



**Racine Fire Department**  
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

April 17, 2014

Honorable Mayor and  
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

The Fire Chief is requesting various sections of Chapter 50 of the Fire Prevention Code be updated to reflect a change from Wisconsin Administrative Code to the Uniform Commercial Building Code or the International Building Code. This request is purely an administrative update to reflect the current state of Fire Code Administration and the move towards utilizing a nationally recognized Fire Prevention Code.

**Fiscal Note:** No fiscal impact

Changes are highlighted in red:

Chapter 50-Current	Chapter 50-Changes 5/7/14
<p>Sec. 50-1. Applicability.</p> <p>The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all public buildings and places of employment as defined in the <b>Wisconsin Administrative Code, chapters Comm 1-70</b> except as otherwise provided in this chapter; to hazardous conditions, the actions of persons regarding fire and fire safety, and to actions of persons relating to the prevention of fires.</p>	<p>Sec. 50-1. Applicability.</p> <p>The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all public buildings and places of employment as defined in the <b>Uniform Commercial Building Code</b> except as otherwise provided in this chapter; to hazardous conditions, the actions of persons regarding fire and fire safety, and to actions of persons relating to the prevention of fires.</p>
<p>Sec. 50-371. Conflict of article with other standards.</p> <p>The provisions of this article are enacted in addition to <b>Wisconsin Administrative Code Comm 1-70</b> and the most current standards of the National Fire Protection Association. Where conflicts in rules between the elements of this article and referenced standards are identified, the more restrictive rule shall be applied unless specifically excepted in this article.</p>	<p>Sec. 50-371. Conflict of article with other standards.</p> <p>The provisions of this article are enacted in addition to <b>the Uniform Commercial Building Code</b> and the most current standards of the National Fire Protection Association. Where conflicts in rules between the elements of this article and referenced standards are identified, the more restrictive rule shall be applied unless specifically excepted in this article.</p>



***Racine Fire Department***  
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

<p>Sec. 50-406. Intent.</p> <p>The intent of this division is to provide a means for the automatic extinguishment of fires in buildings or facilities and the access to firefighting standpipes where required as specified in the most recent version of <b>Wisconsin Administrative Code, Comm 1-70</b>.</p>	<p>Sec. 50-406. Intent.</p> <p>The intent of this division is to provide a means for the automatic extinguishment of fires in buildings or facilities and the access to firefighting standpipes where required as specified in the most recent version of <b>the International Building Code (IBC)</b>.</p>
<p>Sec. 50-407. Definitions.</p> <p>The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings given in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:</p> <p>Area means the ground floor area of a building or, when a building is divided by an approved minimum four-hour fire-resistive wall, each section so divided.</p> <p>Other defined terms used in this division shall have the meaning given in this chapter and in <b>Wisconsin Administrative Code, Comm 1-70</b>.</p>	<p>Sec. 50-407. Definitions.</p> <p>The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings given in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:</p> <p>Area means the ground floor area of a building or, when a building is divided by an approved minimum four-hour fire-resistive wall, each section so divided.</p> <p>Other defined terms used in this division shall have the meaning given in this chapter and in <b>the Uniform Commercial Building Code</b>.</p>
<p>Sec. 50-408. Where required.</p> <p>New buildings or facilities shall have an approved automatic sprinkler system, standpipe system, and suitable access to supplementary water supply installed and maintained as required by <b>Wisconsin Administrative Code, Comm 1-70</b>, or at any time that the bureau of fire prevention determines that, based on the standards of the NFPA, a building or facility constitutes a fire hazard.</p>	<p>Sec. 50-408. Where required.</p> <p>New buildings or facilities shall have an approved automatic sprinkler system, standpipe system, and suitable access to supplementary water supply installed and maintained as required by <b>the Uniform Commercial Building Code and/or the International Building Code (IBC)</b> or at any time that the bureau of fire prevention determines that, based on the standards of the NFPA, a building or facility constitutes a fire hazard.</p>



***Racine Fire Department***  
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

Sec. 50-410. Type of system and approval of plans.

Approved automatic sprinkler and standpipe equipment shall be installed in accordance with the standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and **Wisconsin Administrative Code Comm 1-70**. Automatic sprinkler or standpipe equipment shall not be installed or altered until plans have been submitted and approved by the bureau of fire prevention. Three copies of the plans and specifications shall be submitted for review. Approved plans shall be stamped, "Approved by the bureau of fire prevention" and the date of such approval shall be indicated thereon. Two copies of the plans shall be returned to the owner for submission to the chief building inspector, and one copy shall be kept on file by the bureau of fire prevention. Building sprinkler system alteration may be excepted from the requirements of this section provided the following conditions are met:

- (1) The system alterations meet with prior approval of the fire prevention bureau.
- (2) No more than 20 sprinkler heads are altered.
- (3) As-built plans or narrative documents describing the alterations are submitted to the fire prevention bureau immediately following the alterations.
- (4) The plan examination fee shall be \$100.00 per set of plans, which shall be paid upon submission of the plans.

Sec. 50-410. Type of system and approval of plans.

Approved automatic sprinkler and standpipe equipment shall be installed in accordance with the standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and **Uniform Commercial Building Code**. Automatic sprinkler or standpipe equipment shall not be installed or altered until plans have been submitted and approved by the bureau of fire prevention. Three copies of the plans and specifications shall be submitted for review. Approved plans shall be stamped, "Approved by the bureau of fire prevention" and the date of such approval shall be indicated thereon. Two copies of the plans shall be returned to the owner for submission to the chief building inspector, and one copy shall be kept on file by the bureau of fire prevention. Building sprinkler system alteration may be excepted from the requirements of this section provided the following conditions are met:

- (1) The system alterations meet with prior approval of the fire prevention bureau.
- (2) No more than 20 sprinkler heads are altered.
- (3) As-built plans or narrative documents describing the alterations are submitted to the fire prevention bureau immediately following the alterations.
- (4) The plan examination fee shall be \$100.00 per set of plans, which shall be paid upon submission of the plans.



***Racine Fire Department***  
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

---

Sec. 50-447. Required installation, testing, and maintenance.

The owner of each building or facility covered by this division shall install, maintain, and test every alarm system and/or fire detection device in accordance with the most current requirements and standards of the National Fire Protection Association, Wisconsin Statutes and **Wisconsin Administrative Code**.

Additionally, the owner shall, on a monthly basis, test every alarm system in owner's buildings, make and retain records of such tests for one year, and make such records available for review upon request by fire code officials.

Sec. 50-447. Required installation, testing, and maintenance.

The owner of each building or facility covered by this division shall install, maintain, and test every alarm system and/or fire detection device in accordance with the most current requirements and standards of the National Fire Protection Association, Wisconsin Statutes and **the Uniform Commercial Building Code**.

Additionally, the owner shall, on a monthly basis, test every alarm system in owner's buildings, make and retain records of such tests for one year, and make such records available for review upon request by fire code officials.



***Racine Fire Department***  
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

Sec. 50-471. Establishment; prohibited parking.

(a) The fire chief or chief of the fire prevention bureau may require the establishment of fire lanes for any building, property, or other area within the city in which a potentially hazardous situation is created by parked vehicles or other obstructions to emergency operations. The fire prevention bureau shall maintain an accurate list of designated fire lanes and shall, through the building inspection process, order any required maintenance.

(b) Fire lanes shall be provided for at least two adjacent sides of every building or facility required to have fire lanes, and shall be parallel to the sides of the building or facility with the near edge of the fire lane within ten feet of the building or facility on the parallel sides. Fire lane construction shall conform to the standards provided by the current version of the **Wisconsin Administrative Code, Comm 1-70**, IBC, and NFPA standards.

(c) Upon establishment of fire lanes, the building owner shall prominently post and maintain signs indicating the fire lanes by installing the signs on sign posts or the building face no more than 75 feet apart and/or provide roadway surface marking as shall be determined by the bureau of fire prevention. The signs shall be constructed of durable material having a minimum size of 12 inches by 18 inches, having a white reflective background with a red line border, red three-inch minimum height letters stating "NO PARKING," "FIRE LANE" or the universal no

Sec. 50-471. Establishment; prohibited parking.

(a) The fire chief or chief of the fire prevention bureau may require the establishment of fire lanes for any building, property, or other area within the city in which a potentially hazardous situation is created by parked vehicles or other obstructions to emergency operations. The fire prevention bureau shall maintain an accurate list of designated fire lanes and shall, through the building inspection process, order any required maintenance.

(b) Fire lanes shall be provided for at least two adjacent sides of every building or facility required to have fire lanes, and shall be parallel to the sides of the building or facility with the near edge of the fire lane within ten feet of the building or facility on the parallel sides. Fire lane construction shall conform to the standards provided by the current version of the **Uniform Commercial Building Code, International Building Code (IBC)**, and NFPA standards.

(c) Upon establishment of fire lanes, the building owner shall prominently post and maintain signs indicating the fire lanes by installing the signs on sign posts or the building face no more than 75 feet apart and/or provide roadway surface marking as shall be determined by the bureau of fire prevention. The signs shall be constructed of durable material having a minimum size of 12 inches by 18 inches, having a white reflective background with a red line border, red three-inch minimum height letters stating "NO



***Racine Fire Department***  
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

---

parking symbol and the words "FIRE LANE," as shown below. Roadway surface marking shall consist of outlining or painting the fire lane area and curb line in yellow with the words "FIRE LANE" in yellow, at intervals of not more than 75 feet or as otherwise directed by the fire prevention bureau. The size of the lettering shall be not less than 24 inches in height and three inches in stroke. No person shall establish a fire lane on any property without the express authorization of the fire prevention bureau. Upon the establishment and posting of such fire lanes, no person shall park a vehicle, whether attended or unattended, in such fire lane, except commercially licensed vehicles actively engaged in delivery or pickup.

PARKING," "FIRE LANE" or the universal no parking symbol and the words "FIRE LANE," as shown below. Roadway surface marking shall consist of outlining or painting the fire lane area and curb line in yellow with the words "FIRE LANE" in yellow, at intervals of not more than 75 feet or as otherwise directed by the fire prevention bureau. The size of the lettering shall be not less than 24 inches in height and three inches in stroke. No person shall establish a fire lane on any property without the express authorization of the fire prevention bureau. Upon the establishment and posting of such fire lanes, no person shall park a vehicle, whether attended or unattended, in such fire lane, except commercially licensed vehicles actively engaged in delivery or pickup.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief