



GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE

105 9th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59405
Office (406)791-8971 | Cell (406)799-9916
mmcintosh@greatfallsmt.net



2021 International Fire Code Adoption

On May 25, 2023 the City of Great Falls Adopted the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC). The 2021 was adopted by the City with the following modifications:

The 2021 International Fire Code (IFC) is adopted in full with the exceptions as follows:

1. If there is any conflict between the adopted code and Montana Code Annotated, the provisions of Montana Code Annotated control.
2. Section 106 Construction documents is struck by the State of Montana
3. Section 111 Means of appeals is not adopted by the State of Montana
4. State added definition: Nationally Recognized Standards, includes but is not limited to, any standards referenced in: NFPA; IFC 2021 edition, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), American Petroleum Institute (API), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
5. Group E Daycares
 - a. Fifteen or fewer children (IFC is five).
 - b. Fifteen or few children in dwelling unit (IFC is five).
6. 308.1.6 Open-flame cooking devices is adopted in its entirety.
7. 311.6 Unoccupied tenant spaces in mall buildings is not adopted by the State of Montana.
8. 319.1 add the following language to this section, "Mobile food preparation vehicles manufactured prior to the adoption of this code shall comply with sections 319.3 and 319.4 on or before May 1, 2024."
9. 319.10.3 Fuel gas systems is not adopted.
10. Section 405.3 is deleted by the state and replaced with "Frequency. Required emergency evacuation drills shall be held at the intervals specified in 20-1-402, MCA. There must be at least eight emergency/disaster drill held a year in a school. At least four 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."
11. Sections 407.5 Hazardous materials inventory statement, 407.6 Hazardous materials management plan, and 407.7 Facility closure plans are not adopted by the State of Montana.
12. Adopt 903.2.4.2 Group F-1 distilled spirits by adding the following paragraph:
"Exception: An automatic sprinkler system is not required where Group F-1 fire area used for the manufacture of distilled spirits is not more than one story above-grade plane, and not exceeding 2,500 square feet."
13. Adopt Section 903.2.8 Group R with the following replacement language from the state of Montana: "An approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided in all Group R buildings meeting the following criteria:
 - a. Nine or more transient guests or five or more transient guest rooms;
 - b. Nine or more occupants in other dwelling units;



GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE

105 9th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59405
Office (406)791-8971 | Cell (406)799-9916
mmcintosh@greatfallsmt.net



- c. Five or more dwelling units; or
 - d. More than two stories.”
 - e. In lieu of the above-required automatic sprinkler system in buildings not more than three stories above the lowest level of exit discharge, each transient guest room may be provided with at least one door leading directly to an exterior exit access that leads directly to approved exits.
 - f. “Transient guest” for the purposes of this subsection shall mean an occupant who is primarily transient in nature, staying at one location for 30 days or less.
- 14.** 903.2.9.3 Group S-1 distilled spirits or wine. Add the following paragraph: “Exception: AN automatic sprinkler system is not required where a Group s-1 fire area used for the bulk storage of distilled spirits or wine is not more than one story above grade plane, and not exceeding 2,500 square feet.”
- 15.** 903.3.5 Water Supply. Amend by adding the following: "This subsection shall apply to buildings which are required by the International Building Code to be provided with an automatic fire extinguishing system and do not have access to an existing multiple user water supply system, such as a municipal water supply system or a private community water supply system, capable of providing the water supply requirements of National Fire Protection Association Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, 2019 edition (NFPA 13). Under such circumstances, water storage requirements may be modified by the building official. The modified design shall include sufficient storage onsite to operate the hydraulically remote area for the response time of the local fire department. Response time is the time from alarm to the time the fire department can apply water to the fire. Response time shall be established by the use of the formula $T = 6.5 \text{ minutes (mobilization time) + 1.7 minutes/mile } D \text{ (travel time)}$, where T is response time, in minutes, and D is distance, in miles, from the fire station to the building. The modified water supply shall be sufficient to operate the system for the response time calculated above but not be less than 20 minutes. Water supply requirements shall be established by using the area/density method as defined in NFPA 13. A reduction in water storage of up to 50 percent, but not less than that required for a 20-minute supply is allowed. All automatic fire sprinkler system designs and components shall be in compliance with NFPA 13. When a modified water storage is allowed, the automatic fire sprinkler system must be equipped with a flow alarm, digital alarm communicator transmitter, and a fire department connection. The automatic fire sprinkler system shall be monitored by an approved central station in accordance with NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, 2019 edition."
- 16.** 903.6 Where required in existing buildings has been struck by the State of Montana.
- 17.** 906.1 exception 1 is not adopted by the State of Montana.
- 18.** 907.6.6 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. When required



GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE

105 9th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59405
Office (406)791-8971 | Cell (406)799-9916
mmcintosh@greatfallsmt.net



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.

