d) SCOPE OF ARTICLE.

(1) This article is created to regulate the burning of tree limbs, brush, clean lumber and items of natural growth such as leaves and weeds.

(2) Any burning that takes place within a residential or business structure or an accessory structure thereto that is fueled by wood, coal, or gas and is related to heating or cooking, is beyond the scope of this article, except that any such burning that creates a fire hazard for nearby structures is declared unlawful and is subject to the fines established in this article.

(3) Nothing in this article shall be constructed to impair or limit in any way the power of the city to define and declare nuisances and to cause their removal or abatement by summary proceeding or otherwise.

(4) No permit is required for barbeque grills, smokers, outdoor fireplaces, and fire pits as defined in this article.

(e) BURN PERMIT OFFICER; POWER AND DUTIES. A burn permit officer is hereby authorized to exercise such powers and duties as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this article, including the following:

(1) Review and revise the burn permit ordinance at the direction of the governing body, and to advise the governing body in regards to this article.

(2) Inspect any premises for which a burn permit is sought prior to the issuance of a burn permit

(3) Issue or refuse to issue burn permits in accordance with the burn permit ordinance, and to issue no burn permits when a burning ban is effective.

(4) Keep appropriate records of burn permit applications and burn permits issued.

(5) Have authority to enter upon premises for which a burn permit is sought or has been obtained for the purpose of inspecting an open burning. Denial or entry to inspect an open burning is a violation of this article.

(6) Cause the extinguishment of any open burning being conducted without a burn permit or in violation of a burn permit and/or article, or otherwise to bring violators of this article into compliance.

(7) Give testimony in court regarding violations of this article.

(f) DUTY OF OWNER/OCCUPANT. Whenever a property owner/occupant becomes aware of any open burning being conducted without a burn permit, or any violation of a burn permit and/or this article on such owner's/occupant's property, regardless of how or by whom such unpermitted open burning or other such violation originated, it shall be the duty and obligation of such property owner/occupant to immediately cause the cessation of such unpermitted open burning or other violation. Failure to do so is a violation of this article by any and all such property owners/occupants.

(g) PERMIT. Open burning is hereby prohibited within the corporate limits of the city, unless the individual conducting the burning obtains a burn permit from the burn permit officer prior to the commencement of such burning. An individual seeking a burn permit may contact a burn permit officer during normal business hours through the city clerk or as posted at city hall. The permit must be available for presentation upon request to law enforcement or fire personnel.

(h) RESTRICTIONS. Open burning will be permitted for five consecutive days and only under the requirements of that permit. Burning will be allowed from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If the burn permit officer believes that there is a reasonable danger to the public, the permit officer can revoke the permit at any time. There must be a minimum of 25 feet from any structure to the burning area; distance will be at the burn permit officer's discretion.

(i) **BURN BAN.** When weather conditions make any burning hazardous in the professional opinion of the fire chief, then the fire chief may declare a burning ban. No burn permits shall be issued and any outstanding permits are void. The public shall be notified of any such burning ban by a notice published once in the official city newspaper and posted at city hall. (Ord. 464; Ord. 518; Code 2016)

7-205. **ACCUMULATION OF RUBBISH AND TRASH.** It shall be unlawful for any person to allow to accumulate or to keep in any part of any building or outside of and adjacent to any building or in any alley, sidewalk, street or premises within 30 feet of any building any rubbish, trash, waste paper, excelsior, empty boxes, barrels or other combustibles which shall constitute a fire hazard. (Code 2016)

7-206. **STACKING OF HAY OR STRAW.** It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit, stack or store any hay or straw within 500 feet of any building located inside the fire limits of the city. (Code 2016)

7-207. **KEEPING OF PACKING MATERIALS.** It shall be unlawful to keep excelsior or other packing material in any other than metal or wood metal lined boxes or bins having self-closing or automatic covers. All refuse and trash from rooms where packing or unpacking is done shall be removed daily. (Code 2016)

7-208. **STORAGE OF ASHES.** It shall be unlawful to store ashes inside of any non-fireproof building unless they are stored in a noncombustible container or receptacle, and a clearance of at least five feet shall be maintained between such container or receptacle and any combustible materials not placed therein. Ashes shall not be stored outside of any building in wooden, plastic, or paper product receptacles or dumped in contact with or in close proximity to any combustible materials. (Code 2016)

7-209. **FILLING GASOLINE TANKS OF MOTOR VEHICLES.** The engines of motor vehicles shall be stopped when the gasoline tanks of such vehicles are being filled with gasoline at service stations or other places where gasoline is supplied to motor vehicles. The driver or person in control of such vehicle when the gasoline tank of same is being filled who refuses, neglects or fails to stop the engine of such vehicle shall likewise be guilty of a violation of this code. (Code 2016)

