

## Q&A for Bureau of Fire Prevention/Fire Marshal

- **Fire Code (2021 IFC with amendments):**
  - Link to Fire Code Ordinance ([Fort Worth Fire Code](#)) contains amendments to the published 2021 IFC available for free viewing at <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2021P2>.
  - **NFPA standards:** Edition of NFPA standards adopted by the city / FWFD – see Chapter 80 of the above-referenced published 2021 IFC link , or NFPA 13 (2019 edition) and NFPA 72 (2019 edition).
  - **ERRCS (emergency responder radio communication systems)** requirements:
    - Radio signal strength test may be required (Section 510) for new construction as follows:
      - If your building exceeds 3 stories in height, exceeds 100,000 sq. ft. in floor area, is of Type IA or IB construction (concrete) as per Building Code, or will have RF blocking construction or windows, then a radio signal strength test shall be required to be provided by a licensed/certified radio contractor. This test must be conducted at construction substantial completion (all interior and exterior walls and windows completed as well as all insulation installed) to confirm no issues with FWFD radio functionality.
    - Any high-rise construction shall require installation of an ERRCS via distributed antenna system with BDA.
    - ERRCS are required to be permitted through the FWFD's online permitting portal - <https://aca-prod.accela.com/CFW/Default.aspx> (attachments/uploads shall include pdf of floor plans identifying approximate wiring routing and antenna location, as well as BDA, and pdf of all product data confirming UL2524 compliance.
    - The FCC is requiring that signal boosters be registered, we require both a Class A or Class B device to be registered.
    - Compliance with the 2021 IFC and NFPA 1221 and 1225 is required relative to the design, install, and testing. Note that prior to requesting a Fire Inspection, the FWFD requires submittal of the results of a signal strength test of the system throughout the building, as per the 2021 IFC. Once these results are received identifying passing of the system, Fire Inspection may then be requested using FWFD radios to verify.
    - Reference the following for additional information pertinent to ERRCS:
      - [Fort-Worth DAS-BDA channel](#)(XLSX, 12KB)
      - [Part 90 Signal Booster PN \(DA - 1255A1\)](#)(PDF, 154KB)
  - **FARS (firefighter air replenishment systems)** now required as per Appendix L of Fort Worth Fire Code – see above Fire Code links.
    - With regards to warehouses having more than 500,000 sq. ft. building area, FWFD is now allowing compliance with the following alternate method: Provide

a manually activated engineered mechanical smoke exhaust system throughout the subject building, as per Section 910 of the Fort Worth Fire Code.

- FARS or Smoke exhaust system shall be permitted through FWFD's online permitting portal – see below under Permitting.
- We do not require FARS to have their own air supply (Cascade), but rather, we only require EMAC to be located near FDC. If high-rise, 2 FDC's are required on opposing sides of structure, and 2 EMAC's are required as well.

- **Fire lanes/Fire hydrants:**

- Almost all fire lane/fire hydrant questions can be answered in this guide:  
<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/2/fire/documents/2021-ifc-firelane-hydrant-guide.pdf>

- **Platting/Addressing:**

- For Platting questions, contact [Addressing@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Addressing@fortworthtexas.gov)
- For Addressing questions, contact [Addressing@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Addressing@fortworthtexas.gov)

- **Permitting:**

- Almost all of our permits are available online now at: <https://aca-prod.accela.com/CFW/Default.aspx>. Just create a user account, then click on Fire, Create an Application, then select your system type from the drop down menu. If you don't see the one you need, select Other System (for extinguishing systems (all types), ERRCS, FARS, Smoke Control, trench burning, hot work, etc), then just follow the steps.
- For permit information/applications, visit:  
<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/fire/services/bureau-contractors>
- For Permitting questions, contact: [firepermits@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:firepermits@fortworthtexas.gov), or 817-392-6840.

- **Plans Review:**

- Guide to tanks associated with fuel-burning equipment, such as generators:  
<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/3/fire/documents/above-ground-fuel-tank-guide-1-1-23.pdf>
- Guide to fire lanes/ fire hydrant requirements:  
<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/2/fire/documents/2021-ifc-firelane-hydrant-guide.pdf>
- For Permitting questions, see the Permitting section above.
- For Hazardous Materials/Tank questions, contact [bob.morgan@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:bob.morgan@fortworthtexas.gov)
- For Sprinkler/Underground questions, contact [Chip.Paiboon@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Chip.Paiboon@fortworthtexas.gov)
- For Fire Alarm/Access Control/Extinguishing System questions, contact [Mike.McDaniel@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Mike.McDaniel@fortworthtexas.gov)

- **Technical Inspections:**

- Request to schedule inspection (have your permit number and address ready before calling to schedule inspection):
  - Fire sprinkler/underground inspections - call 817-392-6846
  - Fire alarm/access control/extinguishing system inspections - call 817-392-6844
  - Haz mat/tank inspections - call 817-392-6842
- Ensure that you have pre-tested your applicable permitted system prior to calling for inspection. Re-inspections that are required due to lack of readiness on the part of the applicant/contractor or due to Fire Code violations shall be charged a 4 hour minimum fee (\$440). If additional inspections are required beyond those normally associated with the permit (see permit applications at: ), these inspections are charged at \$110 per hour (1 hour minimum).
- Only the permit applicant or their company may call for inspections. General Contractors should not be calling for inspections, as this often results in a failed inspection and the above-referenced \$440 not ready fee.

- **Commercial Inspections** (fire inspections conducted once business is open ):

- BBQ grills/ fire pits:
  - Are BBQ grills / fire pits allowed on balconies or next to building? In general, NO. Unless your building and balconies are fully protected by fire sprinklers, BBQ grills and fire pits must be maintained a minimum of 10 ft. away from structures. One- and two-family dwellings (houses) are exempt from this requirement, but it is still strongly recommended for the protection of your home.
- Fireworks:
  - Are fireworks allowed in the City of Ft Worth? NO, except for permitted professional displays.
- For general info, see: <https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/fire/bureau-commercial-inspection>
- Outdoor pallet storage is now specifically regulated as to building setbacks and height, etc. (Section 315 - <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2021P2>).
- Contact info:
  - For yellow or red tags on fire protection systems, email: [firetagAHJ@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:firetagAHJ@fortworthtexas.gov)
  - For general Commercial Inspections questions, email: [fireinspections@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:fireinspections@fortworthtexas.gov)

- **Fire Marshal**

- Couldn't find what you're looking for? (Contact BFP at: 817-392-6840)