

CITY OF ST. GEORGE

BY COUNCIL MEMBER MURRELL:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-005

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 6, CHAPTER 1, AND TO ENACT TITLE 6, CHAPTERS 4 AND 5, RELATIVE TO FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, TO PROVIDE FOR INSPECTIONS, FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS, PERMITS, AND REGULATIONS FOR FLAMMABLE, EXPLOSIVE, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of St. George, finds that it is imperative to protect the public health and safety of its citizens through adoption of comprehensive fire prevention and protection measures;

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of St. George, desires to achieve the highest rating in fire safety through adoption of robust fire safety provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of St. George, desires to amend its ordinances to adopt more comprehensive and updated provisions regarding threats to public safety within the purview of the St. George Fire Prevention Bureau or St. George Fire Department,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the St. George City Council, State of Louisiana, that Title 6 of the Ordinances of the City of St. George, “Fire Prevention and Protection,” and more particularly Chapter 1, “Fire Prevention,” be, and it is hereby, amended as follows:

Section 1. Amendments

The following ordinances of the City of St. George are amended as indicated. Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law and words **underscored in bold** are additions to existing law.

Title 6. FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION
Chapter 1. FIRE PREVENTION

Section 6:104. Enforcement officers.

(a) The Fire Chief of the St. George Fire Protection District No. 2 or a person or persons designated by the Fire Chief of the St. George Fire Protection District No. 2 shall be responsible for the enforcement of the City’s fire code. The Fire Chief shall detail such members of the fire department as officers as shall from time to time be necessary.

(b) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize the Fire Chief or any employee of St. George Fire Protection District No. 2 or the St. George Fire Prevention Bureau who is not a duly commissioned and POST-certified peace officer to issue criminal citations, summonses, or make arrests. Criminal enforcement of this Chapter shall be undertaken solely by law enforcement or peace officers as defined in state law.

~~(b)~~ **(c)** The officers of the St. George Fire Prevention Bureau shall enforce all laws and ordinances of the City covering the following:

- (1) The prevention of fires;
- (2) The storage and use of explosives and flammables;
- (3) The installation and maintenance of automatic and other fire alarm systems, and fire extinguishing equipment;
- (4) The maintenance and regulation of fire escapes;
- (5) The means and adequacy of exit in case of fire, from factories, schools, hotels, lodging, houses, asylums, hospitals, churches, halls, theaters, amphitheaters and all other places in which numbers of persons work, live or congregate from time to time for any purpose;
- (6) The investigation of the cause, origin and circumstances of fires;
- (7) The maintenance of fire cause and loss records; and
- (8) The provisions of Title 8 necessary for safeguarding life and property against fire;
- (9) The storage, control and use of explosives and flammables; and**
- (10) The maintenance and protection and the elimination of hazards in buildings and structures, including those under construction.**

~~(c)~~ **(d)** St. George Fire Prevention Bureau shall have such other powers and perform such other duties set forth in this Title and as may be conferred and imposed from time to time by law. The Fire Chief for St. George Fire Protection District No. 2 may delegate any powers or duties under this Title to the St. George Fire Prevention Bureau.

(e) The provisions of this Chapter shall be enforced through inspections, written notices of violation, orders to abate hazardous conditions, and referrals to the law enforcement for criminal enforcement, where authorized by law. Fire prevention personnel are authorized to:

- (i) Inspect buildings, structures, and premises as provided in this Chapter;**
- (ii) Identify hazardous conditions relating to fire safety, life safety, flammable or combustible materials, means of egress, and occupancy conditions;**
- (iii) Issue written orders requiring correction of conditions that present an imminent fire or life-safety hazard; and**
- (iv) Request assistance from law enforcement where a violation constitutes a criminal offense under federal or state law or municipal ordinance.**

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Sec. 6:108. Periodic inspections.

(a) The St. George Fire Prevention Bureau shall inspect or cause to be inspected all premises on a periodic basis and shall make such orders necessary for the enforcement of the laws and ordinances governing the same and for safeguarding of life and property from fire.

(b) The Fire Chief or their designee may conduct periodic inspections of commercial, industrial, multi-family residential, and public buildings, excluding the interiors of single-family private dwellings, for purposes of fire and life-safety enforcement.

(c) Inspections shall be conducted with the consent of the owner or occupant, pursuant to an inspection warrant, or under exigent circumstances that present an immediate threat to life or property.

(d) Where access is denied by the owner or occupant and no exigent circumstances exist, the Fire Chief or their designee may seek a warrant to inspect the premises in accordance with law.

Sec. 6:109. Orders for **upon** inspection.

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Section 6:110. Violations.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of this Title, to permit or maintain a violation, to refuse to obey any provision of this Title after notice, except as variation may be allowed by the action of the Fire Chief or St. George Fire Prevention Bureau, in writing. ~~Proof of such unlawful act or failure shall be deemed prima facie evidence that such act is an act of the owner or other person in control of the premises. Prosecution or lack thereof of the owner, occupant or person in charge shall not be deemed to relieve any other person from compliance with this Title.~~

(b) The following violations of federal or state law, codes, or regulations shall constitute criminal misdemeanor offenses against the City of St. George and shall be subject to penalty as set forth in this Section:

- (i) Locking, blocking, or otherwise obstructing means of egress;**
- (ii) Permitting or enabling gatherings that exceed maximum capacity;**
- (iii) Parking in a designated fire lane; and**
- (iv) Non-compliance with restricted or disabled parking spaces.**

(c) Any person who knowingly violates this Section shall be subject to a penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500), imprisonment up to thirty (30) days, or both.

