

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-08

AN ORDINANCE OF RADNOR TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 164, FIRE CONTROL MANAGEMENT OF THE RADNOR TOWNSHIP CODE OF ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING THE AUTHORITY AND POWERS OF THE RADNOR TOWNSHIP FIRE/EMS CHIEF; DEFINING AN OFFICER IN CHARGE AND DUTIES AT A FIRE OR EMERGENCY SCENE; READOPTING FIRE DISTRICTS AND MUTUAL AID; PROHIBITING INTERFERENCE WITH FIRE SUPPRESSION FORCES AND EQUIPMENT; AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

The Radnor Township Board of Commissioners does hereby revise and amend Chapter 164 Fire Control Management to read as follows:

Chapter 164

Fire Control Management

§ 164-1 Scope.

The following provisions are general provisions for the purpose of establishing basic fire control measures and regulations governing conditions which could impede or interfere with fire suppression forces.

§ 164-2 Definitions.

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

CODE OFFICIAL

The Director of Community Development or duly authorized representative.

FIRE COMPANY

Any organized fire company which has responded in Radnor Township for the purpose of extinguishment of a fire or other emergency involving protection of life and/or property or when its assistance has been requested by the officer-in-charge of the incident.

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

The first arriving officer shall be the Officer-in-Charge of the scene. This officer will establish incident command and manage the incident until the next higher-ranking, qualified officer arrives on scene. Incident command will transfer with an update either a verbal or face-to-face transfer. Fire company affiliation does not influence or dictate incident command entitlements.

RADNOR TOWNSHIP FIRE/EMS CHIEF

The Radnor Township Fire/EMS Chief shall have final authority on all fire and emergency medical decisions impacting Radnor Township and its citizens subject to any required approval by the Board of Commissioners

§ 164-3 Authority of officer-in-charge.

The officer-in-charge at the scene of a fire or other emergency involving the protection of life and/or property is empowered to:

- A.** Control and direct the activities at such scene.
- B.** 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 incident.
- C.** Remove or cause to be removed any person, vehicle or object from hazardous areas for the purpose of protecting such person, vehicle or object. All persons ordered to leave a hazardous area shall do so immediately and shall not reenter the area until authorized by the officer-in-charge.
- D.** Blockade any public highway, street or private right-of-way temporarily while at the scene.
- E.** Trespass at any time of the day or night without liability while at such scene.
- F.** Enter any building, including private dwellings, or any premises where a fire is in progress for the purpose of extinguishing the fire.
- G.** Enter any building, including private dwellings, or premises near the scene of the fire for the purpose of protecting the building or premises or for the purpose of extinguishing the fire which is in progress in another building or premises.
- H.** Direct without liability the removal or destroying of any fence, house, motor vehicle or other thing which he may judge necessary to be pulled down or destroyed to prevent the further spread of fire.
- I.** Request and be supplied with additional materials, such as sand, treatments, chemicals, etc., and special equipment, when it is deemed a necessity, to prevent the further spread of the fire or hazardous condition, the cost of which is to be borne by such property owner.
- J.** Order disengagement of any convoy, caravan, train of vehicles, craft or railway cars if deemed a necessity in the interest of safety of persons or property.
- K.** Take command of all incidents involving industrial management and fire brigades upon their arrival from being dispatched if, in his opinion, such action is in the interest of public safety.

§ 164-4 Interference with fire suppression forces.

A. Interference with fire company 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 company emergency vehicle in any way or to interfere with, attempt to interfere with, conspire to interfere with, obstruct or hamper any fire company operation.

B. Compliance with orders. A person shall not willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of the officer-in-charge or designee to interfere with the compliance attempts of another individual.

C. Vehicles crossing fire hose. A vehicle shall not be driven or propelled over any unprotected fire hose of a fire company when laid down on any street, alleyway, private drive or any other vehicular roadway without the consent of the officer-in-charge or designee of said operation.

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

E. Damage; injury to fire company equipment; personnel. It shall be unlawful for any person to damage or deface or attempt or conspire to damage or deface any fire company emergency vehicle at any time or to injure or attempt to injure or conspire to injure fire company personnel while performing fire company duties.

§ 164-5 Fire hydrants.

A. General. 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 and access lanes or on private property. If, upon the expiration of the time mentioned in a notice of violation, obstructions or encroachments are not removed, the code official shall proceed to remove the same. Costs incurred in the performance of necessary work shall be paid from Township funds on certificate of the code 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.

B. Hydrant use approval. A person shall not use or operate any fire hydrant intended for use of the fire company for fire suppression purposes unless such person first secures a permit for such use from the code 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 or to the use by fire companies for the purpose of training.

C. Public water supply. The code official and/or the Township Fire/EMS Chief 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 code official and the Township Fire/EMS Chief.

§ 164-6 Maintenance of 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^{III} except for the purpose of extinguishing fire, training or testing purposes recharging or making necessary repairs or when permitted by the code 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 non-approved fire appliances or equipment shall be replaced or repaired as directed by the code official.

§ 164-7 Street obstructions.

A person or persons shall not erect, construct, place or maintain any 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 code 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.

§ 164-8 Radnor Township fire districts.

Fire companies will provide protection against fire within the following described areas unless prevented from doing so by commitment as a result of a prior call:

A. Broomall Fire Company: bounded on the north by Goshen Road and Roberts Road, on the east by Sproul Road and Darby-Paoli Road, on the south by Marple Township line and on the west by the Newtown Township line.

B. Bryn Mawr Fire Company: bounded on the north by North Spring Mill Road and Sproul Road, on the east by County Line Road, on the south by Landover Road and Haverford Township line and on the west by Sproul Road.

C. Radnor Fire Company: bounded on the north by the Tredyffrin and Upper Merion Township lines, on the east by County Line Road and Sproul Road, on the south by Sproul Road, North Spring Mill Road, Bryn Mawr Avenue and Goshen Road and on the west by Newtown Township line.

§ 164-9 Assistance; mutual aid.

A. If Broomall or Bryn Mawr Fire Companies require assistance in fighting a fire in their districts of Radnor Township, the second company to be called shall be the Radnor Fire Company.

B. On a fire call for any of the boundary line roads, the fire company receiving the call shall respond.

C. If Broomall or Bryn Mawr Fire Companies are not available to respond to an emergency in Radnor Township, Radnor Fire Company shall be called and shall respond.

D. Mutual aid will be extended by all fire companies, depending on availability, as required by the officer-in-charge.

§ 164-10 Compensation.

The annual compensation for service to be performed as described above shall be determined by the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners, said compensation to continue from year to year until termination by either party at the end of any calendar year.

§ 164-11 Violations and penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate a provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.


Section 2. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.


Section 3. Severability. If any section, paragraph, sub-section, or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than that portion specifically declared invalid.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective in accordance with the Radnor Township Home Rule Charter.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 13 day of April, 2026

RADNOR TOWNSHIP

By: 
Name: Jim Riley
Title: President

ATTEST: 
William White, Secretary