

Chapter 76

FIRE CONTROL MEASURES

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Montoursville 5-21-1984 as Ord. No. 290; amended in its entirety at time of adoption of Code; see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I. Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 76-1. Adoption of the fire control measures and regulations.

There is hereby adopted by the Borough of Montoursville the fire control measures and regulations as herein set forth for the purposes of controlling conditions which could impede or interfere with fire suppression forces.

§ 76-2. Authority at fires and other emergencies.

The Fire Official or duly authorized representatives, as may be in charge at the scene of a fire or other emergency involving the protection of life and/or property, is empowered to direct such operations as may be necessary to extinguish or control any suspected or reported fires, gas leaks or other hazardous conditions or situations or of taking any other action necessary in the reasonable performance of their duty. The Fire Official may prohibit any person, vehicle or object from approaching the scene and may remove or cause to be removed from the scene any person, vehicle or object which may impede or interfere with the operations of the Fire Department. The Fire Official may remove or cause to be removed any person, vehicle or object from hazardous areas. All persons ordered to leave a hazardous area shall do so immediately and shall not reenter the area until authorized to do so by the Fire Official.

§ 76-3. Interference with operations.

It shall be unlawful to interfere with, attempt to interfere with, conspire to interfere with, obstruct or restrict the mobility of, or block the path of travel of any Fire Department

emergency vehicle in any way, or to interfere with, attempt to interfere, conspire to interfere with, obstruct or hamper any Fire Department operation.

§ 76-4. Compliance with orders.

A person shall not willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of the Fire Official or to interfere with the compliance attempts of another individual.

§ 76-5. Unlawful boarding or tampering with emergency equipment.

A person shall not, without proper authorization from the Fire Official in charge of said Fire Department emergency equipment, cling to, attach himself to, climb upon or into, board or swing upon any Fire Department emergency vehicle, whether the same is in motion or at rest or sound the siren, horn, bell or the sound-producing device thereon or to manipulate or tamper with or attempt to manipulate or tamper with any levers, valves, switches, starting devices, brakes, pumps or any equipment or protective clothing on, or a part of, any Fire Department emergency vehicle.

§ 76-6. Damage or injury to equipment or personnel.

It shall be unlawful for any person to damage or deface any Fire Department emergency vehicle at any time or to injure or attempt to injure or conspire to injure Fire Department personnel while performing Departmental duties.

§ 76-7. Blocking fire hydrants and Fire Department connections.

- A. It shall be unlawful to obscure from view, damage, deface, obstruct or restrict the access to any fire hydrant or any Fire Department connection for the pressurization of fire suppression systems, including fire hydrants and Fire Department connections that are located on public or private streets or access lanes or on private property.
- B. If upon the expiration of the time mentioned in a notice of violation, obstructions or encroachments are not removed, the Fire Official shall proceed to remove the same. Cost incurred in the performance of necessary work shall be paid from the municipal treasury on certificate of the Fire Official and with the approval of the chief administrative official; and the legal authority of the municipality shall institute appropriate action for the recovery of such costs.

§ 76-8. Hydrant use approval.

A person shall not use or operate any fire hydrant intended for use of the Fire Department for fire suppression purposes unless such person first secures a permit for such use from the Fire Official and the water company having jurisdiction. This section shall not apply to the use of such hydrants by a person employed by, and authorized to make such use by, the water company having jurisdiction.

§ 76-9. Public water supply.

The Fire Official shall recommend to the chief administrative official of the municipality the location or relocation of new or existing fire hydrants and the placement or replacement of inadequate water mains located upon public property and deemed necessary to provide an adequate fire flow and distribution pattern. A fire hydrant shall not be placed into or removed from service until approved by the Fire Official.

§ 76-10. Yard systems.

All new and existing shipyards, oil storage plants, lumber yards, amusement or exhibition parks, and educational or institutional complexes and similar occupancies and uses involving high fire or life hazards and which are located more than one hundred fifty (150) feet from a public street or which require quantities of water beyond the capabilities of the public water distribution system shall be provided with properly placed fire hydrants. Such fire hydrants shall be capable of supplying fire flows as required by the Fire Official and shall be connected to a water system in accordance with accepted engineering practices. The Fire Official shall designate and approve the number and location of fire hydrants. The Fire Official may require the installation of sufficient fire hose and equipment housed in accordance with the approved rules and may require the establishment of a trained fire brigade when the hazard involved requires such measures. Private hydrants shall not be placed into or removed from service until approved by the Fire Official.

§ 76-11. Maintenance of fire suppression equipment.

A person shall not obstruct, remove, tamper with or otherwise disturb any fire hydrant or fire appliance required to be installed or maintained under the provisions of the Fire Prevention Code except for the purpose of extinguishing fire, training or testing purposes, recharging, or making necessary repairs, or when permitted by the Fire Official. Whenever a fire appliance is removed as herein permitted, it shall be replaced or reinstalled as soon as the purpose for which it was removed has been accomplished. Defective and nonapproved fire appliances or equipment shall be replaced or repaired as directed by the Fire Official.

§ 76-12. Sale of defective fire extinguishers.

A person shall not sell, trade, loan or give away any form, type or kind of fire extinguisher which is not approved by the Fire Official or which is not in proper working order or the contents of which do not meet the requirements of the Fire Official. The requirements of this section shall not apply to the sale, trade or exchange of obsolete or damaged equipment for junk when said units are permanently disfigured or marked with a permanent sign identifying the unit as junk.

§ 76-13. Street obstructions.

A person or persons shall not erect, construct, place or maintain any bumps, fences, gates, chains, bars, pipes, wood or metal horses or any other type of obstruction in or on any street,

within the boundaries of the municipality. The word "street," as used in this chapter, shall mean any roadway accessible to the public for vehicular traffic, including but not limited to private streets or access lanes, as well as all public streets and highways within the boundaries of the municipality.

§ 76-14. Violations and penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to the penalty set forth in Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article II, General Penalty.