



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

FIRE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John A. Chisholm, Fire Chief

DATE: September 3, 2024

SUBJECT: Update Life Safety Code and Fire Code to follow the State of NH Adopted Code

Recommendation

- 1.) Accept this report.
- 2.) Set the attached revisions to the Code of Ordinances, Title III, Building and Housing Codes; Chapter 26, Building Regulations, Article 26-16, Fire Prevention Code, for public hearing on October 15, 2024:
 - a. To follow the State Fire Code as defined by RSA 153:1, VI-a
 - b. To amend the State Fire Code by inserting into NFPA 1 as the authority for the Fire Chief or Designee to issue rules and regulations installation, modification, addition, renovation, removal, disabling, operation, or maintenance of any fire alarm or suppression system.
- 3.) Set the attached revisions to the Code of Ordinances, Title III, Building and Housing Codes; Chapter 26, Building Regulations, Article 26-18, Life Safety Code as follows, for public hearing on October 15, 2024:
 - a. To follow the State Fire Code, as defined by RSA 153:1, VI-a

Background

The State of New Hampshire occasionally adopts a new State Fire Code, which then requires cities and towns to update their ordinances to reference the newer versions of the Fire Code (NFPA 1) and Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) that are identified in the State Fire Code. Once the State Fire Code is adopted, local municipalities must adopt the newer version of the NFPA codes that are identified in the State Fire Code. This ordinance will allow the City of Concord's codes to automatically stay synchronized with the State Fire Code without having to change the ordinance each time a new State Fire Code is adopted. The City of Concord can, if it chooses in the future, adopt more recent revisions of the NFPA codes than those identified in the State Fire Code through the ordinance amendment process.

The proposed amendment also provides the ability of the Fire Chief to establish additional rules and regulations for the City of Concord, which was unintentionally removed during a previous ordinance change.