

**ORDINANCE 3213**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 15 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS (OCCGF): PERTAINING TO BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission established Title 15 of the OCCGF outlining provisions pertaining to Buildings and Construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is required to adopt the same building construction and fire safety standards as the State of Montana pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. Title 50; and

**WHEREAS**, minor amendments to OCCGF Title 15 are required to satisfy this State law requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission may wish to establish fees for fire protection inspections in the future.

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

**Section 1.** OCCGF Title 15, is hereby amended as depicted in Exhibit “A” attached hereto and by reference incorporated herein, with deleted language identified by ~~strike through~~ and inserted language **bolded**; and

**Section 3.** This ordinance shall be in full force and effect March 1, 2020.

ACCEPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana on first reading February 4, 2020.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana on second reading February 18, 2020.

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Bob Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

(CITY SEAL)

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Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

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Joseph Cik, Assistant 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 certify that I did post as required by law and as prescribed and directed by the Commission, Ordinance 3213 on the Great Falls Civic Center posting board and the Great Falls City website.

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Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

Exhibit "A"

Title 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

**Chapter 1 CODE ADOPTION**

**Sections:**

- 15.1.010 Adoption.
- 15.1.020 Design Review Board.
- 15.1.030 Commission report.
- 15.1.040 House moving license.
- 15.1.050 Insurance and bond.
- 15.1.060 Moving buildings, permit, and supervision.
- 15.1.070 Moving buildings, permit fee.
- 15.1.080 Special inspector.
- 15.1.090 Relocated structures.
- 15.1.100 Asbestos in building construction.

**15.1.010 Adoption.**

- A.** The Building Code shall be the same edition **and appendices** as adopted by the State of Montana. The Building Code is adopted pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM). The Building Code currently being enforced by the City of Great Falls is on file in the Planning and Community Development Department. Copies of each are available for inspection. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Labor & Industry, Building Standards Division, Building Codes and Commercial Measurements Bureau, P.O. Box 200517, Helena, MT 59620, at cost plus postage; or the International Code Council (ICC), 4051 West Flossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, IL 60478, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).
- B. The City Commission hereby also adopts the following Codes and appendices as adopted by the State of Montana:**
  - 1. The International Residential Code;**
  - 2. The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code;**
  - 3. The International Wildland-Urban Interface Code; and**
  - 4. The National Fire Protection Association ninety-nine (99).**

(Ord. 3213, 2020; Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.1.020 Design Review Board.**

The Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) Title 17, Chapter 12, Article 3, establishes the Design Review Board and sets forth its purpose, authority, membership, and the process to review Board decisions. The Board will review and approve development proposals for new commercial and multifamily buildings of eight (8) units or more (excluding Planned Unit Developments and Townhouses).

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(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.1.030 Commission report.**

During his or her term of office, the Building Official shall keep, or cause to be kept, a record of the number, description, type, occupancy, size, and valuation of every building or structure erected in the City for which certificates or permits are issued. The Building Official shall also make a monthly report, on or before the tenth day of each month, of the number of permits and certificates issued and the valuation of structures erected within the incorporated City limits and of fees collected during the preceding month.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.1.040 House moving license.**

Any person, firm, corporation, or other entity desiring to move any house or structure into, out of, or within the City limits, shall first obtain a house mover's license, the annual fee for which shall be set by City Commission resolution.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.1.050 Insurance and bond.**

Any person, firm, entity or corporation desiring to obtain a house mover's license shall make application to the Planning and Community Development Department and shall supply a commercial general liability insurance policy and license bond as specified by City Commission resolution. Upon approval of the application and payment of the annual fee, the license will be issued.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.1.060 Moving buildings, permit, and supervision.**

- A. Before any house or structure may be moved into, out of, or within the City, such licensed house movers shall make application for a permit for the moving of each separate house or structure to the Building Official, and the Building Official shall inspect the same and the route upon which house or structure is proposed to be moved.
- B. All house-moving shall be conducted under the supervision of the Building Official, and the Building Official may demand any precaution deemed advisable for the protection of the streets.
- C. Any mover shall coordinate and receive appropriate authorization from:
  - 1. All impacted public utilities;
  - 2. The Great Falls Fire Rescue Department (GFFR);
  - 3. The Great Falls Police Department (GFPD);
  - 4. The Great Falls Park and Recreation Department; and
  - 5. The Montana Department of Transportation, either by agreement or under provisions of the State for such moving and shall furnish proof of such authorization on forms supplied by the Building Official.

