

TITLE 7

FIRE PROTECTION & FIREWORKS<sup>1</sup>

CHAPTER

1. FIRE DISTRICT.
2. FIRE CODE.
3. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.
4. FIRE SERVICE OUTSIDE TOWN LIMITS.

CHAPTER 1

FIRE DISTRICT<sup>2</sup>

SECTION

7-101. Fire district described.

7-101. Fire district described. The corporate fire district shall be as follows:

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

Building, utility and housing codes: title 12.

<sup>2</sup>The significance of the fire district is that Chapter 30 of the Standard Building Code, applicable to the Town of Gainesboro through title 12 of this code, imposes certain construction, modification and other requirements peculiar to buildings located within the fire district, and prohibits Hazardous (Group H) occupancies within the fire district. Chapter 4, Section 408 of the Standard Building Code defines Hazardous (Group H) occupancy in both general and specific terms, but generally it refers to occupancies involving highly combustible, flammable or explosive materials.

## CHAPTER 2

FIRE CODE<sup>1</sup>

## SECTION

- 7-201. Fire code adopted.
- 7-202. Enforcement.
- 7-203. Definition of "municipality."
- 7-204. Storage of explosives, flammable liquids, etc.
- 7-205. Gasoline trucks.
- 7-206. Variances.
- 7-207. Violations and penalties.

7-201. Fire code adopted. Pursuant to authority granted by Tennessee Code Annotated, sections 6-54-501 through 6-54-506, and for the purpose of prescribing regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion, the Standard Fire Prevention Code,<sup>2</sup> 1991 edition, with 1992 revisions, as recommended by the Southern Standard Building Code Congress International, Inc. is hereby adopted by reference and included as a part of this code. Pursuant to the requirement of Tennessee Code Annotated, section 6-54-502, one (1) copy of the fire prevention code has been filed with the town recorder and is available for public use and inspection. Said fire prevention code is adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein and shall be controlling within the corporate limits.

7-202. Enforcement. The fire prevention code herein adopted by reference shall be enforced by the chief of the fire department. He shall have the same powers as the state fire marshal.

7-203. Definition of "municipality." Whenever the word "municipality" is used in the fire prevention code herein adopted, it shall be held to mean the Town of Gainesboro, Tennessee.

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

Building, utility and housing codes: title 12.

<sup>2</sup>Copies of this code are available from the Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc., 900 Montclair Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35213-1206.

7-204. Storage of explosives, flammable liquids, etc. (1) The district referred to in section 1901.4.2 of the fire prevention code, in which storage of explosives and blasting agents is prohibited, is hereby declared to be the fire district as set out in section 7-101 of this code.

(2) The district referred to in section 902.1.1 of the fire prevention code, in which storage of flammable liquids in outside above ground tanks is prohibited, is hereby declared to be the fire district as set out in section 7-101 of this code.

(3) The district referred to in section 906.1 of the fire prevention code, in which new bulk plants for flammable or combustible liquids are prohibited, is hereby declared to be the fire district as set out in section 7-101 of this code.

(4) The district referred to in section 1701.4.2 of the fire prevention code, in which bulk storage of liquefied petroleum gas is restricted, is hereby declared to be the fire district as set out in section 7-101 of this code.

7-205. Gasoline trucks. No person shall operate or park any gasoline tank truck within the central business district or within any residential area at any time except for the purpose of and while actually engaged in the expeditious delivery of gasoline.

7-206. Variances. The chief of the fire department may recommend to the board of mayor and aldermen variances from the provisions of the fire prevention code upon application in writing by any property owner or lessee, or the duly authorized agent of either, when there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the strict letter of the code, provided that the spirit of the code shall be observed, public safety secured, and substantial justice done. The particulars of such variances when granted or allowed shall be contained in a resolution of the board of mayor and aldermen.

7-207. Violations and penalties. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter or the Standard Fire Prevention Code herein adopted, or fail to comply therewith, or violate or fail to comply with any order made thereunder; or build in violation of any detailed statement of specifications or plans submitted and approved thereunder, or any certificate or permit issued thereunder, and from which no appeal has been modified by the board of commissioners or by a court of competent jurisdiction, within the time fixed herein. The application of a penalty under the general penalty clause for the municipal code shall not be held to prevent the enforced removal of prohibited conditions.

## CHAPTER 3

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT<sup>1</sup>

## SECTION

- 7-301. Establishment, equipment, and membership.
- 7-302. Objectives.
- 7-303. Organization, rules, and regulations.
- 7-304. Records and reports.
- 7-305. Tenure and compensation of members.
- 7-306. Chief responsible for training and maintenance.
- 7-307. Chief to be assistant to state officer.
- 7-308. Interference with equipment.

7-301. Establishment, equipment, and membership. There is hereby established a volunteer fire department to be supported and equipped from appropriations of the board of mayor and aldermen. Any funds raised by the volunteer fire department as a whole, or by any individual or group of volunteer firemen in the name of the volunteer fire department, shall be turned over to and become the property of, the town and the town shall use such funds in the equipping of the fire department. Any and all gifts to the volunteer fire department shall be turned over to, and become the property of, the town. All other apparatus, equipment, and supplies of the volunteer fire department shall be purchased by or through the town and shall be and remain the property of the town. The volunteer fire department shall be composed of a chief appointed by the board of mayor and aldermen, and such number of physically-fit subordinate officers and firemen as the fire chief shall appoint.

7-302. Objectives. The volunteer fire department shall have as its objectives:

- (1) To prevent uncontrolled fires from starting.
- (2) To prevent the loss of life and property because of fires.
- (3) To confine fires to their places of origin.
- (4) To extinguish uncontrolled fires.
- (5) To prevent loss of life from asphyxiation or drowning.
- (6) To perform such rescue work as its equipment and/or the training of its personnel makes practicable.

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

Special privileges with respect to traffic: title 15, chapter 2.

7-303. Organization, rules, and regulations. The chief of the volunteer fire department shall set up the organization of the department, make definite assignments to individuals, and formulate and enforce such rules and regulations as shall be necessary for the orderly and efficient operation of the volunteer fire department, under such rules and regulations as the board of mayor and aldermen may prescribe.

7-304. Records and reports. The chief of the volunteer fire department shall keep adequate records of all fires, inspections, apparatus, equipment, personnel, and work of the department. He shall submit such written reports on those matters to the mayor as the mayor requires. The mayor shall submit reports on those matters to the board of mayor and aldermen, as the board of mayor and aldermen requires.

7-305. Tenure and compensation of members. The fire chief shall have the authority to suspend or discharge any other member of the volunteer fire department when he deems such action to be necessary for the good of the department. The fire chief may be suspended for up to thirty (30) days by the mayor, but may be dismissed only by the board of mayor and aldermen.

All personnel of the volunteer fire department shall receive such compensation for their services as the board of mayor and aldermen may from time to time prescribe.

7-306. Chief responsible for training and maintenance. The chief of the volunteer fire department, shall be fully responsible for the training of the firemen and for maintenance of all property and equipment of the fire department, under the direction and subject to the requirements of the board of mayor and aldermen.

7-307. Chief to be assistant to state officer. Pursuant to requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated, section 68-17-108, the fire chief is designated as an assistant to the state commissioner of insurance and is subject to all the duties and obligations imposed by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 68, chapter 17, and shall be subject to the directions of the commissioner in the execution of the provisions thereof.

7-308. Interference with equipment. No person shall in any way interfere with the firefighting equipment of the town. Any person who does so shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, upon conviction therefor, shall be fined under the general penalty clause of the municipal code of ordinances.

## CHAPTER 4

FIRE SERVICE OUTSIDE TOWN LIMITS

## SECTION

7-401. Restrictions on fire service outside town limits.

7-401. Restrictions on fire service outside town limits. No personnel or equipment of the volunteer fire department shall be used for fighting any fire outside the town limits unless the fire is on town owned property or, in the opinion of the fire chief, is in such hazardous proximity to property owned or located within the town as to endanger the town property, or unless the board of mayor and aldermen has developed policies for providing emergency services outside of the town limits or entered into a contract or mutual aid agreement pursuant to the authority of

(1) The Local Government Emergency Assistance Act of 1987, as amended, codified in Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-2-601 et seq.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>State law references

Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-2-601 et seq., as amended by Pub. Acts 1988, ch. 499, authorizes any municipality or other local governmental entity to go outside of its boundaries in response to a request for emergency assistance by another local government. It does not create a duty to respond to or to stay at the scene of an emergency outside its jurisdiction.

This act does not require written agreements between the requesting or responding local governments. However, it does require that each local government establish policies and procedures to be followed in requesting and responding to requests for emergency assistance. The policies and procedures must be approved by the boards of mayor and aldermen before they go into effect. The policies and procedures may cover only one service, several services, or all of the services named in the Act. They may also include a provision for compensation for emergency assistance.

The Act provides that the senior officer of the requesting party will be in command at the scene of the emergency.

The Act outlines the liabilities of the requesting and responding  
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- (2) Tennessee Code Annotated, section 12-9-101 et seq.<sup>1</sup>
- (3) Tennessee Code Annotated, section 6-54-601.<sup>2</sup>

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(...continued)

governments as follows: (1) Neither the responding party nor its employees shall be liable for any property damage or bodily injury at the actual scene of any emergency due to actions performed in responding to a request for emergency assistance; (2) The requesting party is not liable for damages to the equipment and personnel of the responding party in response to the request for emergency assistance; and (3) Neither the requesting party nor its employees is liable for damages caused by the negligence of the personnel of the responding party while enroute to or from the scene of the emergency.

<sup>1</sup>Tennessee Code Annotated, section 12-9-101 et seq. is the Interlocal Governmental Cooperation Act which authorizes municipalities and other governments to enter into mutual aid agreements of various kinds.

<sup>2</sup>State law references

Tennessee Code Annotated, section 6-54-601 authorizes municipalities (1) To enter into mutual aid agreements with other municipalities, counties, privately incorporated fire departments, utility districts and metropolitan airport authorities which provide for firefighting service, and with individual fire departments to furnish one another with fire fighting assistance. (2) Enter into contracts with organizations of residents and property owners of unincorporated communities to provide the latter with firefighting assistance. (3) Provide fire protection outside their city limits to either areas or citizens on an individual contractual basis whenever an agreement has first been entered into between the municipality providing the fire service and the county or counties in which the fire protection is to be provided.