



**Item:** Ordinance No. 3137, Amending Title 15, Chapter 50, Section 080 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) pertaining to the adopted Fire Code

**From:** Fire Marshal Dirk M. Johnson

**Initiated By:** Fire Marshal Dirk M. Johnson

**Presented By:** Fire Chief Stephen A. Hester

**Action Requested:** Accept Ordinance 3137 on first reading and set public hearing for November 17, 2015

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (accept/not accept) Ordinance 3137 on first reading and (set/not set) a public hearing for November 17, 2015.

2. Mayor requests a second to the motion, Commission discussion, public comment, and calls for the vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the City Commission accept Ordinance 3137 on first reading and set a public hearing for November 17, 2015 to consider adoption of Ordinance 3137.

**Background:** The City Commission adopted Ordinance 3112, amending Title 15, Chapter 50 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) on September 17, 2013. Said ordinance adopted the 2012 version of the International Fire Code (IFC) with certain exceptions. Adoption of Ordinance 3137 is a proactive approach in improving fire alarm system integrity and protecting lives and property should future editions lessen the redundancy requirements.

IFC 2012 states: "Fire alarm systems required by this chapter or by the International Building Code shall be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with NFPA 72". The 2010 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 states in §26.3.1.4.1 -"Single Communications Technology. Where only one communications technology is used, any failure of the communications path shall be annunciated at the supervising station within 5 minutes of the failure." If the single line fails, it must report a trouble at the alarm panel within 5 minutes alerting the occupants that there is a problem with the alarm panel communication line.

Single line communication is one communication line coming into a building that has the ability to run two different phone numbers.

The 2013 edition of the NFPA 72 states in § 26.6.3.1.5 Single Communication Path. "Unless prohibited by the enforcing authority, governing laws, codes, or standards, a single transmission path shall be permitted, and the path shall be supervised at the interval of not more than 60 minutes. A failure of the path shall be annunciated at the supervising station within no more than 60 minutes. The failure to complete a signal transmission shall be annunciated at the protected premises in accordance with Section 10.15 (Trouble Signals)".

To ensure that redundancy is provided in fire alarm notification and as set forth in IFC 2012 Section 907.6.5, staff proposes adoption of language to OCCGF 15.50.080 to read as follows:

**Section 907.6.5 Monitoring.** Fire alarm systems required by this chapter or by the International Building Code shall be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with NFPA 72. Single communications technology to the supervising station is prohibited unless the technology contains redundancy and is approved by the fire code official. When required by the fire code official, non-required fire alarm systems shall be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with NFPA 72 and this code.

**Fiscal Impact:** There will be no fiscal impact to the City of Great Falls. There will be no additional cost to current businesses as the requested amendment is how the fire code reads now as set forth in NFPA 72 Fire Alarm and Signaling Code 2010 edition.

**Alternatives:** The Commission could choose to not accept Ordinance 3137 on first reading and not set a public hearing to consider adoption of Ordinance 3137.

**Concurrences:** The exact code language as proposed has already been adopted by the City of Billings and is being considered by the State Fire Marshal.

**Attachments/Exhibits:** Ordinance 3137 and Exhibit A

**ORDINANCE 3137**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL CODE OF THE  
CITY OF GREAT FALLS (OCCGF), TITLE 15, CHAPTER 50,  
PERTAINING TO THE ADOPTED FIRE CODE**

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of an incorporated city may adopt technical fire codes, in whole or in part, by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, to maintain a parallel effort of code enforcement, the City Commission adopted Ordinance 3112, amending Title 15, Chapter 50 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) on September 17, 2013. Said Ordinance adopted the 2012 version of the International Fire Code with certain exceptions; and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure (communication) redundancy and improve fire alarm system integrity to protect lives and property, an amendment to the adopted 2012 IFC is necessary.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA:

Section 1. That Title 15, Chapter 50 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) pertaining to the Uniform Fire Code be amended as depicted in Exhibit "A" attached hereto, which removes any language indicated by a strike-out and adds any language which is bolded; and,

Section 2: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after second reading and final adoption by the City Commission.

APPROVED by the City Commission on first reading November 3, 2015.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, on second reading November 17, 2015.

