

CHAPTER XII

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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12.01 FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION.

1. The Town of Beloit Fire Department is officially recognized as the Fire Department serving the Town of Beloit, and the duties of firefighting and fire prevention in the Town are delegated to such department pursuant to [Section 60.55](#), Wis. Stats. The Town of Beloit Fire Department shall be responsible for the program of fire defense for the citizens and property within the Town of Beloit.
2. Appropriations. The Town Board shall appropriate funds for Fire Department operations and for such apparatus and equipment for the use of the Fire Department as the Board may deem expedient and necessary to maintain efficiency and properly protect life and property from fire.
3. Organization. The Town of Beloit Fire Department shall consist of a partly paid, partly volunteer, membership whose organizational makeup shall consist of a Fire Chief and such junior officers and fire fighters as may be determined to be appropriate and necessary from time to time by the Town Board. The internal organization and regulation of the Fire Department shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wisconsin and ordinances adopted by the Town of Beloit and such bylaws, job descriptions and other internal memorandum as may be adopted by the Fire Department from time to time.
4. Fire Chief. The Fire Chief of the Department shall be appointed by the Town Board of the Town of Beloit pursuant to Section 3.17 of this Code of Ordinance.
5. Membership. Any person desiring to be a member of the Fire Department shall file an application in such form as the Chief may require. All persons proposed to become members of the Fire Department shall have their names submitted by the Chief to the Town Board for approval and confirmation.

12.02 IMPEDING FIRE EQUIPMENT PROHIBITED. No person shall impede the progress of any Fire Department staff, equipment or apparatus in carrying out the duty of the department. This includes failure to yield the right-of-way to any Department Vehicle on any street, road or right-of-way within and outside of the Town of Beloit. 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.

12.03 POLICE POWER OF THE DEPARTMENT; INVESTIGATION OF FIRES.

1. Police Authority at Fires.
 - a. The Chief or officers in command at any fire are hereby vested with full and complete police authority. Any officer of the Department may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right-of-way to the Fire Department in responding to a fire.
 - b. 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 Department, shall be permitted to come.
 - c. 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/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.

2. Fire Inspection Duties.

- a. The Fire Chief, or the Chief's designee, shall be the Fire Inspector of the Town of Beloit 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 of the State and rules of the Department of Commerce, particularly [Section 101.14](#), Wis. Stats.
- b. While acting as Fire Inspector pursuant to [Section 101.14\(2\)](#), Wis. Stats., the Fire Chief, or designee, shall have the right and authority to enter any building or upon any premises in the Town of Beloit at all reasonable hours for the purpose of making inspections or investigations which, under the provisions of this ordinance, he/she may deem necessary. Should the Fire Inspector find that any provisions of this ordinance 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. The Fire Chief is required to inspect, or have inspected, all buildings, premises and public thoroughfares, except the interiors of private dwellings, for 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 per calendar year, provided the interval between those inspections does not exceed fifteen (15) months in all the territory serviced by the Fire Department and not less than once in three (3) months in such territory as the Town Board has designated or thereafter designates as within the Town or as a congested district subject to conflagration, and more often as the Fire Chief orders. Each one (1) year period shall begin on January 1.
- d. Written reports of inspections shall be made and kept on file in the office of the Fire Chief in the manner and form required by the Department of Commerce.
- e. Fire Lane Designation. The Fire Chief shall have the authority to designate fire lanes.

12.04 DAMAGING FIRE HOSE PROHIBITED; PARKING BY HYDRANTS; BLOCKING FIRE LANES.

1. Driving Over Fire Hose. No person shall willfully injure in any manner any hose, hydrant or fire apparatus belonging to the Town of Beloit, and no vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose 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.
2. 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.
3. No Parking near Fire. It shall be unlawful for any person, in case of fire, to drive or park any vehicle within one (1) block three hundred feet (300') from the place of fire without the consent and authority of the Fire Chief or law enforcement officer.

12.05 FIREFIGHTERS MAY ENTER ADJACENT PROPERTY.

1. Entering Adjacent Property. It shall be lawful for any firefighter 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 firefighter 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.
2. Destruction of Property to Prevent the Spread of Fire. During the progress of any fire, the Fire Chief or designee 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.

12.06 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.

12.07 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.

12.08 FEES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

1. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide a guide for fees and reimbursement for the Fire Department emergency responses occurring within the Town of Beloit involving non-residents of the Town of Beloit.
2. Definitions.
 - a. Engine Responses. Those responses requiring fire suppression or fire related activities.
 - b. Rescue Responses. Those responses required such as, but not limited to, ambulance assists, vehicle extrications, high angle rescue, confined space rescue or trench rescue.
 - c. Other Vehicles. Responses from other fire department vehicles either to supply water, additional emergency equipment or transport additional personnel.
3. Emergency Service Response. Emergency responses include, but are not limited to, engines, rescue vehicles and additional fire department personnel. More complex incidents may require additional resources and personnel. The Incident Commander shall determine the number of apparatus and personnel required to operate safely at an incident.
4. Reimbursement. A non-resident involved in any of the incidents described above shall be responsible for all fees and expenses incurred as a result of the incident. If no service is provided, other than the response to the scene there shall be no charges assessed.
5. Fee Assessments. Fee assessment will be as follows:

a. Engine per hour	\$500.00
b. Rescue per hour	\$500.00
c. Other vehicles per hour	\$300.00
d. Additional Personnel	

- i. Per hour per person \$50.00
 - ii. Per person fee shall cover personnel in addition to a three-person engine or rescue company.
- e. Any expenses incurred for a one-time use supplies or equipment that is damaged shall be billed at the cost to the Town of Beloit.