Section 6:111. Penalties for **Fire Code** violation.

~~Any person who violates the provisions of the City's Fire Code; or violates or fails to comply with any order made under the City's Fire Code, or builds in violation of any details, statements, specifications or plans submitted or approved under such code; or operates not in accordance with the provisions of any certificate, permit or approval issued under such code, and from which no appeal has been taken; or who shall fail to comply with such an order as affirmed or modified by the fire official or by a court of competent jurisdiction within the time fixed in this Title, may have the Certificate of Occupancy revoked and services utilities disconnected.~~

(a) A violation of any provision of the City's Fire Code shall constitute a civil or administrative violation unless the specific conduct is separately designated as a criminal offense by ordinance or federal or state law.

(b) Any person who engages in the following acts shall be subject to revocation of Certificate(s) or Occupancy and disconnection of utility services:

(i) violation of the provisions of the City's Fire Code;

(ii) violation of, or noncompliance with, any lawful order issued pursuant to the City's Fire Code;

(iii) construction that does not conform to details, statements, specifications or plans submitted or approved under the City's Fire Code;

(iv) failure to comply with the terms or conditions of any certificate, permit or approval issued under the City's Fire Code;

(v) failure to comply with an enforceable order issued by a City fire official or court of competent jurisdiction

Section 6:112. Fire Lanes on Private Property.

(a) The Fire Chief shall proscribe appropriate fire lanes for all buildings in the City, which shall be maintained free of obstruction at all times. Building that are not readily accessible from public roads must be accessible to fire apparatus through gates, access roads, and/or fire lanes

(b) No person shall park or place a vehicle or object in a designated fire lane.

(c) Vehicles obstructing a fire lane may be removed by law enforcement or authorized towing services in accordance with state law.

Sec. 6:113. Fire Alarm Systems and False Alarms

(a) Fire alarm systems shall comply with applicable NFPA standards as adopted by the State Fire Marshal and in this Title.

(b) Repeated false fire alarms attributable to negligent maintenance may constitute a violation subject to graduated civil penalties as provided herein.

(c) Criminal penalties for false alarms shall be enforced only where authorized by state law and prosecuted by law enforcement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the St. George City Council, State of Louisiana, that Title 6 of the Ordinances of the City of St. George, “Fire Prevention and Protection,” and more particularly Chapter 4, “Hazardous Materials,” and Chapter 5, “Flammable Substances,” be, and they are hereby, enacted as follows:

Section 2. Enactments

The following ordinances of the City of St. George are hereby enacted.

Title 6. FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION **Chapter 4. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Section 6:401. Transportation of explosives and hazardous materials.

(a) Transportation of explosives and hazardous materials within the City shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws, including regulations enforced by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, United States Department of Transportation, and all other state and federal agencies.

(b) The Fire Department may coordinate with law enforcement regarding suspected violations but shall not conduct searches or seizures except as permitted by law.

Sec. 6:402. Hazardous Materials Incidents – Cost Recovery.

Any person or entity responsible for the release of hazardous materials requiring emergency response shall be liable for the reasonable and necessary costs incurred by the City in responding to such incident, as permitted by law.

Title 6. FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION **Chapter 5. FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES**

Section 6:501. Applicability.

This section applies only to the commercial storage, handling, use, transfer, loading, or unloading of flammable or combustible substances at a fixed location within the City and shall not apply to the mere possession of such substances by individuals or to the lawful

transportation of such substances regulated by state or federal law.

Section 6:502. Permit Required.

No person or entity shall store, stage, transfer, load, unload, or use flammable or combustible substances in quantities exceeding those permitted for ordinary consumer use at a fixed site without first obtaining a fire safety permit from the Bureau of Fire Prevention.

Section 6:503. Exemptions.

This section shall not apply to:

- (a) Lawful transportation regulated by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety or federal law;
- (b) Retail consumer sales in original, unopened containers;
- (c) Emergency response operations;
- (d) Residential storage in quantities customary for household use; or
- (e) Activities conducted under the supervision of the State Fire Marshal.

Section 6:504. Permit Standards.

A permit issued under this Chapter shall be based solely on fire and life-safety considerations, including:

- (a) Proper storage containers and labeling;
- (b) Adequate fire extinguishing equipment;
- (c) Separation from ignition sources;
- (d) Ventilation and spill containment; and
- (e) Compliance with applicable NFPA standards as adopted by the State Fire Marshal.

Section 6:505. Inspections.

Permitted premises may be inspected by the Fire Department at reasonable times, with consent, pursuant to an administrative warrant, or under exigent circumstances, for the limited purpose of verifying compliance with fire safety requirements.

Section 6:506. Violations.

Failure to obtain or comply with a permit issued under this section shall constitute a violation enforceable through written notice and order to correct, or by referral to law enforcement where a criminal offense is established under state law or municipal ordinance.

Section 6:507. No Transportation Regulation.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to regulate the operation, inspection, or search of vehicles transporting flammable or hazardous materials, which shall remain governed exclusively by state and federal law.

Section 3. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective upon publication.

This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

For: Cook, Dellucci, Edmonds, Himmel, Murrell, Talbot

Against:

Absent: Monachello

Adopted this 24th day of February, 2026.

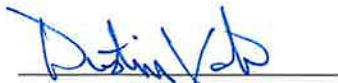
Signed this 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

Delivered to the Mayor on the 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026:



Lorraine Beaman, City Clerk

Approved:



Dustin Yates, Mayor

Received from Mayor on the 26th day of FEBRUARY, 2026:



Lorraine Beaman, City Clerk

Adopted Ordinance published in The Advocate on the 7th day of March 2026.