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Michael J. Winters, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

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Sara R. Sexe, City Attorney

State of Montana     )  
County of Cascade   : ss  
City of Great Falls   )

I, Lisa Kunz, City Clerk of the City of Great Falls, Montana, do hereby certify that I did post, as required by law and as prescribed and directed by the City Commission, Ordinance 3137 in three places within the limits of said City to-wit:

On the Bulletin Board, first floor, Civic Center Building;  
On the Bulletin Board, first floor, Cascade County Courthouse;  
On the Bulletin Board, Great Falls Public Library

(Seal of the City)

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Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

Exhibit "A"

Title 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

Chapter 50 FIRE CODE

**Chapter 50 FIRE CODE**

Sections:

[15.50.010 International Fire Code \(IFC\)—adoption.](#)

[15.50.040 Definitions.](#)

[15.50.060 Bureau of Fire Prevention—established—duties.](#)

[15.50.080 International Fire Code—amendments.](#)

[15.50.100 Pipes thawed with torch prohibited.](#)

[15.50.140 Violation—penalty.](#)

**15.50.010 International Fire Code (IFC)—adoption.**

- A. There is for the purpose of prescribing regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire, hazardous materials or explosion, that certain Code and Standards known as the International Fire Code (IFC).
- B. A copy of such Code is now filed in the office of the City Clerk.
- C. Copies of the 2012 IFC may be obtained from the International Code Council.

(Ord. 3112, § 1, 9-17-2013; Ord. 3048, § 1, 4-6-2010; Ord. 2998, § 1, 3-4-2008; Ord. 2905, 2005; Ord. 2874, 2004; Ord. 2794, 2001; Ord. 2651 (Exh. B), 1993; Ord. 2455 (part), 1987; Ord. 2429 § 2 (part), 1986).

**15.50.040 Definitions.**

Whenever the following words are used in the 2012 IFC, the following definitions shall apply:

"Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention" means the Fire Marshal of the City.

"Corporation Counsel" means the City Attorney.

"Jurisdiction" means the City.

"Removal" in relation to storage tanks includes vents and fill pipes and all other incidental hardware.

(Ord. 3112, § 1, 9-17-2013; Ord. 3048, § 1, 4-6-2010; Ord. 2908, § 1, 3-4-2008; Ord. 2874, 2004; Ord. 2455 (part), 1987; Ord. 2429 § 2 (part), 1986).

Exhibit "A"

Title 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

Chapter 50 FIRE CODE

**15.50.060 Bureau of Fire Prevention—established—duties.**

The 2012 IFC shall be enforced by the Bureau of Fire Prevention in the Fire Department of the City, which is established and which shall be operated under the supervision of the Fire Chief.

(Ord. 3112, § 1, 9-17-2013; Ord. 3048, § 1, 4-6-2010; Ord. 2998, § 1, 3-4-2008; Ord. 2874, 2004).

**15.50.080 International Fire Code—amendments.**

The 2012 IFC is adopted in full with the exceptions as follows:

- A. If there is any conflict between the adopted code and the Montana Code Annotated, the provisions of the Montana Code Annotated control.
- B. The 2012 IFC is adopted with the following exceptions, additions and amendments:
  - a. Section 104.2 Application and Permits is not adopted.
  - b. Section 105 Permits and Approvals and any other sections of the 2012 IFC referring to permits are not adopted. This section applies only to the 2012 IFC permitting requirements, not to permitting requirements contained in Montana law. Fees shall be set by Commission resolution.
  - c. The Permit sections of the following chapters are not adopted: 3, 5, 6, 9, 20-35 and 50-67.
  - d. Section 108 Board of Appeals is not adopted.
  - e. Section 113 Fees is not adopted.
  - f. Section 308.1.6 Open-Flame Devices is adopted but deleting "except by a permit in accordance with Section 105.6 secured from the fire code official.
  - g. Section 308.2 Permits Required is not adopted.
  - h. Section 405.2 Delete section and replace with: "Frequency required emergency evacuation drills shall be held at the intervals specified in § 20-1-402 MCA. There must be at least eight (8) emergency evacuation/disaster drills held a year in a school. At least four (4) of the drills must be fire exit drills. Drills must be held at different hours of the day or evening to avoid distinction between drills and actual disasters." In Table 405.2 delete the word "monthly" from the frequency column, applicable to Group E and replace with "20-1-402 MCA."
  - i. Section 603.4 Portable Unvented Heaters is adopted but the "Exceptions" are not adopted.
  - j. Section 603.4.1 Prohibited Locations - is not adopted.
  - k. Section 906.1 Portable Fire Extinguishers—(1) Exception—is not adopted.
  - l. **Section 907.6.5 Monitoring. Fire alarm systems required by this chapter or by the International Building Code shall be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with NFPA 72. Single communications technology to the supervising station is prohibited unless the technology contains redundancy and is approved by the fire code official. When required by the fire code official, non-required fire alarm systems shall be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with NFPA 72 and this code.**

