

2025 Fire Code Update



August 18, 2025

Definition



Scooter



E-Bicycle



Bicycle



E-unicycle



Hoverboard



E-scooter

- Chapter 2 - used throughout the code
- Powered Micromobility Devices. Motorized bicycles, motorized scooters and other personal mobility devices powered by a lithium-ion or lithium metal battery. The term does not include motor vehicles that are required to be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles for the state or jurisdiction. (2024 IFC)
- Smoking. The use or possession of a cigar, cigarette, hookah, or pipe containing tobacco or a tobacco product while the tobacco or tobacco product is burning, lighted, or ignited, regardless of whether the person using or possessing the product is inhaling or exhaling the smoke from such product.



Section 310 – Smoking

- Added a new definition for hookah lounges that is consistent with cigar bars.
- Adjusted wording of the cigar bar definition so that it is consistent throughout the section.
- Both establishments require 15% of sales to be related to the type of establishment (cigars, hookahs).
- Allows consumption of food and beverages, including alcoholic beverages.



Special Use Permits

A Special Use Permit (SUP) is required to operate a smoking establishment, including cigar bars and hookah lounges.



Powered Micromobility Vehicles

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- 322.1 General. Lithium-ion and lithium metal battery powered micromobility devices shall be operated and maintained in accordance with this section.
 - Exceptions:
 - (1) Storage, repair and charging in residential occupancies of powered mobility devices, provided such devices are for personal use by the owner.
 - (2) Charging of a single powered mobility device in any occupancy by its owner.
 - 322.1.1 Prohibited locations. The use of a residential occupancy as a business for the charging of commercially owned powered micromobility devices as part of a rental or sales service shall not be permitted.
 - 322.2 Battery chargers and equipment. Powered micromobility devices shall be charged in accordance with their listing and the manufacturer's instructions using only the original equipment manufacturer-supplied charging equipment or charging equipment with the listing and manufacturer's instructions.
 - 322.3 Listing. Powered micromobility devices shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2272 or UL 2849, as applicable.

Powered Micromobility Vehicles

- 322.4 Battery charging areas. Where approved, powered micromobility devices shall be permitted to be charged in a room or area that complies with all of the following:
 1. Is provided with sufficient electrical receptacles to allow the charging equipment for each device to be directly connected to a receptacle. Extension cords and relocatable power taps shall not be used.
 2. No storage of combustible materials, combustible waste or hazardous materials.
 3. The charging operations shall not be conducted in or obstruct any required means of egress from the room or area.
 4. Removable storage batteries shall not be stacked or charged in an enclosed cabinet unless the cabinet is specially designed and approved for such purpose.
 5. A minimum distance of 18 inches (457.2 mm) shall be maintained between each removable storage battery during charging operations unless each battery is isolated from neighboring batteries by an approved fire-resistant material.
 6. A minimum of 18 inches (457.2 mm) shall be maintained between the location of the battery on each powered micromobility device during charging operations.
 7. The indoor room or area shall be protected by a fire alarm system utilizing air-aspirating smoke detectors or radiant energy-sensing fire detection.
- 322.5 Fire safety plan. A fire safety plan shall be prepared and maintained in accordance with Section 403.10.6. In addition, the fire safety plan shall include emergency response actions to be taken upon detection of a fire or possible fire involving lithium-ion or lithium metal battery storage.

Electric Vehicle Chargers

- Section 323 Electrical
Vehicle Power Transfer
System

323.1 General.
Electrical Vehicle Power
Transfer Systems shall
have a disconnecting means
in accordance with the
Article 625 of the
2023 edition of NFPA
70, National Electric
Code.



Electric Vehicle Blankets

- Section 323.2 Electric Vehicle Fire Blankets. The fire code official is authorized to require the installation of approved electric vehicle fire blankets in new and existing parking garages where electric vehicle power transfer systems are located.
- Currently there are no blankets that are approved by any of the testing laboratories. This provides the flexibility to increase safety if and when



Parking Garages

- 903.2.10.3 Parking Garage Sprinkler Design Requirements. Automatic sprinkler systems installed in parking garages shall be designed in accordance with the 2022 edition of NFPA 13, the Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

Delete the following exception:

Exception: Automatic fire sprinkler systems are not required when all sides of the open parking garage are separated from adjacent buildings or property lines by a fire apparatus lane conforming to Section 503.2 of this code and no occupancies are located above the subject garage.

- By deleting the above section, all future parking garage structures will be required to be sprinklered. This is due to the increase in fuel loads from modern vehicles as well as electric vehicles.
- Adopting the requirements by reference is simpler because NFPA 13 lists parking garages in the definition of an Ordinary Hazard Group 2 appendix.



