



City of Ames amendments to the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC)

Ames Municipal Code **Section 8.202 AMENDMENTS**

(1) Amend **Section 104.8 Modifications**, by deleting the text and inserting the following in lieu thereof: Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the *fire chief* shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases, provided the *fire chief* shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of this code impractical and the modification is in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code and that such modification does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the fire department.

(2) Amend **Section 307.4.3 Portable Outdoor Fireplaces**, by deleting the exception and inserting the following in lieu thereof: Recreational fires are permitted in approved containers, such as chimineas, contained fire pit/ring, screened devices. Such fires shall be located more than 15 feet from any structure, including decks, porches, roofs, garages, sheds, and fences. The immediate area within 15 feet of the fire shall be clear of combustible materials, such as weeds, shrubs, and furniture.

3) Amend **Section 308.1.4 Open-flame cooking devices**, by deleting the text and inserting the following in lieu thereof: Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated or located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. Exceptions: Such devices are permitted in (1) one and two family dwellings; and (2) where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

(4) Amend **Section 503.2.4, Turning radius**, by deleting the text and inserting the following in lieu thereof: Radius. The inside turning radius of a 20 foot wide fire apparatus road shall be a minimum of 20 feet, and the outside turning radius of such road or lane shall be a minimum of 50 feet.

(5) Amend **Section 503.4, Obstruction of fire apparatus access roads**, by deleting the text and inserting the following in lieu thereof: Where fire apparatus access roads are established and are signed or marked as required by the fire chief, parking or obstructing in any manner of those roads shall be prohibited. The fire chief, traffic engineer and police chief or their representatives are authorized to enforce this subsection by the issuance of citations, or removal and impoundment of the obstructions, or both. Exception: Attended vehicles may be stopped in a fire apparatus access road for loading and unloading.

(6) Amend **Section 506.1, Where required**, by deleting the text and inserting the following in lieu thereof: Knox® brand key boxes are required for new buildings equipped with monitored fire alarms, sprinkler systems, or as otherwise ordered by the fire code official. Key boxes shall be installed in an approved location and shall contain keys to gain necessary access for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes.

(7) Amend **Section 903.4, Sprinkler system** supervision and alarms, by adding the following exception: Post indicator valves that are locked in the open position.

(8) Amend **Section 903.4.2, Alarms**, by deleting the existing text and inserting the following text: An approved audible/visual device, located on the exterior of the building in an approved location, shall

be connected to every automatic sprinkler system. Additional notification devices may be required on the interior of the building. Such sprinkler water-flow alarm devices shall be activated by 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.

(9) Amend **Section 907.2.9, Group R-2**, by adding the following text at the end of the subsection: Notwithstanding the exceptions noted herein, an automatic fire alarm system shall be installed throughout all interior corridors serving sleeping units.

(10) Amend **Chapter 11, Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings**, by adding the following to the end of this chapter: Compliance with the provisions of this Chapter shall be completed within a time schedule approved by the fire chief. The fire chief has approved an Ames City Council recommended completion date of July 1, 2020 for Section 1103.7.6, Group R-2, which states that a fire alarm system, in accordance with the City of Ames adopted fire code, shall be installed in existing Group R-2 occupancies more than three stories in height or with more than 16 dwelling or sleeping units.

(11) Add the following local provision:

The Fire Department is hereby authorized to perform periodic life safety inspections of Supervised Transitional Homes, as defined by Section 29 of the Ames Municipal Code. Fire Department personnel shall initially inspect applicable homes upon permit request and triennially thereafter, for compliance with basic life safety requirements including but not limited to operable windows, means of egress, egress windows/emergency escape openings, fire protection systems, smoke detectors, and portable fire extinguishers, for the duration of the use.

(12) Add the following local provision:

ZONING DISTRICTS IN WHICH STORAGE OF FLAMMABLE OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS IN BURIED OR UNDERGROUND TANKS IS PROHIBITED.

Installation of underground flammable or combustible liquid storage tanks is prohibited in the following zoning districts: RL, RM, RH, RLP, UCRM, FS-RL, FS-RM, F-PRD, S-SMD and S-HM Zoning Districts. The fire chief, or designees, will have the authority to alter or allow installations in prohibited zones after the consideration of special features including but not limited to topographical conditions, nature of occupancy and proximity to buildings, capacity of proposed tanks, and degree of fire protection to be provided and available. Any installation shall be in compliance with state and local codes. This section shall not apply to underground heating oil installations.

(13) Add the following local provision:

ZONING DISTRICTS IN WHICH STORAGE OF FLAMMABLE OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS IN OUTSIDE ABOVE GROUND TANKS IS PROHIBITED.

The limits in which the storage of flammable or combustible liquids is restricted are hereby established as follows: RL, RM, RH, RLP, UCRM, FS-RL, FS-RM, F-PRD, S-SMD and S-HM Zoning Districts. The fire chief, or designees, will have the authority to alter or allow installations in prohibited zones after the consideration of special features including but not limited to topographical conditions, nature of occupancy, proximity to buildings, capacity of proposed tanks and degree of fire protection to be provided and available. Any installation shall be in compliance with state and local codes. This section shall not apply to heating oil installations.

(14) Add the following local provision:

ZONING DISTRICT RESTRICTIONS ON STORAGE OF MORE THAN 100LBS LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GASES.

The limits in which storage of liquefied petroleum gas is restricted, are hereby established as follows: RL, RM, RH, RLP, UCRM, FS-RL, FS-RM, F-PRD, S-SMD and S-HM Zoning Districts. The fire chief, or designees, will have the authority to alter or allow installations in prohibited zones after the consideration of special features including but not limited to topographical conditions, nature of occupancy and proximity to buildings, capacity of proposed tanks, and degree of fire protection to be provided and available. Any installation shall be in compliance with state and local codes.