Exhibit "A"

Title 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

Chapter 50 FIRE CODE

- m. Section 1008.1.4 Door Operations is adopted adding the sentence, "Exit doors shall not be locked, chained, bolted, barred, latched or otherwise rendered unusable. All locking devices shall be of an approved type.
- n. Sections 2306.7.9 through 2306.7.9.2.4 Vapor-Recovery and Vapor-Processing Systems are not adopted.
- o. Section 5601.1.3 Approval Required is adopted but deleting "a permit and."
- p. Sections 5601.2.2 through 5601.2.4.2 are not adopted.
- q. Section 5606.5.2.1 Smokeless Propellant is not adopted. The maximum quantities, storage conditions, and fire-protection requirements of gunpowder and ammunition stored in a building shall be as follows: Smokeless powder and small arms primers or percussion caps shall be in accordance with Sections 50-61-120 and 50-61-121 MCA.
- r. Section 5606.5.2.3 Small Arms Primers is not adopted. See Sections 50-61-120 and 50-61-121 MCA.
- s. Section 5608 Fireworks Display is not adopted. See Title 50 Chapter 37 MCA
- t. Section 5706.1 General—In paragraph number 1 delete "farms and."
- u. Section 5706.2 delete "farms and" from the heading and "on farms and rural areas and" from the paragraph.
- v. Section 5706.2.5.1 (2) is not adopted.

The following annexes are adopted as a part of this Code:

- A. Appendix A - Board of Appeals is not adopted.
- B. Appendix B - Fire Flow Requirements of Buildings is adopted.
- C. Appendix C - Fire Hydrant Location and Distribution is adopted.
- D. Appendix D - Fire Access Roads is adopted.
- E. Appendix E - Hazard Categories is not adopted.
- F. Appendix F - Hazard Ranking is not adopted.
- G. Appendix G - Cryogenic Fluids is not adopted.
- H. Appendix H - Hazardous Materials is not adopted.
- I. Appendix I - Fire Protection Systems- Noncompliant Conditions is adopted.
- J. Appendix J - Building Information Sign is not adopted.

(Ord. 3137, § 1, 11-17-15; Ord. 3112, § 1, 9-17-2013; Ord. 3048, § 1, 4-6-2010; Ord. 2998, § 1, 3-4-2008; Ord. 2905, 2005; Ord. 2874, 2004; Ord. 2794, 2001).

**15.50.100 Pipes thawed with torch prohibited.**

It is unlawful to use any torch or other flame-producing device for the purpose of thawing out any pipe in or under any house, building or structure in the City. Any person, who in consequence of violating the provisions of this section causes a fire, shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed in this section, be

Exhibit "A"

Title 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

Chapter 50 FIRE CODE

liable to the City in damage to the extent of the costs to the Fire Department for answering a fire alarm and services in extinguishing such fire, such penalty to be recovered by a civil action.

(Ord. 3048, § 1, 4-6-2010; Ord. 2898, § 1, 3-4-2008; Ord. 2874, 2004; Ord. 2455 (part), 1987; Ord. 2429 § 2(part), 1986).

**15.50.140 Violation—penalty.**

- A. Any person who violates any of the provisions of the 2012 IFC adopted in Section 15.50.010 of this chapter or fails to comply therewith is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. The imposition of one (1) penalty for any violation shall not excuse the violation or 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.
- B. The application of the above penalty shall not be held to prevent the enforced removal or prohibited conditions.

(Ord. 3112, § 1, 9-17-2013; Ord. 3048, § 1, 4-6-2010; Ord. 2998, § 1, 3-4-2008; Ord. 2874, 2004; Ord. 2455 (part), 1987; Ord. 2429 § 2 (part), 1986).

Other pertinent OCCGF Codes:

- 9.9.90 Fireworks Policy
- 9.5.28.010 Negligent Smoking
- 9.9.90.060 Discharging Fireworks in Parks
- 8.60.010 Abandoned Refrigerators
- 10.48.060(B) Hydrant Codes
- 13.14.010 Unlawful Materials in Sewer