

ORDINANCE NUMBER 140-03

An Ordinance establishing the minimum qualification requirements for Fire Code Inspection and Enforcement

WHEREAS, WAC 51-44 and 51-45 - Washington State Fire Code and Title 14 of the Mason County Code adopt the Uniform Fire Code with amendments;

WHEREAS, fire safety inspections and enforcement are the responsibility of the county fire marshal;

WHEREAS, fire districts have the ability to do fire safety inspections to the uniform fire code when meeting the requirements of RCW19.27.110;

WHEREAS, fire code violations, when documented, may require enforcement by means of citation and court appearance;

WHEREAS, fire code violations need to be correctly identified, referenced and documented to the proper code section;

WHEREAS, the failure to correctly identify violations may allow unsafe conditions to continue;

WHEREAS, there needs to be minimum Inspector knowledge and qualifications to inspect and document violations to the uniform fire code;

WHEREAS, the misidentification of fire code violations may lead to increased liability to the county, fire district and/or business;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED, that the Board of Commissioners of Mason County hereby ADOPTS an amendment to the Mason County Development Code, Title 14, and Ordinance 45-99, as follows:

Add a new section at 14.14.000 as follows:

14.14.10 Minimum qualification requirements for uniform fire code inspection,

- a) Fire Districts in Mason County who choose to do fire safety inspections using the adopted fire code shall have qualified inspectors to do the inspections. Qualified inspectors shall have a current certification in either the 1997 edition of the Uniform Fire Code - IFCI Company Officer Fire Code Inspector Certification, or the International Fire Code - Fire Inspector I Certification, and evaluation/approval by the Mason County Fire Marshal.


- b) For the purpose of this ordinance, a fire safety inspection is defined as any on-site visit to a commercial occupancy for the purpose or effect of identifying compliance or non-compliance of the fire code not directly related, or as a result, of a fire incident.
- c) Fire safety inspections done by fire districts that are forwarded to the Fire Marshals office for compliance shall be done so in writing in a format provided and or approved by the county.

DATED this 30 day of December 2003.

Board of Commissioners, Mason County, Washington



Herb Baze, Commissioner

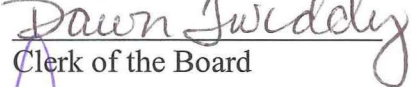


Wesley E. Johnson, Commissioner

Absent

Jayni L. Kamin

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CHIEF DPA
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney