



## City Council Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: November 15, 2022			
Submitted by: P. Morgan			
Consent	Discussion Only	Public Hearing	Action/Discussion X
Item Title: Discuss and consider approval of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances by adopting the 2021 Edition of the International Fire Code.			
Attachments: Ordinance			

**Item Summary:**

The City of Forney currently requires construction under the 2018 International Code Series, including the Fire Code, and the 2017 National Electrical Code. Staff has prepared the Ordinances to adopt the 2021 International Code Series, including the Fire Code, and the 2020 National Electrical Code. The amending ordinances include the following:

1. 2021 International Building Code
2. 2021 International Residential Code
3. 2021 International Existing Building Code
4. 2021 International Plumbing Code
5. 2021 International Mechanical Code
6. 2021 International Fuel Gas Code
7. 2021 International Fire Code
8. 2021 International Property Maintenance Code
9. 2021 International Energy Conservation Code
10. 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code
11. 2020 National Electrical Code

The codes are adopted together as a series since the codes are fully compatible with each other and provide many cross references. The purpose of the code series is to provide an international model code forum and to provide consistency across the region.

The main purpose of updating codes is to maintain up-to-date codes that address design and installation of building systems through requirements which emphasize performance and safety. In addition, updating the codes is an important factor in securing a higher rating with the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). ISO is an advisory organization which provides ratings for each City's building and fire departments. A higher rating may provide insurance benefits and cost savings for citizens. The City of Forney currently has earned the highest achievable fire rating and an above average building rating. Updated codes are necessary to maintain those ratings.

The Ordinance proposes to adopt the Codes with the inclusion of recommendations made by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). Since 1967, the NCTCOG has promoted the standardization of model construction codes in an effort to simplify the construction process, advance the safety of building systems, promote common code interpretation, and reduce training and construction costs. The recommendations are made by a committee comprising of local public and private code

professionals. The City of Forney's current 2018 codes include previous NCTCOG recommendations.

**2021 International Fire Code:**

The purpose of this specific item is to adopt the 2021 Edition of the International Fire Code. The provisions of the code establish minimum standards consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises, and to provide a reasonable level of safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

The International Code Council website provides the following list of important changes:

- Requirements for Additive Manufacturing (3-D Printing) equipment and operations for both non-industrial and industrial applications are now provided.
- Flame propagation performance of permanently installed artificial combustible vegetation is required to be verified when exceeding certain heights located on roofs or in close proximity to buildings.
- Provisions for emergency responder communication were revised to reflect the expansion of such systems beyond radios and the need for increased performance of such systems.
- Sprinkler requirements for the storage, manufacture and sale of upholstered furniture and mattresses were updated and clarified. Part of this update is a new exception for single-story self-storage facilities accessed directly from the exterior.
- An automatic sprinkler system is now required for open parking garages exceeding a certain fire area threshold.
- The requirements for energy storage system (ESS) were further refined to reflect the variety of new technologies and applications (in building and standalone) and the need for proper commissioning and decommissioning of such systems.
- A new chapter was added that provides clarification and specific requirements for the storage of distilled spirits and wines in barrels and casks.
- The provisions for construction fire safety were reorganized and expanded with an emphasis on the owner's responsibilities. The new language requires a site safety plan and designation of a site safety director.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval, with an effective date of January 1, 2023.