

Chapter 2

Fire Protection

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Sec. 5-2-1 Fire Department Organization; Goals of the Department.

- (a) **Fire Department Recognized.** The La Farge Rural Fire Association is officially recognized as the La Farge Rural Fire Association serving the Village of La Farge, and the duties of firefighting and fire prevention in the Village are delegated to such Department. The La Farge Rural Fire Association shall be responsible for the program of fire defense for the citizens and property within the Village of La Farge.
- (b) **Appropriations.** The Village Board shall appropriate funds for La Farge Rural Fire Association operations and for such apparatus and equipment for the use of the La Farge Rural Fire Association as the Board may deem expedient and necessary to maintain efficiency and properly protect life and property from fire.
- (c) **Goals of the Fire Defense Program.**
 - (1) The primary objective of the fire defense program is to serve all citizens, without prejudice or favoritism, by safeguarding, collectively and individually, their lives against the effects of fires and explosions.
 - (2) The second objective of the fire defense program is to safeguard the general economy and welfare of the community by preventing major conflagrations and the destruction by fire of industries and businesses.
 - (3) The third objective of the fire defense program is to protect the property of all citizens against the effects of fire and explosions. All property deserves equal protection regardless of location or monetary value.

- (d) **Organization.** The La Farge Rural Fire Association shall be organized and governed pursuant to its bylaws.

Sec. 5-2-2 Impeding Fire Equipment Prohibited.

No person shall impede the progress of a fire engine, fire truck or other fire apparatus of the La Farge Rural Fire Association along the streets or alleys of such Village at the time of a fire or when the La Farge Rural Fire Association of the Village is using such streets or alleys in response to a fire alarm or for practice.

Sec. 5-2-3 Police Power of the Department; Investigation of Fires.

(a) **Police Authority at Fires.**

- (1) The Chief and assistants or officers in command at any fire are hereby vested with full and complete police authority at fires. Any officer of the Department may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right-of-way to the La Farge Rural Fire Association in responding to a fire.
- (2) The Fire Chief may prescribe certain limits in the vicinity of any fire within which no persons, excepting firefighters and police officers and those admitted by order of any officer of the La Farge Rural Fire Association, shall be permitted to come.
- (3) The 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 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) **Fire Inspection Duties.**

- (1) The Fire Chief, or his designee, shall be the Fire Inspector of the Village of La Farge and shall have the power to appoint one or more deputy Fire Inspectors and shall perform all duties required of the Fire Inspectors by the laws of the State and rules of the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations, particularly Sec. 101.14, Wis. Stats.
- (2) While acting as Fire Inspector pursuant to Sec. 101.14(2), Wis. Stats., the Fire Chief, or any officer of the La Farge Rural Fire Association designated by the Fire Chief, shall have the right and authority to enter any building or upon any premises in the Village of La Farge at all reasonable hours for the purpose of making inspections or investigations which, under the provisions of this Code of Ordinances, he 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 duty to give such directions for the

- abatement of such conditions as he shall deem necessary and, if such directions be not complied with, to report such noncompliance to the Village Board for further action.
- (3) The Chief of the La Farge Rural Fire Association is required, by himself or by officers or members of the Fire Department designated by him as fire inspectors, to inspect all buildings, premises and public thoroughfares, except the interiors of private dwellings, for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable to cause fire, or any violations of any law or ordinance relating to the fire hazard or to the prevention of fires. Such inspections shall be made at least once in six (6) months in all of the territory served by the Fire Department, and not less than once in three (3) months in such territory as the Village Board has designated or thereafter designates as within the Village or as a congested district subject to conflagration, and oftener as the Chief of the Fire Department orders. Each six (6) month period shall begin on January 1 and July 1, and each three (3) month period on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of each year.
 - (4) 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 Industry, Labor and Human Relations. A copy of such reports shall be filed with the Fire Chief.

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

Sec. 5-2-4 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 the La Farge Rural Fire Association, and no vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of the La Farge Rural Fire Association 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 La Farge Rural Fire Association 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 police officer.

Sec. 5-2-5 Firemen May Enter Adjacent Property.

- (a) **Entering Adjacent Property.** It shall be lawful for any fireman while acting under the direction of the 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 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, the Fire Chief or his 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. 5-2-6 Duty of Bystanders to Assist.

Every person who shall be present at a fire shall be subject to the orders of the 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 or persons refusing to obey said orders.

Sec. 5-2-7 Vehicles to Yield Right-of-Way.

Whenever there shall be a fire or fire alarm or the La Farge Rural Fire Association 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.

Sec. 5-2-8 Interference with Use of Hydrants Prohibited.

No person shall occupy any portion of such streets or alleys with a motorized or other vehicle between such fire engine or fire truck or other fire apparatus or any hydrant to which a fire hose may be, or may be about to be, attached.

Sec. 5-2-9 Open Burning.

- (a) **Open Burning Prohibited.** No person, firm or corporation shall build any outdoor fire within the corporate limits of the Village of La Farge excepting as set forth in Subsection (b) of this Section. In order to protect the public health and safety, burning barrel use is prohibited in the Village of LaFarge.

