

**Town of Dickinson
Local Law No. 3 of the year 2024**

**A LOCAL LAW ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 295 TO THE
TOWN CODE ENTITLED "FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS"**

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson as follows:

Section 1: A new Chapter 295 entitled "Fire Protection Systems" is hereby added as follows:

§ 295-1. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to provide regulations and standards applicable to the installation and maintenance of fire alarm systems, fire sprinkler systems, and other fire protective systems that require Fire Department response so as to ensure competent standards of workmanship and thereby lessen the possibility of false alarms resulting from malfunctions of unrecognized installations and lack of maintenance.

§ 295-2. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CENTRAL ALARM STATION

Any entity which receives signals from fire alarm systems and relays information pertaining to such fire alarm systems to the local Fire Department Headquarters or County Regional Dispatch Center.

EMERGENCY

An unforeseen occurrence or condition that calls for immediate action.

FALSE FIRE ALARM

An alarm of fire, other than a malicious false alarm, which causes the response of the Fire Department when there is no discernible fire, abnormal heat, smoke or other occurrence that constitutes an emergency.

FIRE ALARM DEVICE

Any device, including manually operated ones, which, when activated by fire, smoke or other emergency requiring Fire Department response, transmits a signal to local Fire Department headquarters or to a central alarm station and/ or produces any audible or visible signal to which the local Fire Department is expected to respond. Excluded from this definition and from the provisions of this article are devices designed to alert the occupants of a building of an emergency condition therein and which do not produce any audible or visible signal which is perceptible outside of such building.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Any arrangement of fire alarm devices, connected together and to a control panel or panels, designed so that the activation of any one device will cause an appropriate signal to operate.

FIRE ALARM TECHNICIAN

Any person, licensed by the State of New York, who maintains, installs, repairs, tests, inspects or otherwise performs work on fire alarm systems.

FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM

Any fire alarm or any fire sprinkler system, fire mains, and fire hydrants. One or more single-station or interconnected smoke detectors, without central station monitoring or an exterior notification device, shall not be considered a fire protection system. In the case of one premises with more than one fire alarm control panel, each fire alarm control panel shall be considered a separate fire protection system. In the case of multiple sprinkler risers, each group of risers protecting the same tenancy shall be considered one fire protection system. The fire service main and fire hydrants connected thereto shall be considered one fire protection system.

FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Any arrangement of sprinkler heads, valves, piping and accessories connected together, installed within a building or structure and intended to discharge water in the event of a fire or abnormal heat condition within the building or structure.

FIRE WATCH

The patrol of a building or portion thereof at intervals determined by the Fire Marshal, by one or more individuals, for the purposes of identifying and controlling fire hazards, detecting early signs of unwanted fire, raising an alarm of fire and notifying the local Fire Department when deemed necessary and authorized by the Fire Marshal.

MALICIOUS FALSE ALARM

The willful and knowing initiation or transmission of a signal, message or other notification of an event of fire, smoke or other emergency when no such danger exists.

REPORT OF TESTING

A report indicating that a licensed contractor has inspected a fire protection system in accordance with the applicable standard(s) of the NFPA. The report shall contain at least the name and location of the premises, any deficiencies noted and/or corrected, the name and original signature of the inspector, his/her certification that the inspection has been properly conducted and all statements related thereto are true and correct and additional information as may be deemed necessary by the Chief Fire Marshal.

§ 295-3. Licensing and standards.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person, business, firm, corporation or other commercial entity to maintain, install, repair, test, inspect or otherwise perform work on any fire alarm system without first obtaining a fire alarm installer's license from the State of New York.
- B. All fire protection systems and associated equipment shall be installed, repaired, tested, inspected and maintained in accordance with the appropriate standards of the Fire Code of the State of New York.

§ 295-4. Repair notification.

- A. Prior to repairing, modifying, testing or inspecting any fire protection system, equipment or device, or any auxiliary system, equipment or device connected thereto, the person conducting such work shall notify all entities that would receive automatic notification of the activation of the fire alarm system, equipment or device. Such entities include, but are not limited to, the Code Enforcement Office, the local Fire Department, the central station monitoring agency, and the occupants of the building.
- B. Upon completion of the repairing, modifying, testing or inspection of any fire protection system, equipment or device, or any auxiliary system, equipment or device connected thereto, the person conducting the work shall notify all entities that would receive automatic notification of the activation of the fire alarm system, equipment or device that the work is complete, as well as the operational status of the system, equipment or device. Such entities include, but are not limited to, the Code Enforcement Office, the local Fire Department, the central station monitoring agency, and occupants of the building.
- C. Fire watch.
- (1) A fire watch shall be initiated by a property owner whenever a fire protection system is out of service and authorized by the Fire Marshal and shall meet the following requirements:
 - (a) At least one dedicated person shall be required to conduct patrols. The Fire Marshal will determine the frequency of the patrols based on the building and occupancy. Additional personnel shall be added as necessary to meet the interval requirements;
 - (b) All personnel conducting patrols shall be at least 18 years of age, competent to identify fire hazards, capable of effectively communicating the need for a fire department response, physically capable to perform patrols and self-preservation, and familiar with the structure and the emergency plan for the structure;
 - (c) No personnel assigned to conduct patrols are to be assigned any other duties during the fire watch;
 - (d) All personnel assigned to conduct patrols are to be provided with at least one means approved by the Chief Fire Marshal or their designee for notification of the local fire department; and
 - (e) An activity log shall be maintained in which all personnel conducting patrols shall document their name, the date and time of each activity performed related to the fire watch, and a description of each activity performed related to the fire watch.
 - (2) The Fire Marshal may waive the requirement of a fire watch where there is not a substantial risk to life safety or where alternatives to maintain an equivalent level of safety are prescribed.

§ 295-5. Installation and maintenance.

- A. Every fire alarm system shall be thoroughly inspected and tested not less than once each six months. Inspection shall be only by a fire alarm technician. A report of testing shall be made on a form specified by the Code Enforcement Officer and shall be submitted to the Code Enforcement Office.
- B. The owner shall be responsible for the maintenance and service of his or its fire alarm device equipment and shall be responsible for all malfunctions of his or its equipment.
- C. Taped message dialers. The use of taped message dialers to any Fire Department, Police Department, dispatching facility for any Fire Department or central station is hereby prohibited.

§ 295-6. Fire alarm procedures.

- A. It shall be unlawful to reset any fire alarm system in any building or structure upon activation of said fire alarm systems unless under the direction of the local Fire Department or a Town of Dickinson Code Officer or Fire Marshal. This provision shall not prohibit the resetting of a fire alarm system by a fire alarm technician while performing inspections, maintenance or repairs.
- B. Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter or any rule or regulations made pursuant thereto shall be guilty of a violation, and upon conviction thereof may be punished by a fine of not more than \$250 per occurrence.

Section 2: Separability

The provisions of this local law are separable and if any provision, clause, sentence, subsection, word or part thereof is held illegal, invalid, unconstitutional, or inapplicable to any person or circumstance, such illegality, invalidity or unconstitutionality, or inapplicability shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, clauses, sentences, subsections, words, or parts of this local law or their application to other persons or circumstances. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this local law would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional provision, clause, sentence, subsection, word or part had not been included therein, and as if such person or circumstance, to which the local law or part thereof is held inapplicable, had been specifically exempt therefrom.

Section 3: Repealer

All Ordinances, Local Laws and parts thereof inconsistent with this Local Law are hereby repealed.

Section 4: Effective Date

This local law shall take effect on filing with the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.