

# Appendix A: National Park Service Fire Code

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## 1 Definitions

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this section, shall have these meanings ascribed to them, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

IFC: *International Fire Code*, 2024 edition, International Code Council, Inc.

NPS: National Park Service

RSFM: Regional Structural Fire Marshal

## 2 Adoption of the International Fire Code

Except as otherwise provided in this appendix, the 2024 *International Fire Code* (IFC) is adopted and incorporated as the National Park Service (NPS) Fire Code.

Any structure existing on January 5, 2022, and complying with NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, shall be permitted to continue without change, except as otherwise specifically provided for in the *International Fire Code*.

## 3 Modifications to the International Fire Code

### Chapter 1 – Scope and Administration

Use IFC, Chapter 1, except as modified below.

- a. Section 101.1. Changed to: “These regulations shall be known as the *National Park Service Fire Code*, hereafter referred to as “this code.”
- b. Section 102.5, Application of residential code. Added the following: “3. Appendix BB Tiny Houses is adopted.”
- c. Section 103.1, Creation of Agency. Changed to “The National Park Service (NPS) Structural Fire Program is the fire code compliance department.”
- d. Section 103.2. Changed to “Regional directors are designated as the *fire code official* within their respective regions. The regional directors may delegate *fire code official* authority in writing to other qualified individuals as necessary for the administration and enforcement of the fire code.”
- e. Section 103.3, Deputies. [Delete]
- f. Section 104.2.2, Technical assistance. Changed to: “To determine compliance with this code, the *fire code official* is authorized to require the designer of record to provide a technical opinion and report.”
- g. Section 104.2.2, Cost. [Delete]
- h. Section 104.3, Applications and Permits. [Delete]
- i. Section 104.4.1, Warrant. [Delete]

- j. Section 104.7.6, Fees. [Delete]
- k. Section 105.1, General. Changed to: Permits will be issued for the following:
  - 1. Hot work activity in accordance with the IFC, Chapter 35 and RM-58: Structural Fire Management.
  - 2. Special use permits for special events, such as fireworks displays, will be issued in accordance with RM-58 Structural Fire Management, RM 53: Special Park Uses, and referenced codes and standards therein.”
- l. Section 105.1.1 to 105.6.25, Permits. [Delete]
- m. Section 108, Fees. [Delete]
- n. Section 112, Means of Appeals. Changed to: “The *fire code official* is the delegated deciding official as it relates to code interpretation and compliance. The superintendent may appeal decisions of the *fire code official* by submitting, in writing, an application for appeal. All appeals will be tracked and cataloged for reference and future enforcement.

The appeal process shall follow the steps listed below:

- 1. The superintendent can appeal a *fire code official* decision to the regional director. The regional director will review the appeal and either concur or non-concur with the *fire code official* decision.
- 2. If the superintendent disagrees with the regional director’s decision, they can appeal the *fire code official* decision to the NPS fire chief in the Division of Fire and Aviation on behalf of the Division Chief for Fire and Aviation Management (DFAM). The NPS fire chief will either concur or non-concur with the *fire code official* and make a final decision.”

## Chapter 5 – General

Use IFC, Chapter 5, except as modified below.

- a. Section 501.2, Permits. [Delete]
- b. Section 510.3, Permits. [Delete]

## Chapter 9 – Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

Use IFC, Chapter 9, except as modified below.

- a. Section 901.2. Added the following: “Construction documents for *fire protection* and *life safety systems* shall be produced by a licensed fire protection engineer or a NICET certified technician (minimum Level III) for the type of system designed, or as approved by the *fire code official*.”
- b. Section 901.3, Permits. [Delete]
- c. Section 901.4, Fire protection and life safety systems. Added the following: “All *fire protection* and *life safety systems* installed in National Park Service buildings are to be always in service and fully functional per RM-58: Structural Fire Management.”
- d. Section 901.7, Systems out of service. Deleted the word “required.”
- e. Section 914.12. Added the following: “Install *automatic smoke detection systems* and *automatic fire sprinkler* or suppression systems in all purpose-built and adapted structures and spaces

housing or exhibiting museum collections as approved by the FCO or RSFM in consultation with the park or regional museum curator and interdisciplinary team. In furnished historic structures, install *automatic smoke detection systems* and *automatic fire sprinkler* or suppression systems as approved by the FCO or RSFM in consultation with park and regional facility management staff, the historical architect advisor, and the park or regional museum curator.

- f. Section 916.2, Permits. [Delete]

## Chapter 11 – Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings

Use IFC, Chapter 11, except as modified below.

- a. Section 1101.3, Permits. [Delete]
- b. Section 1103.1.1, Historic Buildings: Changed to read, “Facilities designated as historic buildings shall meet the requirements of NFPA 909-21, *Code for the Protection of Cultural Resource Properties – Museums, Libraries, and Places of Worship*, and NFPA 914-23, *Code for the Protection of Historic Structures*.” The remainder of the section stays the same.
- c. Section 1103.1.1.2. Added: “Fire Protection for Historic Structures and Buildings Storing/Exhibiting Museum Collections. The NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part I, Chapter 9 contains specific fire protection requirements for occupancies with museums and museum collections, which include the following:
  - 1. Install *automatic smoke detection systems* and suppression systems in all structures housing or exhibiting museum collections as approved by the FCO in consultation with the park or regional museum curator and interdisciplinary team.
  - 2. For historic structures, design and install *automatic fire protection systems* with minimum impact to the historic fabric and character in consultation with the historical architect advisor and interdisciplinary team.
  - 3. Make spaces that house museum collections fire-resistant to the extent possible.
  - 4. Spaces specifically designed to house collections shall be separated from all other spaces, including work and break rooms.”
- d. Section 1103.5. Changed to “An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided in existing buildings in accordance with Sections 1103.5.1 through 1103.5.6.”
- e. Section 1103.5.6. Added the following: “*Automatic sprinkler systems* shall be required in existing R-3 occupancies used as congregate living facilities, unless the following conditions are met:
  - 1. Interior stairways shall be enclosed by fire barriers having a minimum 1/2-hour fire resistance rating.
  - 2. Where an interior stair connects the street floor with the story next above or below only, but not with both, the interior stair shall be required to be enclosed only on the street floor.”

## Chapter 36 – Marinas

Use IFC, Chapter 36, except as modified below.

- a. Section 3601.1, Scope: Changed to read, “Marina facilities shall be in accordance with this

chapter and NFPA 303-21, *Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards.*”

## **Chapter 80 – Referenced Standards**

Use IFC, Chapter 80, except as modified below.

- a. Chapter 80, Referenced Standards: NFPA is modified to include “*909-21: Code for the Protection of Cultural Resource Properties – Museums, Libraries, and Places of Worship, 1103.1.1.*”
- b. Chapter 80, Referenced Standards: NFPA is modified to include “*303-21: Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards, 3601.1.*”
- c. Chapter 80, Referenced Standards: The IRC-24: *International Residential Code* is modified to include Appendix BB Tiny Houses.