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D. Each application shall furnish proof of compliance with all Montana regulations for such moving.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.1.070 Moving buildings, permit fee.**

Fees for the issuance of a permit to remove any house or structure shall be as set by City Commission resolution.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.1.080 Special inspector.**

If the Building Official determines any structure over forty (40) tons requires the services of an inspector while the building is in transit, an additional inspection fee shall be paid for all the time spent on inspection.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.1.090 Relocated structures.**

Whenever a moved structure is to be relocated within the jurisdiction of the City, permits required by the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) shall be obtained for such work as are necessary to locate, support, anchor, and supply utilities to the structure. Foundation and/or framing work at the relocated site shall be inspected and approved by the Building Official or designee prior to such structure being placed upon the lot. Buildings or structures moved into or within the City shall comply with all applicable OCCGF provisions for new buildings or structures. Demolition of foundation and utility abandonment on the original site shall be as required by razing guidelines as set forth by the City.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.1.100 Asbestos in building construction.**

- A. All buildings scheduled for demolition which contain asbestos insulation or fireproofing must follow the safeguards listed in Title 50, Chapter 64, Montana Code Annotated. Periodic inspection pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. Title 50, Chapter 64, and this section, may be required.
- B. "Asbestos-containing spray products" means any fibrated product or compound which is applied to a surface utilizing a spray or pneumatic means of application, for whatever purpose.
- C. "Friable asbestos material" means any material that contains more than one (1) percent asbestos by weight and that can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder, when dry, by hand pressure.
- D. The use of asbestos-containing spray products for whatever purpose, other than those in which the asbestos fibers are encapsulated with a bituminous or resinous binder and which are not friable after drying, in the construction, remodeling, renovation, alteration of a building or structure is prohibited.
- E. A violation of subsection (D) of this part is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

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(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**Chapter 2 MOBILE HOMES** [\[2\]](#)

**Sections:**

15.2.010 Purpose.

15.2.020 Unsafe structures and utilities—designated.

15.2.030 Unsafe structures and utilities penalty.

15.2.040 Appurtenances—installation.

15.2.050 Footing.

15.2.060 Pier.

15.2.070 Cap.

15.2.080 Shim.

15.2.090 Foundations and piers—use approval.

15.2.100 Skirting requirements.

15.2.110 Permit—fees.

**15.2.010 Purpose.**

The purpose of this regulation is to provide minimum standards to safeguard, health, safety, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling use and occupancy of all mobile homes, trailer homes, trailers, or any similarly named structure within the City.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.2.020 Unsafe structures and utilities—designated.**

Unsafe mobile homes, trailer homes, trailers, or other similar structures designed for living purposes for one (1) or more persons are defined as follows:

- A. "Unsafe Structure" means a structure which constitutes a fire hazard or hazard to life, health, property, or public welfare by reason of use, inadequate maintenance or dilapidation, or abandonment. Any structure in which any one (1) or more of the following conditions exists shall be deemed conclusively to be an unsafe structure:
  - 1. A structure which shows damage or deterioration of the non-supporting enclosing or outside walls or covering to such an extent that they will not resist the wind pressure or lateral forces all in accordance with the standards adopted in this Chapter;
  - 2. A structure for which the loads upon the floors or roof exceed the maximum design limits; or

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3. A structure with parts that are so attached that they may fall and cause injury to persons or personal property.
- B. "Unsafe Utility" means a utility which constitutes a fire hazard or hazard to health, safety, property, or public welfare by reason of use, construction, quality of material, inadequate maintenance, or dilapidation. Any utility in which any one (1) or more of the following conditions exists shall be deemed to be an unsafe utility:
1. Damaged gas-fired, oil-fired, or solid fuel-fired appliances; or
  2. Devices or other apparatus which have any of the following defects:
    - i. Broken or cracked heat exchangers;
    - ii. Defective or deteriorated vents, venting, or flues which permit leakage of the flue gas through the walls;
    - iii. Defective fuel supply lines;
    - iv. Insufficient air supply for combustion of the fuel;
    - v. Defective or improperly installed and/or adjusted controls and appurtenances or a lack of such required controls;
    - vi. Equipment locations which constitute a fire or explosive hazard; or
    - vii. Defective or improperly installed gas-fueled equipment.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.2.030 Unsafe structures and utilities penalty.**

- A. An unsafe structure or utility is hereby declared a Nuisance pursuant to OCCGF Title 8, Chapter 49.
- B. Owning or maintaining an unsafe structure or utility is a misdemeanor, punishable by a term not to exceed six (6) months in jail, a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or both. The Court may in its discretion order the unsafe structure or utility removed or destroyed.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.2.040 Appurtenances—installation.**

- A. Footings, piers, caps, and shims shall be installed directly under the main frame or chassis of the mobile home according to the manufacturer's recommendations, if those recommendations meet the minimum standards set out in this Chapter.
- B. All footings, piers, caps, and shims shall be located under both frame rails and shall be installed so the longest dimensions of each piece of material used for the construction of a pier and of each footing, cap, and shim are parallel to the ground and perpendicular to the frame rail. Those nearest to each end of the mobile home shall be within five (5) feet of the end of the home, and shall have a maximum spacing of ten (10) feet on the centers.
- C. All grass and organic material shall be removed from beneath the footings.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

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**15.2.050 Footing.**

- A. A footing is that portion of the blocking between the ground and the frame rail which spreads and transmits loads directly to the soil.
- B. All footings shall be of a material impervious to rot which has a minimum weight-bearing ability equal to or greater than a solid piece of wood having minimum nominal dimensions of two (2) inches by twelve (12) inches by eighteen (18) inches.
- C. Each footing may be constructed from more than one (1) piece of material, provided that each piece of material has minimum nominal dimensions of not less than two (2) inches by twelve (12) inches by eighteen (18) inches, unless smaller dimensions are approved by the section prior to use.
- D. All footings shall be at least four (4) inches longer and four (4) inches wider than the pier resting upon it, unless smaller dimensions are approved by the section prior to use.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.2.060 Pier.**

- A. A pier is a vertical structural support that transmits the load from the mobile home chassis to the footing.
- B. A pier shall be constructed of a material or materials which have a minimum weight-bearing ability equal to or greater than a standard eight (8) inches by eight (8) inches by sixteen (16) inches minimum celled concrete block. If a celled material, e.g., a celled concrete block or an expanded shell, is used to construct piers, the material shall be installed so the open end of each cell is perpendicular to the frame rail and to the ground.
- C. A pier shall be not less than eight (8) nominal inches wide and shall be the same width as a cap resting upon it.
- D. A pier eight (8) inches in height, or less, may be constructed of more than one (1) piece of material provided each piece has minimum nominal dimensions of two (2) inches by four (4) inches by sixteen (16) inches.
- E. A pier more than eight (8) inches in height may be constructed of more than one (1) piece of material having minimum nominal dimensions of eight (8) inches wide, eight (8) inches high, and sixteen (16) inches long, provided that the pieces fit flush, one (1) to another.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.2.070 Cap.**

- A. A cap is a covering structure that is placed between the pier and shim to provide a surface on which the shims may rest so as to transmit the mobile home load uniformly to the pier-bearing surface.
- B. All piers shall be topped with a cap not more than four (4) inches in height and not less than eight (8) nominal inches wide and sixteen (16) inches long.
- C. Each cap shall be constructed of the same material throughout and may be constructed of more than one (1) piece of said same material, each having minimum nominal dimensions of one (1) inch by eight (8) inches by sixteen (16) inches.