7-210. **FIRE HAZARDS GENERALLY.** It is unlawful for any person to cause or create anywhere within the city, or to permit on any premises under his or her control, any situation or condition that is conducive to or likely to cause or permit the outbreak of fire or the spreading of fire. Any situation or condition conducive to the outbreak of or spreading of fire is declared to be a fire hazard. The violation of or failure to comply with any law pertaining to the storage, handling or use of inflammable oils, explosives, liquefied petroleum gases, or fertilizers and all wires and other conductors charged with electricity, is declared to be a fire hazard. The placing of stools, chairs or any other obstruction in the aisles, hallways, doorway, or exit of any theater, public hall, auditorium, church or other place of indoor public assemblage, or the failure to provide any such place of public assemblage with sufficient, accessible and unobstructed fire exits and escapes is also declared to be a fire hazard. The obstruction of any street, avenue, alley, fire hydrant or any other condition that might delay the fire department in fighting fire is declared to be unlawful. (Code 2016)

- 7-211. SAME; INSPECTIONS TO DISCOVER. It shall be the duty of the fire chief to inspect or cause to be inspected by fire department officers or members, as often as may be necessary all buildings, particularly all mercantile buildings, manufacturing plants, warehouses, garages, hotels, boarding houses, rooming houses, theaters, auditoriums and all places of public assemblage, for the purpose of discovering the violation of any fire preventive law or any fire hazard and ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable to cause fires and to see that all places of public assemblage, hotels and rooming houses have sufficient and unobstructed facilities for escape therefrom in case of fire. (Code 2016)
- 7-212. ABATEMENT OF FIRE HAZARDS; ISSUING ORDER. Whenever any officer or member of the fire department shall find or discover any fire hazard or shall find in any building or upon any premises combustible or explosive material or dangerous accumulation of rubbish or unnecessary accumulation of paper, boxes, shavings or any other inflammable material, so situated as to endanger property by the probability of fire, or shall find or discover any violation of this chapter or any other law hazardous to public safety from fires, the fire chief shall order the fire hazard or danger from the fire forthwith abated and remedied and such order shall be complied with immediately by the owner or occupant of such buildings or premises. If the hazard or condition ordered abated and remedied is a violation of, or a failure to comply with any law, the fire chief shall report the matter to the city attorney and he or she shall, if he or she deems it advisable, prosecute the offender. (Code 2016)
- 7-213. SAME; SERVICE OF ORDER; RECORDS. Any order made under section 7-212 shall be in writing and may be served personally upon the owner or occupant of the premises or by leaving it with any person in charge of the premises or if the premises are unoccupied and the owner is a nonresident of the city, then by mailing a copy to the owner's last known post-office address. One notice to either the occupant or owner shall be sufficient. The fire chief shall keep a record of and copies of all such orders and notices and shall follow up such notices at the expiration of the time for compliance therewith and when complied with make proper entry, and if not complied with, file complaint with the municipal court against the property owner and/or occupant. (Code 2016)

ARTICLE 3. FIREWORKS

- 7-301. FIREWORKS DEFINED. For purposes of this article, the term fireworks shall mean those items as defined by the rules and regulations of the Kansas state fire marshal, and shall include but not be limited to: firecrackers, torpedoes, sparklers, Roman candles, sky rockets, pin wheels, cap or toy pistols (except such pistols or any like device designed to discharge paper caps containing not more than .25 grains of explosive mixture), canes, bombs, cannons or other like devices and all classes of fireworks that may be shot into the air or propelled over the ground by explosive discharges or any device using blank cartridges. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-302. FIREWORKS PROHIBITED. (a) Except as provided in sections 7-303:306; it shall be unlawful for any person to keep, store, display for sale, fire, discharge or explode any fireworks.
- (b) Nothing in this article shall be construed as applying to:
- (1) Toy paper caps containing not more than .25 of a grain of explosive composition per cap;
 - (2) The manufacture, storage, sale or authorized use of signals necessary for the safe operation of railroads or other classes of public or private transportation;
 - (3) The military or naval forces of the United States or of this state while in the performance of official duty;
 - (4) Law enforcement officers while in the performance of official duty; or
 - (5) The sale or use of blank cartridges for ceremonial, theatrical or athletic events.
- (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-303. SAME: EXCEPTIONS; DISCHARGES. (a) Section 7-302 of this article shall not apply to the firing or discharge of fireworks in the city between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on June 27th through July 3rd.
- (b) Section 7-302 of this article shall not apply to the firing or discharge of fireworks in the city between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight on July 4th.
- (c) Section 7-302 of this article shall not apply to the firing or discharge of fireworks in the city between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on July 5th.
- (d) The governing body of the city may, in its discretion, grant permission at any time for the public display of fireworks by responsible individuals or organizations when such display or displays shall be of such a character and so located, discharged and fired as shall not be a fire hazard or endanger persons or surrounding property.
- (e) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to give any public display of fireworks without having first obtained a permit thereof.
- (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-304. SAME: EXCEPTION; SALE OF FIREWORKS. Any person who has first obtained a valid permit to sell fireworks within the city may do so between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. commencing June 27th through July 5th of each year. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)

