

# A Resolution Adopting and Amending the 2021 Edition of the International Fire Code®

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Chief and fire code official have reviewed the International Fire Code, 2021 Edition, published by the International Code Council, and recommend the adoption of the same, with local amendments, by the Board of Directors of the Boulder Rural Fire Protection District ("District"); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 International Fire Code is a model code that is intended to establish the minimum requirements, consistent with nationally recognized good practice, for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures, and premises, and to provide a reasonable level of safety for firefighter and emergency responders during emergency operations;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors deems it necessary and in the best interest of public safety to adopt and enforce the 2021 Fire Code; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Special District Act, C.R.S. 32-1-1002 authorizes the Board to adopt and enforce a fire code within the District's jurisdiction; provided, however, that a fire code adopted by the Board can only be enforced within Boulder County if it is first approved by the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners.

## **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BOULDER RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:**

**A.** Nothing contained in this Resolution shall be construed as modifying or limiting in any manner the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the District, and the Chief of the District or his/her authorized designee, set forth in the Special District Act, or as otherwise provided by federal, state or local laws, rules, resolutions, and ordinances, or common law.

**B.** Nothing herein shall be construed as, and shall not constitute, a limitation on or waiver of the rights, privileges, immunities, benefits, defenses, and limitations provided to the District and its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents under federal and state law, including but not limited to, the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, C.R.S. § 24-10-101, et seq.

# **1 Adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code with Local Amendments**

## ***1.1 Code Adopted***

The International Fire Code, 2021 Edition, is adopted with the local amendments set forth herein and the following appendices: Appendix A, Board of Appeals; Appendix B, Fire-Flow Requirements for Buildings; Appendix C, Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution; Appendix D, Fire Apparatus Access Roads; Appendix F, Hazard Ranking; and, Appendix I, Fire Protection Systems – Noncompliant Conditions (collectively, the “code”).

The date on which the code shall take effect shall be the date of approval by the County Commissioners of Boulder County. This code shall be in effect within the limits of the Boulder Rural Fire Protection District.

## ***1.2 Code Described***

The International Fire Code, 21<sup>st</sup> Edition, is published by the International Code Council, 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20001-2070.

## ***1.3 Copies on File***

At least one copy of the code shall be kept on file in the office of the fire code official of the Boulder Rural Fire Protection District, 6230 Lookout Road, Boulder, Colorado 80301, and may be inspected during regular business hours.

## ***1.4 Purpose***

This code establishes the minimum standards, consistent with nationally recognized good practice, for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion, and dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures, and premises, and to provide for the safety of firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

# **2 Definitions**

Wherever the term “Board of Directors” is used, it shall mean the Board of Directors of the Boulder Rural Fire Protection District.

Wherever the word “District” is used, it shall mean the Boulder Rural Fire Protection District.

Whenever the word "Chief" is use, it shall mean the Fire Chief of the District, including any Interim Fire Chief or Acting Fire Chief.

### **3 Amendments Made in and to the 2021 Edition of the International Fire Code**

The 2021 Edition of the International Fire Code is amended as follows:

1. Subsection 101.1 is amended to read: "**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of the Boulder Rural Fire Protection District, hereinafter referred to as 'code'."
2. A new section 102.13 is added: "**102.13 Conflicts with Other Adopted Codes.** Where a conflict arises between this code and the International Building Code and/or the International Residential Code, the more stringent application of the respective codes shall apply.  
Exception: When the chief building official and the fire code official agree upon any provision from the respective codes as being applicable and acceptable."
3. A new section 102.14 is added: "**102.14 Other Adopted Codes.** Where this document refers to other ICC codes, the currently adopted edition for the location under consideration shall apply."
4. Subsection 103.1 is amended to read: "**103.1 Code Compliance Agency.** "Boulder Rural Fire Protection District shall be the code compliance agency. The official in charge of the Life Safety Division shall be known as the fire code official. The code compliance agency's function is the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the provisions of this code."
5. Subsection **104.7 Liability** shall be amended by the addition of the following sentence at the end of the section: "Nothing herein shall be construed as, and shall not constitute, a limitation on or waiver of the rights, privileges, immunities, benefits, defenses, and limitations provided to the District and its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents under federal and state law, including but not limited to, the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, C.R.S. § 24-10-101, *et seq.*"
6. Subsection **104.11 Fire investigations** shall be amended by the addition of the following sentence at the end of the section: "While investigating the origin and cause of a fire that is suspected to be the result of arson, the Chief, and those individuals designated by the Chief, shall serve as an arson investigator within the meaning of C.R.S. § 16-2.5-109 and shall constitute a peace officer while engaged in the performance of his/her duties, and whose authority shall be limited to the enforcement of arson and related laws."