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(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.2.080 Shim.**

- A. A shim is a thin tapered slip of wood or metal used to fill in between the cap and mobile home chassis for the purpose of leveling the mobile home.
- B. All shims shall be four (4) inches or less in thickness and wide enough to provide bearing over the width of the cap.
- C. The shims shall be driven tight between the cap and the frame rail to provide uniform bearing and leveling.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.2.090 Foundations and piers—use approval.**

Other types of piers and foundations, including heavy metal adjustable screw columns, of equal performance and weight-bearing ability may be used when approved by the Building Official or designee. Tie-downs shall be provided to resist overturning caused by seismic or wind loadings.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.2.100 Skirting requirements.**

All mobile homes placed upon mobile home zoned lots shall have the space below the mobile home skirted by weatherproof materials compatible with the exterior design of the mobile home. When such skirting is placed around a mobile home that has combustion air for the furnace and hot water tank taken from beneath the unit, provision shall be taken to louvre the air intake to outside of the skirt. A proper louvre shall be placed over the intake to prevent the entrance of birds and rodents.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.2.110 Permit—fees.**

A fee for each permit to place a mobile home on a lot outside of a licensed trailer court shall be set by Commission resolution and paid to the Planning and Community Development Department.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**Chapter 3 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE**

**Section:**

15.3.010 Adoption.

## Exhibit "A"

### Title 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

#### 15.3.010 Adoption.

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) shall be the same edition **and appendices** as adopted by the State of Montana. The IECC is adopted pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana. The IECC currently being enforced by the City of Great Falls is on file in the Planning and Community Development Department. Copies of each are available for inspection. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Labor & Industry, Building Standards Division, ~~Building Codes Bureau~~ **Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau**, P.O. Box 200517, Helena, MT 59620, at cost plus postage; or the International Code Council (ICC), 4051 West Fossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, IL 60478, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

(Ord. 3213, 2020; Ord. 3189, 2018).

## Chapter 4 INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE

### Section:

15.4.010 Adoption.

#### 15.4.010 Adoption.

The International Existing Building Code (IEBC) shall be the same edition **and appendices** as adopted by the State of Montana. The IEBC is adopted pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana. The IEBC currently being enforced by the City of Great Falls is on file in the Planning and Community Development Department. Copies of each are available for inspection. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Labor & Industry, Building Standards Division, ~~Building Codes Bureau~~ **Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau**, P.O. Box 200517, Helena, MT 59620, at cost plus postage; or the International Code Council (ICC), 4051 West Floosmoor Road, Country Club Hills, Ill 60478, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

(Ord. 3213, 2020; Ord. 3189, 2018).

## Chapter 5 MECHANICAL CODE

### Section:

15.5.010 Adoption.

## Exhibit "A"

### Title 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

#### **15.5.010 Adoption.**

The Mechanical Code shall be the same edition **and appendices** as adopted by the State of Montana. The Mechanical Code is adopted pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana. The Mechanical Code currently being enforced by the City of Great Falls is on file in the Planning and Community Development Department. Copies of each are available for inspection. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Labor & Industry, Building Standards Division, ~~Building Codes Bureau~~ **Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau**, P.O. Box 200517, Helena, MT 59620, at cost plus postage; or the International Code Council (ICC), 4051 West Flossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, IL 60478, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

(**Ord. 3213, 2020**; Ord. 3189, 2018).

## **Chapter 6 PLUMBING CODE**

### **Sections:**

15.6.010 Adoption.

15.6.020 Authority designated.

15.6.030 Permit fees.

15.6.040 Plumbing requirements.

15.6.050 Permit issuance.

15.6.060 Homeowner's permit.

15.6.070 Medical gas requirements.

15.6.080 Violation—penalty.

#### **15.6.010 Adoption.**

The Uniform Plumbing Code shall be the same edition **and appendices** as adopted by the State of Montana. The Uniform Plumbing Code is adopted pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana. The Uniform Plumbing Code currently being enforced by the City of Great Falls is on file in the Planning and Community Development Department. Copies of each are available for inspection. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Labor & Industry, Building Standards Division, ~~Building Codes Bureau~~ **Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau**, P.O. Box 200517, Helena, MT 59620, at cost plus postage; or the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), 20001 Walnut Drive South, Walnut, CA 91789-2825.

(**Ord. 3213, 2020**; Ord. 3189, 2018).

#### **15.6.020 Authority designated.**

The Great Falls Building Official or designee shall have the authority to enforce this Chapter.

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(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.6.030 Permit fees.**

Permit fees shall be set by City Commission resolution.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.6.040 Plumbing requirements.**

For purposes of definition, plumbing shall involve all sections of the Uniform Plumbing Code, except Chapter 12, Fuel gas piping.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.6.050 Permit issuance.**

Permits shall be issued only to plumbing contractors or homeowners who meet the requirements of this Chapter, or Title 37, Chapter 69, of the Montana Code Annotated.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.6.060 Homeowner's permit.**

An owner of a single-family residence used exclusively for personal **occupancy** use may install all sanitary plumbing or potable water supply piping. The standard fee schedule applies to all permits obtained under this Chapter.

(Ord. 3213, 2020; Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.6.070 Medical gas requirements.**

For purposes of definition medical gas systems shall involve only National Fire Protection Association 99 Gas and Vacuum Systems current edition.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.6.080 Violation—penalty.**

A violation of any provision of this Chapter is a misdemeanor, punishable by a term not to exceed six (6) months in jail, a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or both. A violation of this Chapter may also result in a revocation of any special business license issued pursuant to OCCGF Title 5.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

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**Chapter 7 INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE**

**Sections:**

15.7.010 Adoption.

15.7.020 Definition.

15.7.030 Permit fees.

15.7.040 Fuel Gas piping requirements.

15.7.050 Permit issuance.

15.7.060 Violation—penalty.

**15.7.010 Adoption.**

The International Fuel Gas Code shall be the same **edition and appendices** as adopted by the State of Montana. The International Fuel Gas Code is adopted pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana. The International Fuel Gas Code currently being enforced by the City of Great Falls is on file in the Planning and Community Development Department. Copies of each are available for inspection. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Labor & Industry, Building Standards Division, ~~Building codes Bureau~~ **Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau**, P.O. Box 200517, Helena, MT 59620, at cost plus postage; or the International Code Council (ICC), 4051 West Flossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, IL 60478, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

(**Ord. 3213, 2020**; Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.7.020 Definition.**

The Fuel Gas Code Official shall be the Great Falls Building Official or designee.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.7.030 Permit fees.**

Permit fees shall be set by City Commission resolution.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.7.040 Fuel Gas piping requirements.**

For purposes of definition, fuel gas piping shall involve only the International Fuel Gas Code.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

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**15.7.050 Permit issuance.**

Only a gas fitting contractor licensed pursuant to OCCGF Title 5, shall be eligible to obtain a permit for fuel gas piping systems.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.7.060 Violation—penalty.**

A violation of any provision of this Chapter is a misdemeanor, punishable by a term not to exceed six (6) months in jail, a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or both. A violation of this Chapter may result in the revocation of any special business license issued pursuant to OCCGF Title 5.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**Chapter 8 ELECTRICAL CODE**

**Sections:**

15.8.010 Adoption.

15.8.020 Homeowner electrical permit.

15.8.030 Application—homeowner's permit.

15.8.040 Electrical permit issuance.

15.8.050 Permit fees.

15.8.060 Violation—penalty.

**15.8.010 Adoption.**

The Electrical Code shall be the same edition **and appendices** as adopted by the State of Montana. The Electrical Code is adopted pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana. The Electrical Code currently being enforced by the City of Great Falls is on file in the Planning and Community Development Department. Copies are available for inspection. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Labor & Industry, Building Standards Division, ~~Building codes Bureau~~ **Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau**, P.O. Box 200517, Helena, MT 59620, at cost plus postage; or the National Fire Protection Association, Inc., #1 Battery march Park, Quincy, Massachusetts, 02269, [www.necdirect.org](http://www.necdirect.org).