(b) **Exceptions.**

- (1) Outdoor cooking over a fire contained in a device or structure designed for such use is permissible, including the use of yard fire pits not exceeding three by three (3 X 3) feet in size;
- (2) Controlled burning of grass or similar vegetation for environmental management purposes, with the prior written approval of the Fire Chief, may be permitted;
- (3) Ceremonial campfire or bonfires, with prior written approval of the Fire Chief, may be permitted;
- (4) Controlled burning of dry leaves and other nonoffensive dry yard debris, provided, however, that such burning is:
 - a. Monitored by a responsible person until the fire has extinguished itself completely.
 - b. Conducted on days when excessive wind or atmospheric conditions will not result in danger to public health or safety.
 - c. Located off the public street pavement or street gutter.
 - d. Located at least thirty (30) feet from any neighboring residence.
 - e. Not used for covert incineration of offensive substances or materials.
- (5) Other occasions of desirable outdoor burning not specified by this Subsection, but not as an alternative to refuse removal or disposal for which other methods are available, may be granted single occasion approval as in Subsections (2) and (3) above.
- (6) Whenever approval and special permit are granted by the Fire Chief under Subsection (b)(2) and (3) of this Section, the permit may specify and be conditioned on observance of safety restrictions and insurance requirements set forth therein.

(c) **Open Burning Regulations.** The following regulations shall be applicable:

- (1) All open burning conducted pursuant to a permit shall be performed in a safe, pollution-free manner, when wind and weather conditions are such as to minimize adverse affects, and in conformance with local and state fire protection regulation. Permitted open burning shall not be used to covertly burn plastic, construction debris or other prohibited materials.
 - (2) The size of the pile of material to be burned by permit shall not exceed six (6) feet in any direction measured horizontally, or four (4) feet measured vertically.
- (d) **Chief May Prohibit.** The Fire Chief is permitted to prohibit any or all bonfires and outdoor rubbish fires when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.
- (e) **Burning on Streets.** No materials may be burned upon any street, curb, gutter or sidewalk.
- (f) **Liability.** Persons utilizing and maintaining outdoor fires shall be responsible for any liability resulting from damage caused by his fire.

State Law Reference: Chapter ILHR 14, Wis. Adm. Code.

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 - b. Conducted on days when excessive wind or atmospheric conditions will not result in danger to public health or safety.
 - c. Located off the public street pavement or street gutter.
 - d. Located at least thirty (30) feet from any neighboring residence.
 - e. Not used for covert incineration of offensive substances or materials.
- (5) Incinerators or refuse burning barrels with a wire mesh cover and air openings no larger than one-half (1/2) inch. Only clean, untreated and unpainted wood, paper and cardboard generated by the property owner may be burned in an incinerator or burning barrel; the burning of wet rubbish, oily substances, asphalt, plastic and rubber products or household garbage is prohibited. Burning barrels and incinerators shall be located a minimum of five (5) feet from all property lines and at least thirty (30) feet from any neighboring residence, and be placed in rear or side yard areas only.
- (6) Other occasions of desirable outdoor burning not specified by this Subsection, but not as an alternative to refuse removal or disposal for which other methods are available, may be granted single occasion approval as in Subsections (2) and (3) above.
- (7) Whenever approval and special permit are granted by the Fire Chief under Subsection (b)(2) and (3) of this Section, the permit may specify and be conditioned on observance of safety restrictions and insurance requirements set forth therein.

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- (f) **Liability.** Persons utilizing and maintaining outdoor fires shall be responsible for any liability resulting from damage caused by his fire.

State Law Reference: Chapter ILHR 14, Wis. Adm. Code.

Sec. 5-2-10 Water-Related Fire Protection Services.

The Village of La Farge and the La Farge Water Utility will continue to bill and pay for water-related fire protection services in the same manner as these services have been billed and paid for in the past until the Village Board adopts a subsequent ordinance changing the method of billing and paying for these services. It is understood that any billing for these services on customers' water bills as allowed by law must be approved by resolution of this body and by the Public Service Commission before the billing can be commenced.

State Law Reference: Sec. 196.03(3)(b), Wis. Stats.

ORDINANCE NO. 5-2-11

An Ordinance Relating to Solid Fuel-Fired Outdoor Heating Devices

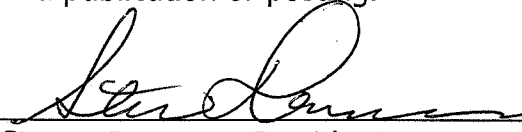
The Village Board of the Village of La Farge, Vernon County, Wisconsin, ordains as follows:

Section 1. Section 5-2-11 of the La Farge Village Ordinances is hereby created as follows:

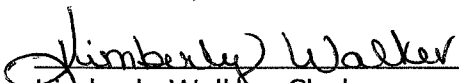
Sec. 5-2-11 Solid Fuel-Fired Outdoor Heating Devices

- (a) **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to promote the health and well-being of the residents of the Village of La Farge.
- (b) **Definition.** "Solid fuel-fired outdoor heating device" means an outdoor device designed or constructed for solid fuel combustion so that the usable heat is derived for the interior of buildings. Construction of an enclosure for said device shall not change its character as an outdoor device subject to this ordinance.
- (c) **Construction or Use Prohibited.** The construction or use of solid fuel-fired outdoor heating devices within the Village limits of the Village of La Farge is prohibited.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in force and take effect upon passage and publication or posting.



Steven Donovan, President



Kimberly Walker, Clerk

Nov. 10, 2003
Passed

Nov. 10, 2003
Approved

Nov. 11, 2003
Published