





OKLAHOMA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Marshal's Office

AHJ Policies and Guidelines

Interpretation #: OKCAHJ-2021-01	Subject of Policy: Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances in Multi-Family Dwellings	
Code Reference: International Fire Code 2015 IFC 102.8 IFC 102.9 IFC 603.6 IFC 901.6.1 IFC 915.1.2 IFC 1103.9 NFPA 211		
Reviewed By: Prince Morgan 	Title: Assistant Fire Marshal	Effective Date: 1/27/2021
Approved By: Harold Thompson 	Title: Fire Marshal	Revision Date: N/A

Purpose:

To provide guidance concerning the use, maintenance and inspection of wood burning fireplaces in apartment buildings, townhouses and other multi-family dwelling facilities. The provisions listed in this document do not apply to one- and two-family dwellings.

Description of Code Reference:

International Fire Code (IFC) **102.8 Subjects not regulated by this code.** Where applicable standards or requirements are not set forth in this code, or are contained within other laws, codes, regulations, ordinances or bylaws adopted by the jurisdiction, compliance with applicable standards of the National Fire Protection Association or other nationally recognized fire safety standards, as approved, shall be deemed as prima facie evidence of compliance with the intent of this code. Nothing herein shall derogate from the authority of the fire code official to determine compliance with codes or standards for those activities or installations within the fire code official's jurisdiction or responsibility.

International Fire Code (IFC) **102.9 Matters not provided for.** Requirements that are essential for the public safety of an existing or proposed activity, building or structure, or for the safety of the occupants thereof, that are not specifically provided for by this code, shall be determined by the fire code official.

International Fire Code (IFC) **603.6 Chimneys and appliances.** Chimneys, incinerators, smokestacks or similar devices for conveying smoke or hot gases to the outer air and the stoves, furnaces, fireboxes or boilers to which such devices are connected, shall be maintained so as not to create a fire hazard.

International Fire Code (IFC) **915.1.2 Fuel-burning appliances and fuel-burning fireplaces.** Carbon monoxide detection shall be provided in dwelling units, sleeping units and classrooms that contain a fuel-burning appliance or a fuel-burning fireplace.

International Fire Code (IFC) **1103.9 Carbon monoxide alarms.** Existing Group I-1, I-2, I-4 and R occupancies shall be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with Section 915, except that the carbon monoxide alarms shall be allowed to be solely battery operated.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) **211 14.2 Annual Inspection.**

Chimneys, fireplaces, and vents shall be inspected at least once a year in accordance with the requirements of Section 15.2.

Policy and Guidelines based on The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)

- In maintaining a safe environment from the threat of fire or injury for all occupants of apartment buildings, townhouses and other multi-family facilities; the Fire Marshal's Office has deemed that the use of solid fuel burning appliances in multi-family dwellings as listed above can create a fire and life safety hazard if not used and maintained properly. In order to reduce the hazards, the following shall be required.
- Operable smoke detectors shall be provided and installed in accordance with IFC 1103.8.
- Carbon monoxide detectors in accordance with IFC 1103.9 shall be provided and installed as required.
- Chimney's fireplaces, and vents be inspected annually, cleaned, maintained and repaired accordingly by a Certified Chimney Sweep.
- A written record of inspection and maintenance shall be retained on the premises for a minimum of 3 years. The written record shall include the date of the maintenance, identification of the servicing personnel and notification of any unsatisfactory condition and the corrective action taken, including parts replaced.