(Ord. 3213, 2020; Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.8.020 Homeowner electrical permit.**

An individual may obtain an electrical permit for doing electrical work on his or her own property or residence, provided that said property or residence is maintained for his or her own use. The electrical

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work shall be done by the owner or a member of the family residing at the same address. Any other individual(s) performing work under the electrical permit are in violation of this Chapter.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

#### **15.8.030 Application—homeowner's permit.**

Any person desiring a homeowner's permit under the provisions of this Chapter shall first file an application for registration. The application shall set forth the location of the building where the work is proposed to be done, state that the applicant is the owner of said building, and attest to understanding applicable provisions of this Chapter and electrical codes. Permit fees shall be established by City Commission resolution.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

#### **15.8.040 Electrical permit issuance.**

Electrical permits may be issued only to a person, firm, corporation, or other entity qualified or licensed under applicable Montana state law and the OCCGF, or to individuals qualifying as homeowners pursuant to this Chapter.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

#### **15.8.050 Permit fees.**

Electrical permit fees shall be set by City Commission resolution.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

#### **15.8.060 Violation—penalty.**

A violation of any provision of this Chapter is a misdemeanor, punishable by a term not to exceed six (6) months in jail, a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or both. A violation of this Chapter may result in the revocation of any special business license issued pursuant to OCCGF Title 5.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

## **Chapter 9 FIRE CODE**

### **Sections:**

15.9.010 International Fire Code—adoption.

15.9.020 Definitions.

15.9.030 Bureau of Fire Prevention—established—duties.

15.9.040 Pipes thawed with torch prohibited.

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15.9.050 Violation—penalty.

**15.9.010 International Fire Code—adoption.**

- A. The City of Great Falls hereby adopts the most currently Montana state adopted International Fire Code (IFC) **and appendices**, as may be administratively amended by the Great Falls Fire Rescue Department (GFFR).
- B. A copy of the IFC, as may be amended, is available for inspection in the City Clerk's office and the GFFR Fire Marshall's office.
- C. Copies of the IFC may also be obtained from the International Code Council.

(Ord. 3213, 2020; Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.9.020 Definitions.**

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

- A. "Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention" means the Great Falls Fire Rescue Department (GFFR) Chief.
- B. "Corporation Counsel" means the Great Falls City Attorney.
- C. "Jurisdiction" means the incorporated City limits of Great Falls.
- D. "Removal" in relation to storage tanks includes vents and fill pipes and all other incidental hardware.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

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

- A. The IFC shall be enforced by the GFFR Bureau of Fire Prevention, under the supervision of the Fire Chief.
- B. **The GFFR Fire Prevention may, in the discretion of the Fire Marshall, assess fees for inspections and/or re-inspections of premises for compliance with the IFC. Said fees shall be set by Commission resolution.**

(Ord. 3213, 2020; Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.9.040 Pipes thawed with torch prohibited.**

- A. 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 incorporated City limits.
- B. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a term not to exceed six (6) months in jail, a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or both.



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- C. Costs incurred by City emergency personal responding to a violation of this section may be assessed as a lien on the subject property by Commission resolution.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.9.050 Violation—penalty.**

- A. Unless otherwise specified in this Chapter, any person who violates any of the provisions of the IFC as adopted, or fails to comply therewith is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a term not to exceed six (6) months in jail, a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or both.
- B. A property that contains a violation of the IFC, or any other violation of this Chapter is hereby declared a Nuisance as defined by OCCGF Title 8, Chapter 49.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**Chapter 10 SCREENING**

**Sections:**

15.10.010 Title.

15.10.020 Purpose.

15.10.030 Enforcement.

15.10.040 Definitions.

15.10.050 Screening—required.

15.10.060 Violations and penalties.

**15.10.010 Title.**

This Chapter shall be known as the Great Falls Screening Code (GFSC).

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.10.020 Purpose.**

The purpose of this Code is to provide a standard to enhance life, health, property, and public welfare by requiring the screening of salvage establishments. The intent is to present a visually attractive appearance, allowing only standard fencing materials or landscaping methods.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

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**15.10.030 Enforcement.**

The Planning and Community Development Director or designee is authorized and directed to enforce this Code.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.10.040 Definitions.**

- A. "Public view" means a point six (6) feet above the surface of the center of any adjacent public right-of-way including but not limited to avenues, streets, and alleys.
- B. "Salvage" or "scrap" means fragments of material discarded as waste in manufacturing operations, or machines, tools, equipment, or parts thereof no longer in serviceable condition, or such items and materials no longer used for their original intent or purpose or such items or materials which are valuable only as raw material for reprocessing. Classes of scrap include but are not limited to:
  - 1. Metal;
  - 2. Rubber;
  - 3. Textiles,
  - 4. Rope;
  - 5. Paper;
  - 6. Leather;
  - 7. Lumber;
  - 8. Plastics; and
  - 9. Equipment made of such material.
- C. "Salvage or scrap dealer" means any place of business which is maintained, operated or used for storing, keeping or selling salvage. This excludes a motor vehicle graveyard, garbage dump, or sanitary landfill which are regulated by other OCCGF provisions.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.10.050 Screening—required.**

