

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019

To: K. P. George, County Judge  
Vincent Morales, Commissioner, Precinct 1  
Grady Prestage, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
Andy Meyers, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Ken DeMerchant, Commissioner, Precinct 4

CC: Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor  
Michelle Turner, County Attorney's Office

From: Mark Flathouse, Fire Marshal

In: Adoption of IFC 2018 and Fort Bend County Fire Code and new Fee Schedule

Insurance standards require that the adopted fire code for a jurisdiction be within two code cycles. Each code cycle is for a period of three years. The current adopted fire code is the 2012 International Fire Code. It is therefore proposed that Fort Bend County adopt the 2018 International Fire Code. This is the most recent version of the fire code, which is also the most widely adopted fire code by jurisdictions throughout the United States. This code was written by a committee of subject matter experts, who are appointed to the committee by the International Code Council.

The adoption of this fire code will do several things for Fort Bend County. First, it will meet the insurance standards of keeping within the every two code cycles window. Second, this code will ensure the most up to date life safety and property protection standards are being enforced throughout the unincorporated areas of Fort Bend County, as well as the incorporated areas of the county in which the County Fire Marshal's Office services. Third, due to the fact that this same code has already been adopted by the major cities of Fort Bend County, as well as Harris County, this will keep us on the same standards as our neighbors.

In addition to the adoption of this new code, it is also proposed for the permit fees to be raised. This proposed fee increase is in order to operate an effective inspection program while covering the cost of employees and equipment. These fees are proposed to be implemented on October 1, 2019, and are intended to offset costs, but not fully fund the full fire safety inspection program. The minimum fee is \$150, which increased from \$125 based on the staff hours needed to cover the plan reviews and required inspections. The inspection fee is charged only once for plan review, meeting, and all inspections for the specific permit type. This does not include re-inspections to verify fire code compliance repeat visits to the location. The fee increases and new fee amounts have been discussed with and approved by the County Auditor.

The major change to the Fire Code fees is the removal the Tax-Exempt waiver. These are construction projects that have had the fee waived for major construction projects, which impacts workload and does not account for the man hours and permit fees that could be accrued. The new change in the fire code does allow any project to request a waiver for the permit fees, and will be reviewed and placed on Commissioners Court if requested.

The changes in the FY 2020 Fees are below (full fee schedule is attached to this document):

Permit	Current Fee	New Fee October 1, 2019
Certificate of Compliance	\$25	\$125
Fire Code Plan Review/Building Permit	\$125	\$150
Civil/Site Plans – Fire Code Review	\$0	\$150
Tent Permit	\$0	\$150
Fire Sprinkler Systems Permit	\$100	\$150
Fire Sprinkler Systems equipment (21 to 250 Devices)	\$125	\$200
Fire Alarm/Detection Related Equipment Permit	\$100	\$150
Fire Alarm/Detection Related Equipment (11 to 25 devices)	\$125	\$200
Fire Pump Equipment	\$100	\$150

*Mark V. Flathouse, M.S., EFO, FSCEO, FEMT*

Fort Bend County Fire Marshal Office/Office of Emergency Management

Fire Marshal Office: 281-238-1500

Office of Emergency Management: 281-342-6185

[www.FBCFMO.org](http://www.FBCFMO.org) or [www.FBCOEM.org](http://www.FBCOEM.org)



Fort Bend County Fire Code  
FY 2020 Fee Schedule

Fire Code Building Permit

The base fee for all submitted plans and issue of Certificate of Compliance is \$125 for the copy. This fee is for processing building plans submitted for approval, and will be paid at time of submission of the plans. All projects will use the following fee schedule:

**\*\*\*FEES MUST BE PAID WHEN PLANS ARE SUBMITTED\*\*\***

PERMIT	ADDITIONAL DETAILS	FEE
Certificate of Compliance	Fire Final Inspection or Certificate with code review (for existing structure without a current certificate)	\$125.00
Fire Code Plan Review/Building Permit	Per 1000 sq. ft. of Structure	\$150.00
Civil/Site Plans – Fire Code Review	For Fire lane and Fire Access	\$150.00
Re-Submittal of Construction Plans	If changes are done after the initial plan review, the reviews of changes are required.	\$150.00
Outdoor Fireworks Stand	Per Stand/Building	\$150.00
Indoor Fireworks Stand	Per Stand/Building	\$250.00
Fireworks Display/Show	Per Launch Site	\$200.00
Fire Sprinkler Systems Permit	1 to 20 heads	\$150.00
Fire Sprinkler Systems equipment	21 to 250 heads	\$200.00
Fire Sprinkler Systems equipment	251 to 499 heads	\$250.00
Fire Sprinkler Systems equipment	>500 + .50c/head additional	\$350.00
Automatic Fire-extinguishing Systems (Commercial Cooking)	Fixed Systems	\$100.00
Fire Alarm/Detection Related Equipment Permit	1 to 10 devices	\$150.00
Fire Alarm/Detection Related Equipment	11 to 25 devices	\$200.00
Fire Alarm/Detection Related Equipment	26 to 150 devices	\$250.00
Fire Alarm/Detection Related Equipment	151 to 499 devices	\$350.00
Fire Alarm/Detection Related Equipment	>500 + .50c/device additional	\$350.00
New Fire Pumps and Related Equipment for Fire Sprinkler System		\$150.00
Underground Fire Protection	Submittal of underground water supply for fire protection system	\$150.00
New Spraying or Dipping Booths (Paint)	Building/Booths	\$100.00
Re-Inspections	Paid after corrections have been made from initial inspection	\$150.00
Electronic Entrance Gates	Pedestrian and road gates	\$100.00
New Service Station Piping Plan		\$200.00
Work Without Permit	2 X Regular Permit Fee	\$*** **
Tent Permit		\$150.00
Mass Gathering Permit		\$200.00

**\*\*\*FORMS OF PAYMENT ACCEPTED ARE: CHECK, CREDIT CARD, CASHIERS CHECK OR MONEY ORDER\*\*\***

**A. License Inspection.**

State license facilities that require an annual fire inspection for operational permits. (Non-profit or governmental organizations are exempt from this section.)

- Commercial Day cares.....\$100.00
- Nursing homes or care centers.....\$100.00
- State or County Licensed Inspections.....\$100.00
- Hospitals.....\$200.00
- Foster homes or adoption.....Exempt

***Re-inspection fee for State or County licensed Inspection will be same amount of the original permit paid prior to scheduling for a re-inspection.***

