



City of Dallas

2018 Fire Code Amendment Adoption

**Public Safety Committee
November 9, 2020**

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City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Background/History
- Purpose
- Key Aspects of Adoption Process
- 510 Emergency Responder Radio Coverage
- Proposed Action
- Next Steps



Background/History



- International Fire Code is updated every three years.
- Normal Adoption Process:
 - Review of the most current version of the fire code for adoption.
 - Review of the Regional Fire Code Amendments from the North Central Texas Council of Governments
 - Engage internal stakeholders on code changes, requirements, and needs
 - Engagement of external stakeholders has occurred during predevelopment meetings with several large-scale projects over the last two years



Background/History



- 2015 International Fire Code adopted on June 22, 2016
- 2018 International Fire Code released by the International Code Council in October 2017
- North Central Texas Council of Governments reviewed
 - Fire Advisory Board 11/17-2/18
 - Regional Code Council approved 6/5/2018
- Internal stakeholders
 - DFR Fire Prevention/Dallas Building Inspection
 - Fire Code Advisory & Appeals Board



Purpose



- Adoption of Code 510 Emergency Responder Radio Coverage from 2018 code will provide consistency and familiarity for developers during the predevelopment and plan review process with the City of Dallas. This will provide the following:
 - A degree of first responder safety
 - Cost savings for construction, end users
 - Maintains business continuity for end user
 - Maximizes use of staff during a prolonged incident



Key Aspects of Adoption Process



- North Central Texas Council of Governments
- Align with adopted regional practices
- Necessity to align with other City policies, procedures, practices
- Opportunity to enhance the predevelopment process for external stakeholders



**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**



Key Aspects of Adoption Process



- 2018 International Fire Code did not offer significant changes from the currently adopted 2015 International Fire Code
- Delaying full adoption until the 2021 International Fire Code would align with Sustainable Development's planned adoption of the 2021 International Building Code
- Consistency for both internal and external stakeholders by adopting 2021 IFC and 2021 IBC in the same year
- Adoption minimized to Section 510 Emergency Responder Radio Coverage of the 2018 International Fire Code



510 Emergency Responder Radio Coverage



- The Emergency Responder Radio Coverage (ERRC) code section was introduced in the 2009 International Fire Code. The intent of this section was to provide a tool to help maintain critical radio communications for First Responders during emergency incidents
- Current construction, which generally includes steel, concrete and green initiative material components, can create signal strength problems at varying levels inside structures of significant size or depth
- The ERRC section provides the local authority and developers guidelines for addressing this issue by adding communication resources and infrastructure to enhance the signal strength where issues are identified
- Inclusion at this date will ensure that key projects are not missed before adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code



510 Emergency Responder Radio Coverage



- This section was originally adopted as a part of the standard 2012 International Fire Code with 2014 Dallas Fire Code Amendments
- Subsequently omitted during the adoption of the 2015 International Fire Code with 2016 Dallas Fire Code Amendments
- Intent of omission was to simplify the plan review process for the external stakeholder by allowing the pre-development process the ability to determine need on case-by-case basis
- Meetings were not enhanced by omission as expected, Predevelopment process will be enhanced by re-adoption



Proposed Action



- Adopt the change identified
- Prepare for adoption of the 2021 IFC
- External stakeholders will have a clear understanding of ERRC requirements
- Critical data for ERRC requirements can be prepared by external stakeholder in advance of predevelopment process.
- The predevelopment meeting will subsequently be more productive for the external stakeholder in the long term



Next Steps



- City Attorney Review and Document Prep
- Council Briefing
 - January 6, 2021*
- Council Agenda
 - January 13, 2021*
- Tentative effective date
 - March 1, 2021*





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