



# **Clackamas Fire District #1-Fire Marshal's Office**

## **Amendments to Ordinance 18-01**

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **Why is Clackamas Fire District #1 establishing Fire and Life Safety Re-Inspections?**

Clackamas Fire District #1 fire inspectors conduct hundreds of Fire and Life Safety Inspections each year. Fire inspectors provide an educational approach to inform businesses about the importance of following the Oregon Fire Code. Enforcement practices are needed to gain code compliance to ensure the business and its occupants are occupants safe from fire.

#### **When does the Clackamas Fire District #1 review Fire Apparatus Access and Water Supply Plans?**

The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) receives fire apparatus access and water supply plans through our public website or by referral from Clackamas County Building Department or from one of the following cities: City of Milwaukie, Happy Valley, and Oregon City.

Commercial development such as warehouses, factories, storage facilities, hospitals, churches, apartments, and single-family subdivisions all receive fire department approval for fire apparatus access and water supply. This ensures firefighters have adequate means to place fire apparatus to conduct life safety operations as well as, sufficient water supply to fight a fire and suppress it.

Single-family dwellings within our rural communities, such as Beavercreek, Clarkes, Oregon City, and Redland will receive a fire department plan review for driveways and water supply. Driveways are reviewed to ensure fire apparatus have adequate space to maneuver and turnaround for driveways 150 feet in length and over. Water supply is reviewed when proposed homes are over 3,600 square feet. This includes an attached garage.

#### **Does Clackamas County and the Cities of Milwaukie, Happy Valley, and Oregon City have their own fees?**

Yes. Commercial and residential development submits their plans to Clackamas County or one of the cities mentioned for permits. These permits cover the costs for plan review, site inspections, building finals, and certificate of occupancy issuance. Prior to



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building permits, the developer must receive fire department approval for fire apparatus access and water supply. Clackamas County, City of Milwaukie, Happy Valley, and Oregon City don't charge specifically for fire department approvals. Clackamas Fire District #1 has been conducting fire plan review at no cost.

### **Why is Clackamas Fire District #1 establishing a flat rate fee for service?**

The demand for services has increased over the years as well as the cost to maintain, repair and replace fire apparatus equipment, personal protective equipment, office supplies, technological services, and facility maintenance. These fees will supplement and assist with rising costs of providing service.

### **What about property taxes already paid for services that Clackamas Fire District #1 provides?**

Property owners fund emergency response services through property taxes. These funds are allocated to ensure the highest level of emergency service is provided to our citizens. Tax dollars also support the FMO to conduct fire and life safety occupancy inspections which ensure occupants, and the building is safe from fire.

Tax dollars don't cover the expense of conducting fire plan review. The FMO certified fire plans examiners review fire apparatus access and water supply plans to ensure there is adequate access to a commercial or residential property. The FMO also ensures there is adequate water supply available for firefighters to suppress a fire.

### **Why is Clackamas Fire District #1 establishing operational and construction permits?**

The state adopted Oregon Fire Code Section 105 allows Clackamas Fire District #1 to develop permitting processes. The FMO will impose operational and construction permits for the following:

1. Fire and Life Safety re-inspection fees. Fees apply after the third visit.
2. Fire Department Access and Water Supply Plan Review for commercial development and single-family dwellings on a single tax lot within the rural community.
3. Extraction and processing
4. Underground and fire line
5. Haunted houses
6. Explosives and blasting
7. >400 square foot temporary tents and canopies



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8. Events and festivals over 1,000 occupants
9. Retail sales of fireworks and public displays
10. Fire safety during construction inspections

Establishing these permits will allow fire inspectors the ability to ensure occupants, bystanders or construction workers are safe during events outside of normal business operations or during the most vulnerable stage of building construction.

### **What happens if Clackamas Fire District #1 chooses not to apply these fees for service?**

As the cost-of-service rises, Clackamas Fire District #1 are thinking outside of the box to ensure there is no reduction in this service. To accomplish this, we must establish a fair and realistic revenue stream in addition to property tax collection.