



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Paul J. Sirois, Fire Marshal  
**DATE:** October 25, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** Updating of the City's Life Safety Code

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report recommending that the City Council amend the Code of Ordinances, Article 26-18, Life Safety Code.

### **Background**

The existing Life Safety Code is based on the NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, 2009 edition. Staff is proposing adoption of the NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, 2015 edition, as amended in the following section.

The proposed change is to bring the Life Safety Code into harmony with existing City of Concord Ordinances and State of New Hampshire RSAs.

### **Discussion**

A municipality is authorized to enact ordinances governing fire and life safety pursuant to RSA 31:39(e), RSA 154:18 and RSA 153:5. For example, under RSA 154:18, a municipality "may establish such regulations respecting the kindling, guarding, safe-keeping, prevention, and extinguishment of fires." The City of Concord has adopted Article 26-18, Life Safety Code to address requirements for life safety in the City.

The proposed amendment is being submitted by the Fire Department to provide clarification and to prevent any ambiguities regarding the requirements of the Code. The proposed amendment will bring the Article into harmony with existing City of Concord Ordinances and State of New Hampshire statutes. It should be noted that this is largely a housekeeping measure. There are no new restrictions being added by way of City amendment that do not already exist in City of Concord Code of Ordinances or are otherwise required by the State of New Hampshire statutes. An overview of the proposed amendments is provided as follows:

**Section III, Article 26-18-1**

The proposed change of Section 26-18-1 is to adopt the NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, 2015 edition as the Life Safety Code for the City of Concord. The State of New Hampshire has adopted the NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, 2015 edition as amended by the State Fire Code. Municipalities may not adopt anything less restrictive than the State Fire Code requirements.

**Section IV, Article 26-18-3**

The proposed change of Section 26-18-3 is to remove ALL paragraphs (a) thru (l) and refer to the State Fire Code Saf-C 6000 section Saf-C, 6008.05 for NFPA 101, Life Safety Code Amendments. Adoption of this Article will eliminate any confusion or conflict with the State Fire Code and will bring this Article in harmony with Section III, Article 26-18-1.