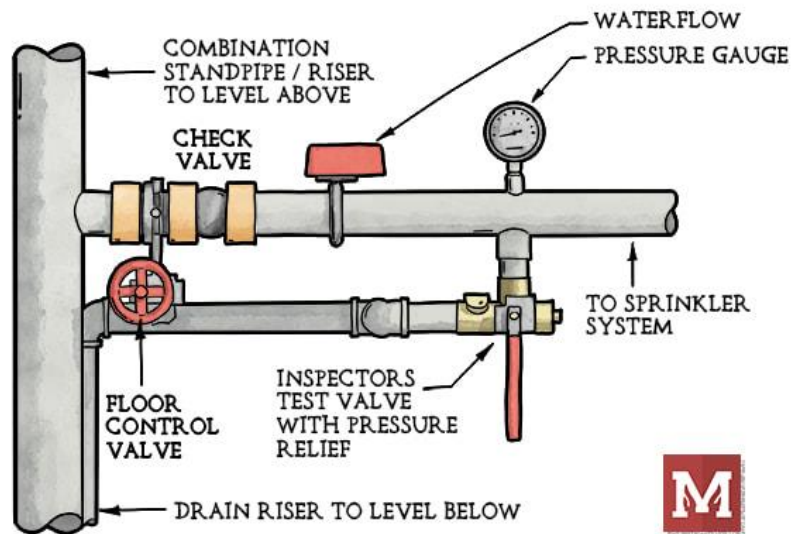
Lithium-Ion and Lithium Metal Batteries

- Section 403.10.6; add this new section to read as follows:
- 403.10.6 Lithium-ion and lithium metal batteries. An approved fire safety and evacuation plan in accordance with Section 404 shall be prepared and maintained for occupancies that involve activities for the research and development, testing, manufacturing, handling or storage of lithium-ion batteries or lithium metal batteries, or the repair or servicing of vehicles powered by lithium-ion batteries or lithium metal batteries.
- Exceptions: A fire safety and evacuation plan is not required for the storage or merchandizing of any of the following:
 1. New or refurbished batteries installed for use in the equipment or vehicles they are designed to power.
 2. New or refurbished batteries packed for use with the equipment or vehicles they are designed to power for merchandizing purposes.
 3. New or refurbished lithium-ion batteries rated at not more than 300 watt-hours and lithium metal batteries containing not more than 25 grams of lithium metal in their original packaging.
 4. The storage, repair and charging activities in detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses, provided that such devices are for personal use.
 5. The storage, repair and charging activities associated with personal use in sleeping units and dwelling units of Group R-1 and R-2 occupancies.
- 403.10.6.1 Mitigation planning. The approved fire safety and evacuation plan shall include thermal runaway event mitigation measures. These measures shall include activities undertaken to prevent thermal runaway, early detection of a thermal runaway event and mitigation measures to be undertaken to limit the size of the event on occupants and the facility.

Fire Watches

- Add a second paragraph to Section 112.3.1
- The fire code official is authorized to post a notice of impaired fire protection systems, unsafe conditions, or other violations at or near the entrance or entrances to such premises.
- Add an additional paragraph to Section 901.7. A fire watch shall be in accordance with the Lewisville Fire Marshal's Office Fire Watch Technical Bulletin.
- Third Party Fire Watch is required when a building has a sleeping or dwelling unit, the building is over three stories, or when required by the Fire Marshal.

Floor Control Valves for Sprinkler Systems



- Add Section 903.3.9 Floor Control Valve Assemblies. Where required by the *fire code* official, multistory buildings exceeding two stories in height shall be provided with a floor control valve, check valve, pressure gauge, main drain valve, and flow switch for isolation, control, and annunciation of water flow for each individual level.
- New Technical Bulletin will outline requirements for Floor Control Valve Assemblies.
- Floor Control Valve Assemblies will be required in all multistory buildings greater than two stories that are protected by a system in accordance with NFPA 13 and NFPA 13.6.

Fire Control Rooms

- 903.7 Fire Control Rooms
 - Changed size requirement from 5 ft x 7ft to minimum 35 sq ft.
 - Added exceptions for sprinkler systems installed in townhomes and single-family homes.
 - Added exception for sprinkler systems installed in apartment buildings.

Allows for different configurations, but still must meet the minimum requirements outlined in NFPA 13 (minimum 3 ft clearance around sprinkler risers) and NFPA 72 (minimum 30" clearance for fire alarm panels).
 - Removed height requirement for exterior horn/strobe.

Allows for flexibility to ensure the horn/strobe is in a visible location.



Occupant Notification



Currently, an audio/visual device is required in all suites of a multi-tenant buildings to provide indication of a sprinkler waterflow condition.



Large, single occupancy buildings do not have a requirement for a device to signal sprinkler waterflow until they exceed a certain occupant load (i.e., 300 for assembly, 500 for manufacturing) or have no requirement at all.



Proposed amendment would require an audio/visual device to be installed near a constantly attended location in single occupant buildings that are 10,000 square feet or larger.



Fireworks

- Section 5-153. Declaration of nuisance; seizure and destruction
 - Changed authority from "fire prevention division of the community development department" to the "fire marshal's office"
 - Added statement that all seizures of fireworks will be in accordance with Section 342.013 of the Texas Local Government Code.



Questions
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