- 7-305. PERMIT FOR SALE OF FIREWORKS REQUIRED; FEE; ISSUANCE. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, display for sell, offer to sell or give away any type of fireworks within the city without first paying a fee of \$10 per establishment or premises to the city clerk and applying for and securing a permit therefor on or before June 27th of the permit year.
- (b) No permit shall be issued for any location where retail sales are not permitted under the zoning laws. Prior to the issuance of the permit, an inspection will be made of the applicant's facility for compliance with this chapter and other pertinent laws, and no permit shall be issued for any premises not in compliance with such laws. Upon qualifying for the permit, the permittee shall prominently display the same at the establishment or premises where fireworks are to be sold or displayed for sale. The permit fee shall not be refundable upon failure to qualify for the permit or withdrawal or cancellation of the application or permit.
(Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-306. PERMIT FOR PUBLIC FIREWORKS DISPLAY REQUIRED. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to give or provide a fireworks display for the public or for organized groups without first obtaining a permit to do so by making application at least 30 days in advance of the desired display. Approval of the permit shall be by the governing body. The application for the permit shall clearly state:
- (1) The name of the applicant.
 - (2) The group for which the display is planned.
 - (3) The location of the display.
 - (4) The date and time of the display.
 - (5) The nature or kind of fireworks to be used.
 - (6) The name of the person, firm or corporation that will make the actual discharge of the fireworks.
 - (7) Anticipated need for police, fire or other municipal services.
- (b) No permit shall be issued if the location, nature of the fireworks or other relevant factor is such as to create an undue hazard or risk of harm or damage to persons or property.
(Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-307. APPROVED FIREWORKS; BOTTLE ROCKETS PROHIBITED. (a) All fireworks offered for sale and discharged within the city shall be of a type that has been tested and approved for sale and use within the state by the state fire marshal.
- (b) Bottle rockets and other similar self-propelled firework or fireworks devices consisting of a tube and attached guiding stock or rod shall not be sold or discharged in the city. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-308. DISCHARGE ON STREETS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge, ignite or fire any fireworks upon any public street, alley or avenue or in any park or public place within the city.
(Code 2016)
- 7-309. THROWING PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, cast or propel fireworks of any kind in the direction of or into the path of any animal, person or group of persons, or from, in the direction of or into any vehicle of any kind. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)

- 7-310. SALE OF FIREWORKS; WHERE PROHIBITED. (a) It shall be unlawful for fireworks to be stored, sold or displayed for sale in a place of business where paint, oils, varnishes, turpentine or gasoline or other flammable substances are kept, unless such fireworks are in a separate and distinct section or department of the premises.
(b) Where the fire chief deems there is a fire hazard, he or she is hereby authorized to have such hazard abated. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-311. RETAIL DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS. (a) All retailers are forbidden to expose fireworks where the sun shines through glass on the merchandise displayed, except where such fireworks are in the original package.
(b) All fireworks displayed for sale must remain in original packages, except where an attendant is on constant duty at all times where such fireworks are on display; provided, that fireworks in open stock may be kept in show cases or counters out of the reach of the public without an attendant being on duty.
(c) Signs reading "Fireworks for Sale--No Smoking Allowed" shall be displayed in the section of a store or premises set aside for the sale of fireworks. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-312. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS REQUIRED. A functioning and approved fire extinguisher shall be provide and kept in close proximity to the stock of fireworks in all permanent buildings where fireworks are stored, sold or displayed for sale. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-313. RESTRICTIONS AS TO GASOLINE INSTALLATIONS. It shall be unlawful to store, keep, sell, display for sale or discharge any fireworks within 100 feet of any gasoline pump, gasoline filling station, gasoline bulk station or any building in which gasoline or volatile liquids are sold in quantities in excess of one gallon, except in stores where cleaners, paints and oils are handled in sealed containers only. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-314. AUTHORITY OF FIRE CHIEF AND/OR POLICE DEPARTMENT. The Chief of the fire department and/or the Law Enforcement officer(s) is authorized to seize and confiscate all fireworks which may be kept, stored or used in violation of any section of this article, and all of the rules of the state fire marshal. He or she shall dispose of all such fireworks as may be directed by the governing body. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-315. BANNING FIREWORKS. The fire chief, mayor, or city clerk shall have the authority and discretion to ban the discharge of all fireworks within the corporate limits of the City of Argonia if the weather conditions make discharge of fireworks in the City hazardous to persons or property. (Code 2016)
- 7-316. RESTRICTIONS AS TO NURSING HOMES. It shall be unlawful to store, keep, sell, display for sale, or discharge any fireworks within 200 feet of any nursing home, except as permitted under the provisions of Section 7-303(d) and Section 7-306 of this article. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)
- 7-317. PENALTY. Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or business entity violating any of the provisions of this article shall be deemed guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. (Ord. 515; Code 2016)