

## Chapter B – Fire Prevention and Fire Protection

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Chapter B – Fire Prevention and Fire Protection  
(Amended 5/14/14)

**Article I - Fire Prevention Code Enforcement**

**Section 1.** The Village of Whispering Pines may enter into a government-to-government contract with Moore County or another governmental agency to have such agency perform required fire protection code enforcement within the Village. In that event, inspection fees for inspection of private property shall be paid by the property owner in accordance with the fee structure of such agency, unless otherwise specified in the contract.

**Article II - General Authority at an Emergency Incident**

**Section 1.** The officer in command at any emergency incident shall have authority to summon aid. The senior ranking officer / employee of the Department on the scene will be the officer in command.

**Section 2.** The officer in command has the authority to keep any and all idle, disorderly or suspicious persons away from the vicinity of an emergency incident. No person may refuse to follow the reasonable directives of the Chief or officer in command issued pursuant to this section.

**Section 3.** The officer in command at all fire incidents shall attempt to determine the origin and cause of every fire. When the cause and origin are undetermined and/or suspicious in nature, the officer in command will request the assistance of the Moore County Fire Marshal.

**Article III - Responsibilities of Residents and Non-Resident Visitors**

**Section 1. Following Fire Rescue Apparatus:** It shall be unlawful for any automobile or other vehicle to follow any fire rescue apparatus which is responding to a call, at a distance closer than one (1) Village block, or to pass such apparatus or to park within the same block in which an emergency incident is in progress; nothing herein shall apply to any automobile or other vehicle used for transporting fire rescue personnel to the scene of an emergency incident.

**Section 2. Yielding Right-of-Way:** In accordance with G.S. 20 - 156, drivers of civilian vehicles in and upon all streets, lanes, alleys and other public ways shall yield right-of-way to the fire rescue apparatus responding to the emergency incident. Drivers of such vehicles, upon the approach of fire rescue apparatus, shall immediately bring their vehicles to a stop on the right-hand side of the street in the direction in which they are facing and shall not move their vehicles until such apparatus has passed.

**Section 3. Interfering With Fire Rescue Personnel Apparatus:** No person shall interfere with or hinder fire rescue personnel in the discharge of their duties; nor shall any

person other than Fire Rescue Department employees loiter about the fire rescue station, or handle any fire rescue apparatus or equipment.

**Section 4. Who May Ride Fire Rescue Apparatus:** No person other than a Junior Member or an employee of the Fire Rescue Department shall ride any fire rescue apparatus to an emergency incident, without the approval of the Fire Rescue Chief. Minors under adult supervision and adults not employed by the Fire Rescue Department may ride fire rescue apparatus in an observer capacity, while participating in a parade or for the purposes of public education, with the approval of the Fire Rescue Chief.

**Section 5. Interfering With Fire Alarm Systems:** No person shall interfere carelessly or willfully with a fire alarm system whether public or private.

**Section 6. Protection of Fire Hose:** It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to drive over, or in any way damage or mutilate any fire hose while in use at a fire or otherwise.

**Section 7. Giving False Alarm of Fire Forbidden:** No person shall give or cause to be given any false alarm of fire or other emergency incident.

**Section 8. Fees:** The Fire Rescue Department shall furnish said fire protection and emergency services free of charge to all persons and property located within its area of responsibility, except that a fee may be charged for the cost of materials, equipment depreciation, and labor expended in the course of a response to a release or potential release of hazardous substances or large scale events beyond the scope of day to day operations.

**Section 9. Use of Fire Department Facilities:** The Fire Rescue Department may, at the discretion of the Fire Rescue Chief, allow the use of its facilities by a non-profit group for the purposes of supporting the Fire Department and/or its fire rescue personnel. Such uses may include fundraising, education, meetings, cook-outs, banquets and other uses to promote the general welfare, safety, morale, good fellowship and recreation of the Village fire rescue personnel. No such use shall be permitted without the prior approval of the Fire Rescue Chief.

## **ARTICLE IV - Fire Hazards**

### **Section 1 Burning Within Corporate Limits**

#### **Section 1.1 Permitted Fires**

- a. Fires used solely for outdoor cooking in appropriate devices/grills are permitted. No permit is required.
- b. Fires for human warmth are permitted provided no nuisance is created, the fire is contained in a outdoor fire place, fire pit, or similar device, and is completely extinguished whenever fire is unattended. No permit is required.

### **Section 1.2 Prohibited Fires**

- a. The burning of trash, refuse, shavings, paper, leaves, litter or any other materials of any kind is prohibited.
- b. Fires for the disposal of natural materials generated as a result of a natural disaster such as a hurricane or tornado are prohibited.
- c. Bonfires. No person shall kindle or maintain any bonfire or campfire, or shall knowingly furnish the material for any such fire, or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained on or in any street, avenue, road or lane, or public ground, or upon any private lot within the limits of the Village.

### **Section 2. Encumbrances Before Or On Fire Exit**

No person shall at any time, place any encumbrances of any kind whatsoever before or upon any fire escape, balcony, or ladder intended as a means of escape from fire. It shall be the duty of every member of the Police and Fire Rescue Departments who shall discover any fire escape encumbered in any manner to forthwith report the same to the Fire Rescue Chief, who shall immediately notify the owner or owners, their agent or agents, tenant or tenants, to remove such encumbrances and said encumbrances shall thereupon be immediately removed.

### **Section 3. Lots Kept Free From Fire Hazard**

It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or suffer trash, junk, rubbish, refuse, debris, fallen trees or articles of combustible or flammable nature to accumulate or remain on any lot or premises.

### **Section 4. Fires To Be Guarded By Watchman**

All persons, firms or corporations who shall burn as permitted above shall keep and maintain a careful and competent watchman in charge of such burning. Fires escaping from such burning shall be prima facie evidence of neglect of this provision.

### **Section 5. Penalties For Violation**

Penalties for violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be in accordance with Chapter L of the Code of Ordinances.