

PREFACE

Introduction

The Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) is a state regulation promulgated by the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development in cooperation with the Virginia Fire Services Board, both Governor-appointed boards, for the purpose of establishing statewide standards to safeguard life and property from the hazards of fire or explosion arising from the improper maintenance of life safety and fire prevention and protection materials, devices, systems and structures and the unsafe storage handling, and use of substances, materials and devices, including fireworks, explosives and blasting agents, wherever located.

The provisions of the SFPC are based on a nationally recognized model code published by the International Code Council, Inc. and fire protection and prevention standards published by the National Fire Protection Association. Such code and standards are made part of the SFPC through a regulatory process known as incorporation by reference. The SFPC also contains administrative provisions governing the use of the model code and standards and establishing requirements for the enforcement of the code by the local and state enforcing agencies.

In keeping with the designations of the SFPC used previously, since the 2009 edition of the *International Fire Code* is incorporated by reference into this version of the SFPC, it is known as the 2009 edition of the SFPC.

Arrangement

The SFPC is part of the *Virginia Administrative Code* (VAC), the official compilation of state regulations published under the authority and guidance of the Virginia Code Commission. Due to the difference in the section numbering system between the VAC and the model code incorporated by reference into the SFPC, the SFPC utilizes a dual section numbering system. In the SFPC, the VAC section numbers are listed first, followed by a section number matching the model code system. In this printing of the SFPC, the VAC section numbers are omitted and only the model code numbering system is utilized. The version of the SFPC containing both the VAC section numbers and the model code numbering is available from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and may also be accessed through the website of the Virginia Code Commission or by subscription to the VAC.

Codes Purchased from ICC

The 2009 edition of the SFPC is being made available in pamphlet form as in past editions of the SFPC. In addition to the pamphlet form of the SFPC published by DHCD, the International Code Council (ICC) publishes a version of the SFPC. In the ICC published version, marginal markings are provided to distinguish between text which is part of the International Codes and text which is part of the state regulation. Double vertical lines in the margins within the body of the code indicate state amendments to the International Code. As in the standard printings of the International Codes, a single vertical line in the margins within the body of the code indicates a technical change from the previous edition of the International Codes. Deletions from the previous editions of the International Codes are indicated in the form of an arrow (→) in the margin where an entire section, paragraph, exception or table has been deleted or an item in a list of items or a table has been deleted.

Technical Assistance

DHCD, the State Fire Marshal's Central and Regional Offices and local enforcing agencies may be contacted for further information concerning the SFPC. Contact information for DHCD and the State Fire Marshal's Office is below. Additional contact information, including the regional State Fire Marshal's Offices, is available at the websites.

DHCD, Division of Building and Fire Regulation
Technical Assistance Services Office
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2430
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Email: taso@dhcd.virginia.gov
Website: www.dhcd.virginia.gov

Virginia Department of Fire Programs
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