7. Subsection **104.12 Authority at fires and other emergencies** shall be amended by the addition of the following sentence at the end of the section: "In accordance with C.R.S. § 32-1-1002(b), The Chief shall: a) enforce all laws of the State of Colorado and ordinances and resolutions of the appropriate political subdivisions relating to the prevention of fires and the suppression of arson, b) inspect, or cause to be inspected by members or officers of the District, as often as the Chief deems necessary, all buildings, premises, and public places, except the interior of any private dwelling, for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any condition liable to cause fire or for the purpose of obtaining information relative to the violation of the various provisions of the Special District Act: and c) investigate or cause to be investigated the cause, origin, and circumstance of every fire occurring within his jurisdiction by which property is destroyed or damaged and, so far as is possible, determine whether the fire was the result of carelessness or design. While investigating the origin and cause of a fire that is suspected to be the result of arson, the Chief, and those individuals designated by the Chief, shall serve as an arson investigator within the meaning of C.R.S. § 16-2.5-109 and shall constitute a peace officer while engaged in the performance of his/her duties, and whose authority shall be limited to the enforcement of arson and related laws."
8. Subsection **105.1.1 Permits Required**. The following subsections are deleted: 105.5.1 through 105.5.33, 105.5.35 through 105.5.41, 105.5.43 through 105.5.48, and 105.5.50 through 150.5.52.
9. Subsection 105.5.34 is amended to read as follows: "**105.5.34 Open Burning**. An operational permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground. Instructions and stipulations of the permit shall be adhered to.  
  
Exception: No permit shall be required if burning is regulated under the regulations promulgated under C.R.S. Section 25-7-123 or regulated by the County Health Department."
10. Subsection 107 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with:  
**"107 Fees.**  
**107.1 Fees.** Fees for services under this code shall be established from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors under Sections C.R.S. § 32-1-1001(1)(j)(I), and (k) and C.R.S. § 32-1-1002(1)(e). Said fees may include reimbursement to the District of any consultation fees, expenses, or costs incurred by the District in performing inspection related services under provisions of this code.



**107.2 Payment of fees.** A permit shall not be valid until the fees prescribed by law and this code have been paid; nor shall an amendment to a permit be released until additional fees, if any, have been paid.

**107.3 Operational permit fee.** An inspection fee may be charged for any operational permit required by Section 105.5. The inspection fee shall be based upon the time required to conduct inspections authorized by Section 105.2.2 and associated activities, to determine compliance with this code and other applicable laws and ordinances as required by Section 105.2.4, and to issue the permit as specified in Section 105.3.7.

**107.4 Construction permit fee.** A fee may be charged for any construction permit required by Section 105.6 of this code. The construction permit fee is intended to cover the cost of inspections required or requested in connection with the work for which the permit is granted, and the associated costs of processing the application. An application shall include an estimate of the total value of the work, including materials and labor, for which the permit is being sought. If, in the opinion of the fire code official, the valuation is underestimated on the application, the permit shall be denied, unless written estimates are provided in a form acceptable to the fire code official, and that support the valuation set forth in the application. Final construction permit valuation shall be set by the fire code official.

**107.5 Other inspection fee.** Fees for re-inspections, for inspections outside normal business hours, or for inspections for which no fee is otherwise established may be charged.

**107.6 Plan review fee.** The plan review fee is intended to cover the significant costs and expenses incurred by the District in reviewing materials necessary to perform appropriate inspections of construction, uses, processes, and operations. The fee shall be assessed based on the reasonable, customary, and necessary time associated with reviewing or evaluating site plans; construction documents and calculations; changes, additions, or revisions to approved plans; construction documents resubmitted after the fire code official's issuing a statement explaining the reasons that a previous submittal does not conform to the requirements of this code. When submittal documents are incomplete or changed and require additional plan review, an additional plan review fee shall be charged. The plan review fee required by this Section, 107.6, is separate from the construction permit fee required by Section 107.4.

**107.7 Unauthorized Work Inspection Fee.** Any person or entity that begins any work before obtaining a construction permit required by Section 105.6 shall be subject to an inspection fee in an amount equal to the amount of the construction permit fee. The fee shall be separate from and in addition to a construction permit fee. Payment of the inspection fee shall not relieve any person

from compliance with all other provisions of this code or from any penalty prescribed by law. The inspection fee shall be assessed regardless of whether a construction permit is then or subsequently issued.

EXCEPTION: When approved in writing by the fire code official, work may begin prior to obtaining a construction permit.

**107.8 Related Fees.** The payment of the fee for construction, uses, processes, or operations authorized by an operational permit or construction permit shall not relieve the applicant or holder of the permit from the payment of other fees that are prescribed by law or required by Section 107.”

11. Subsection 111.1 is repealed in its entirety and reenacted to read as follows.

**“111.1 Appeals Procedure-General.** Any person, firm, or corporation who are grieved by an application, interpretation, or order made by District personnel pursuant to any provision of this code or nationally recognized standards adopted by the District, may file within five days a written notice of appeal with the District requesting a hearing before the Chief. All appeals must be made in writing to the Chief at the District’s administrative office. The Chief shall establish reasonable rules for such appeals and shall make a record of all proceedings. The decision of the Chief shall be considered a final administrative decision.

**111.1.1 Appeals Procedure-Administrative Decisions.** To determine the suitability of alternate materials and types of construction and to provide for reasonable interpretations of this code, upon request of an interested party, including the Chief or designee, there shall be, and is hereby created a board of appeals consisting of five members who are qualified by experience and training to pass judgment upon pertinent matters. The board of appeals shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the District and shall hold office at its pleasure. The board of appeals shall adopt reasonable rules of procedure for conducting its business, and shall render all interpretations, decisions, and findings in writing to the appellant or requesting party with a duplicate copy to the Chief. All appeals of the Chief’s decision shall be made in writing within five days of the Chief’s decision to the Board of Directors by delivery to the Chief at the District’s administrative office.

**111.1.2 Appeals Board and Procedures.** See Appendix A, as adopted, for the makeup and procedures of the board of appeals.”

12. Subsection 112.4 is amended to read: **“112.4 Violation penalties.** Pursuant to C.R.S. § 32-1-1002(3)(d), persons who violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall correct, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents, this code, the directions of the fire code official, or of a permit or

certificate used under this code, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon prosecution, shall be subject to a fine of up to \$250.00. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.”

13. Subsection 113.4 is amended to read: “**113.4 Failure to comply.** Any person or entity who shall continue any work after having been served a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed by the fire code official to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon prosecution, shall be subject to a fine of up to \$250.00 in accordance with C.R.S. §32-1-1002(3)(d). Each day in which such violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation under C.R.S. Section 32-1-1002(3)(d).” In addition, the person or entity may be subject to a civil action by the District to enjoin violation of the stop work order.”
14. Subsection 503.2.9 is added to read: “**503.2.9 Driveway Access.** Driveways from platted roads to single-family residences shall be sized to meet the municipal or county transportation department specifications on straight sections. Inside and outside curve radii will be determined by the fire code official to accommodate the fire apparatus expected to respond to the residence.”
15. Subsection 507.2.3 is added to read: “**507.2.3 In-ground Cisterns.** In-ground cisterns for fire protection shall be designed, installed, and maintained to meet the requirements of the municipal code or county land use code and the fire code official.”
16. Subsection 507.2.4 is added to read: “**507.2.4 Community Cisterns.** Where an occupancy is close enough and has adequate access by firefighting apparatus, in the opinion of the fire code official, a community cistern may provide firefighting water supply, instead of an In-ground Cistern, as described in Subsection 503.2.3.”
17. Section 507 is amended to add Sections 507.5.3.1 and 507.5.7 to read as follows:

“**507.5.3.1. Privately Owned Hydrant Maintenance.** Privately owned hydrants shall be maintained at the expense of the private property owner, subject to the direction and requirements of the fire code official. Such private hydrants shall be flushed and tested periodically according to this code. If such testing reveals that the flow from private hydrants is inadequate according to applicable standards, modifications necessary to meet these standards shall be ordered by the fire code official and made at the expense of the property owner. All private hydrants shall be painted red, with a white cap to designate a

private fire hydrant. Appropriate markings or signs restricting parking in front of or next to fire hydrants shall be designated by the fire code official and implemented at the expense of the of the property owner. No point of connection to any private fire hydrant shall be left uncapped without permission of the fire code official.

**507.5.7 Existing Private Fire Hydrants.** Existing hydrants that do not conform to the District's specifications or that do not face in the direction most consistent with emergency use by the District, as established by the fire code official, shall be changed to meet the District's requirements by the property owner and at the property owner's expense, within 15 days of service of notice of the required changes upon the property owner or its resident agent."

18. Subsection 903.3.1.3.1 is added to read as follows: "**903.3.1.3.1 Fire Department Connections.** Residential sprinkler systems which are supplied by atmospheric pressure tanks and fire pumps shall be installed with a Fire Department Connection, the size and location of which shall be determined by the fire code official and Section 912."
19. Subsection 903.3.1.3.2 is added to read as follows: "**903.3.1.3.2 Attached Garage Sprinklers.** Residences with attached garages, where the garage may serve as an egress path, shall have the garage sprinkled, as determined by the fire code official."
20. Subsection 903.3.1.3.3 is added to read as follows: "**903.3.1.3.3 Interior and Exterior Notification.** Residential sprinkler systems shall have adequate interior notification to alert the occupants that the sprinkler system is activated, in accordance with NFPA 72. Additionally, a horn and strobe device shall be installed above the Fire Department Connection noted in Section 903.3.1.3.1. Such sprinkler waterflow alarm devices shall be activated by the water flow equivalent to the flow of single sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed in the system. Where a fire alarm system is installed, activation of the automatic sprinkler system shall actuate the building fire alarm system."
21. Subsection 903.4.2 is amended to read as follows: "**903.4.2 Alarms.** An approved audible device, located on the exterior of the building in an approved location, shall be connected to each automatic sprinkler system. An approved audible alarm shall be provided in the interior of the building, in a normally occupied location, to alert building occupants of sprinkler discharge. Such sprinkler waterflow alarm devices shall be activated by the water flow equivalent to the flow of a single sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed in the system. Where a fire alarm system is installed, activation of the automatic sprinkler system shall actuate the building fire alarm system."

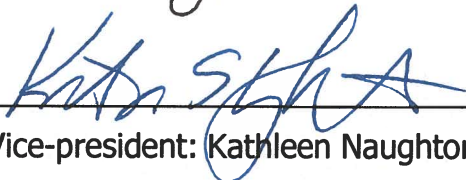


22. Section 907 is amended to add Section 907.6.7 to read as follows. "**907.6.7 Extent of coverage.** The fire code official shall approve the extent of zone coverage for fire alarm systems in all buildings and structures."
23. Appendix A is modified to read: "**Appendix A - Board of Appeals and Procedures.**"
24. Section A101.3 is amended to read: "**A101.3 Membership of Board.** The board shall consist of five voting members appointed by the chief appointing authority on an ad hoc basis to hear matters that come up for appeal. The Chief of the District shall be the chief appointing authority. The fire code official shall be an ex officio member of the board and shall not vote on matters before the board."
25. Section A101.3.3 is deleted due to the ad hoc makeup of the board.
26. Section A101.3.4 is amended to read: "**A101.3.4 Chairperson.** The board shall select one of its members to function as chairperson to hear the matter brought before the board."

Approved June 26, 2024 by the Board of Directors of the Boulder Rural Fire Protection District.

  
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President: Andrew Halperin

  
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Treasurer: John Barberis

  
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Vice-president: Kathleen Naughton

  
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Member-at-large: Thomas Kuhne

  
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Secretary: Robert Murphy