- A. Screening, in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter, is required for the accumulation, storage, or disposal of salvage or scrap.
- B. Screening refers to fencing or other manmade barriers to conceal salvage from public view. It also refers to natural barriers. Any screening barrier must conform to all local zoning, planning, building provisions, and any other legal restrictions that may be in effect for each property.
- C. If a fence is used, the boards may be spaced and/or slanted to reduce wind load. The space which can be seen from a broadside view will not be more than one and one-half (1½) inches wide when viewed at any angle from forty-five (45) degrees to ninety (90) degrees to the fence. The interval between spaces will not be less than seven and one-half (7½) inches. Chain-link metal fences with standard fiberglass or other inserts are acceptable, provided the gap between adjacent slats does not exceed one and one-half (1 ½) inches. The breaks in the fence may be vertical or at any angle; they cannot be horizontal.

## Exhibit "A"

### Title 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

- D. Fences are to be constructed of sound building materials. Rough dimensional lumber or better is acceptable. Slabs are not considered rough dimensional lumber. Plastics or other materials that are placed over the salvage or scrap are not acceptable. Trees and shrubs can best be used in conjunction with other screening materials to improve the appearance of the salvage or scrap facility. Screening other than the two (2) types of fencing specifically approved above (metal and wood) but of equivalent permanence, attractiveness, and screening qualities are also acceptable, if approved by the Board of Adjustment in compliance with OCCGF Title 17.
- E. Screening with shrubs and trees, while not subject to precise measurements, is to provide a similar degree of screening at all times of the year. A berm may be constructed of any solid material, including stumps, demolition debris, etc. The slopes of the berm are to be covered and graded smooth, with not less than three (3) inches of topsoil and seeded with an adequate seeding formula.
- F. No more than one (1) of the approved screening materials is to be used on one (1) side of the premises. Trees and shrubs may be placed on the outside of the screening material. Other sides may use different approved materials.
- G. The screening is to be maintained by the property or salvage dealer in a neat and workmanlike manner and in compliance with all applicable Official Code of the City of Great Falls provisions. Screening is to be replaced when necessary by the property owner or salvage dealer. Damage by criminal acts, or other causes, is at the risk of the owner or designee.
- H. Signage on the screening must comply with OCCGF Title 17.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

#### **15.10.060 Violations and penalties.**

- A. A violation of this Chapter is a misdemeanor, punishable by a term not to exceed six (6) months in jail, a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or both.
- B. A property that contains any violation of this Chapter is hereby declared a Nuisance as defined by OCCGF Title 8, Chapter 49.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

## **Chapter 11 DESIGN PROFESSIONALS**

### **Section:**

15.11.010 Requirement for design professionals.

#### **15.11.010 Requirement for design professionals.**

Where structural integrity, mechanical, electrical, or plumbing complexity, or any other applicable code provision necessitates it, the Building Official may require plans, computations, and specifications to be prepared and designed by an engineer or architect licensed by the State of Montana.

Exhibit "A"

Title 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**Chapter 12 APPLICABILITY**

**Sections:**

15.12.010 Applicability.

15.12.020 Appeals.

**15.12.010 Applicability.**

OCCGF Title 15 is applicable to all buildings within the incorporated City limits of Great Falls, including but not limited to:

- A. Residential buildings, containing less than four (4) dwelling units or their attached-to structures;
- B. Any farm or ranch building; and
- C. Any private garage or private storage structure used only for the owner's own use as provided by Mont. Code Ann. § 50-60-102(1)(a).

(Ord. 3189, 2018).

**15.12.020 Appeals.**

Appeals may be filed to any order, requirement, permit decision, refusal or determination of the Building Official or designee in accordance with OCCGF Title 17, Chapter 12, Article 5.

(Ord. 3189, 2018).