19. 1009.8 Two-way communication. Add "Emergency elevator communication equipment systems for the deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired, is amended as follows: Emergency elevator communication systems for the deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired. An emergency two-way communication system shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of ASME A17.1/CSA B44 and NFPA 72."
20. 1010.2 Door operations. Add the following sentence "Exit doors shall not be locked, chained, bolted, barred, latched, or otherwise rendered unusable. All locking devices shall be of an approved type."
21. 1020.2 Construction. Amend by adding the following: "Upgrading of corridors in existing E occupancies serving an occupant load of 30 or more, may have walls and ceilings of not less than one-hour fire-resistive construction as required by this code. Existing walls surfaced with wood lathe and plaster in good condition or 1/2-inch gypsum wallboard or openings with fixed wired glass set in steel frames are permitted for corridor walls and ceilings and occupancy separations when approved. Doors opening into such corridors shall be protected by 20-minute fire assemblies or solid wood doors not less than 1 3/4 inches (45 mm) thick. Where the existing frame will not accommodate the 1 3/4-inch-thick door, a 1 3/8-inch-thick solid bonded wood-core door or equivalent insulated steel door shall be permitted. Doors shall be self-closing or automatic closing by smoke detection. Transoms and openings other than doors from corridors to rooms shall comply with this code or shall be covered with a minimum of 3/4-inch plywood or 1/2-inch gypsum wallboard or equivalent material on the room side. Exception: Existing corridor walls, ceilings, and opening protection not in compliance with the above may be continued when such buildings are protected with an approved automatic sprinkler system throughout. Such sprinkler system may be supplied from the domestic water system if it is of adequate volume and pressure."
 - a. Table 1020.2 CORRIDOR FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING, R Occupancy, replace "Greater than 10" with "Greater than 8."
22. 1031.2 Where required. Amend as follows: "In addition to the means of egress required by this chapter, emergency escape and rescue openings shall be required in all sleeping rooms in Group R occupancies located in buildings that do not have an automatic sprinkler system and in the following occupancies:"
23. Section 1103.5 Sprinkler systems is not adopted (Existing Buildings).
24. Section 1207.1.2.1 Communications utilities, 1207.10.4 Construction documents, and 12.10.5 Local staging are not adopted by the State of Montana.
25. 2306.2.3 Above-ground tanks located outdoors, above grade is adopted with modifications in 50-3-103, MCA.
26. 2306.7.9 through 2306.7.9.2.4 Vapor-recovery and vapor-processing systems are not adopted.



GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE

105 9th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59405
Office (406)791-8971 | Cell (406)799-9916
mmcintosh@greatfallsmt.net



27. 3103.2 Approval required, 3103.7 Inspections, 3104.2 Flame propagation performance testing and certification adopted in full.
28. 3105.5 Required documents, delete the fire code official and.
29. 3106.4.1 Public safety plan for gatherings, adopt in full.
30. 3201.3 Construction documents. In the first sentence, delete the words "and at the time of application for a storage permit." In the second sentence, change the words "storage permit" to "building permit."
31. 3201.4 Fire safety and evacuation plan. Delete the words "at the time of permit application."
32. 3504.3 Area reviews. In the first sentence, delete the words "while the permit is in effect" and delete the second sentence "Information shown on the permit shall be verified prior to signing the permit in accordance with Section 105.5."
33. 5001.6.1 Temporarily out-of-service facilities. Delete the words "maintain a permit and."
34. 5001.6.2 Permanently out-of-service facilities. Replace paragraph with "Facilities not monitored and inspected on a regular basis shall be deemed to be permanently out of service and shall be closed in an approved manner."
35. 5003.3.1.1 Records. Delete the words "by the permittee."
36. 5003.5 Hazard identification signs. Delete the words "in quantities requiring a permit and."
37. 5307.4.1 Documentation. Change the words "with the application for permit" to "to the fire code official for approval."
38. 5503.1.1.1 Data submitted for approval. Delete the words "with the application."
39. 5601.1.3 Fireworks - is replaced by Title 50, chapter 37, MCA.
40. 5601.2 Permit required – 5601.2.4.2 Fireworks display is replaced with Title 50, Chapter 37, MCA.
41. 5606.5 through 5606.5.2.3 Display and storage in Group M occupancies are not adopted and are replaced with 50-61-120 and 50-61-121, MCA.