

# Chapter 1

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## Fire Protection

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### Sec. 3-1-1 Fire Protection.

(a) **General Authority.**

- (1) The Town Board shall provide for fire protection for the Town of Westport. Fire protection for the Town, or any portion of the Town, may be provided in any manner, including:
  - a. Establishing a Town fire department.
  - b. Joining with another town, village, or city to establish a joint fire department. If the Town Board establishes a joint fire department with a village under Sec. 61.65(2)(a)3, Wis. Stats., the Town Board shall create a joint board of fire commissioners with the village under Sec. 61.65(2)(b)2, Wis. Stats.
  - c. Contracting with any person.
  - d. Utilizing a fire company organized under Ch. 213, Wis. Stats.
- (2) The Town Board may provide for the equipping, staffing, housing, and maintenance of fire protection services.

(b) **Funding.** The Town Board may:

- (1) Appropriate money to pay for fire protection in the Town.
- (2) Charge property owners a fee for the cost of fire calls made to their property.
- (3) Levy taxes on the entire Town to pay for fire protection.
- (4) Levy taxes on property served by a particular source of fire protection, to support the source of protection.

*State Law Reference:* Sec. 60.55, Wis. Stats.

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**Sec. 3-1-2 Ambulance Service.**

The Town Board shall contract for or operate and maintain ambulance services unless such services are provided by another person. The Town Board may purchase equipment for medical and other emergency calls.

*State Law Reference:* Sec. 60.565, Wis. Stats.

**Sec. 3-1-3 Impeding Fire Equipment Prohibited.**

No person shall impede the progress of a fire engine, fire truck or other fire apparatus of a Fire Department along the streets, roads or alleys of the Town of Westport at the time of a fire or when a Fire Department is using such streets or alleys in response to a fire alarm or for practice.

**Sec. 3-1-4 Police Power of Fire Departments.****(a) Police Authority at Fires.**

- (1) The Chief and Assistants or officers in command of a Fire Department at any fire are hereby vested with full and complete police authority at fires. Any officer of a Fire Department may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right-of-way to a Fire Department in responding to a fire.
- (2) The Fire Chief may prescribe certain limits in the vicinity of any fire within which no persons, excepting firemen and law enforcement officers and those admitted by order of any officer of the Department, shall be permitted to come.
- (3) The Fire Chief shall have the power to cause the removal of any property whenever it shall become necessary for the preservation of such property from fire or to prevent the spreading of fire or to protect the adjoining property, and during the progress of any fire he/she shall have the power to cause the removal of all wires or other facilities and the turning off of all electricity or other services where the same impedes the work of the Department during the progress of a fire.

- (b) Firemen to Have Powers of Traffic Officers.** Members of a Fire Department, when at the scene of a fire or other emergency, or when Fire Department vehicles are upon the street pursuant to an emergency call, shall have the authority and duty of traffic officers to direct traffic, as conditions require, notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter.

**Sec. 3-1-5 Fire Inspections.**

- (a)** The Fire Chief and Assistant Chiefs of the Fire Department(s) serving the Town of Westport shall be the Fire Inspectors of the Town of Westport and shall have the power to appoint one (1) or more deputy Fire Inspectors and shall perform all duties required of the Fire Inspectors by the laws and rules of the State, particularly Sec. 101.14, Wis. Stats.

- (b) While acting as Fire Inspectors pursuant to Sec. 101.14(2), Wis Stats., the Fire Chief, or any officer of the Fire Department designated by the Fire Chief, shall have the right and authority to enter any building or upon any premises in the Town of Westport at all reasonable hours for the purpose of making inspections or investigations which, under the provisions of this Code of Ordinances, he/she may deem necessary. Should the Fire Inspector find that any provisions of this Code relating to fire hazards and prevention of fires are being violated, or that a fire hazard exists which should be eliminated, it shall be his/her duty to give such directions for the abatement of such conditions as he/she shall deem necessary and, if such directions be not complied with, to report such noncompliance to the Town Board for further action.
- (c) It shall be the duty of the Fire Chief or his or her designee to inspect all buildings and premises at least once per calendar year pursuant to Wis. Admin Code § COMM 14.01(11)(b)6, except the interiors of private dwelling units, or as often as may be deemed necessary for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions found to be contrary to the adoptions and references found in this Code or any other applicable law. In no case shall the period between inspections exceed fifteen (15) months.
- (d) Written reports of inspections shall be made and kept on file in the office of the Chief of the Fire Department in the manner and form required by the Department of Commerce.

*State Law Reference:* Sec. 101.14(2), Wis. Stats.

### **Sec. 3-1-6 Damaging Fire Hose Prohibited; Parking by Hydrants; Blocking Fire Lanes.**

- (a) **Driving Over Fire Hose.** No person shall willfully injure in any manner any hose, hydrant or fire apparatus belonging to a Fire Department, and no vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of a Fire Department when laid down on any street, private driveway or other place, to be used at any fire or alarm of fire, without the consent of the Fire Department official in command.
- (b) **Parking Vehicles Near Hydrants.** It shall be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle or leave any object within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant at any time.
- (c) **No Parking Near Fire.** It shall be unlawful for any person, in case of fire, to drive or park any vehicle within one block from the place of fire without the consent and authority of the Fire Chief or any law enforcement officer.

### **Sec. 3-1-7 Firemen May Enter Adjacent Property.**

- (a) **Entering Adjacent Property.** It shall be lawful for any fireman while acting under the direction of a Fire Chief or any other officer in command to enter upon the premises adjacent to or in the vicinity of a building or other property then on fire for the purpose of extinguishing such fire and in case any person shall hinder, resist or obstruct any fireman in

the discharge of his/her duty as is hereinbefore provided, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of resisting firemen in the discharge of their duty.

- (b) **Destruction of Property to Prevent the Spread of Fire.** During the progress of any fire, a Fire Chief or his/her assistant shall have the power to order the removal or destruction of any property necessary to prevent the further spread of fire; provided that it is inevitable that, unless such property is removed, other property is in danger of being destroyed by fire.

### **Sec. 3-1-8 Duty of Bystanders to Assist.**

Every person who shall be present at a fire shall be subject to the orders of a Fire Chief or officer in command and may be required to render assistance in fighting the fire or in removing or guarding property. Such officer shall have the power to cause the arrest of any person refusing to obey said orders.

### **Sec. 3-1-9 Vehicles to Yield Right-of-Way.**

Whenever there shall be a fire or fire alarm or the Fire Department shall be out for practice, every person driving or riding in a motorized or other vehicle shall move and remain to the side of the street until the fire engine and fire truck and other fire apparatus shall have passed.