

**CHAPTER 11. Fire
Protection**

Section 11-1 Hindering or
Obstructing Fire Apparatus or
Firefighter

Section 11-3 Fire Lanes

CHAPTER 11. FIRE PROTECTION

Sec. 11-1. Hindering or Obstructing Fire Apparatus or Firefighter.

a) No person shall hinder or obstruct any fire apparatus or any firefighter, in freely passing along the streets to or from a fire, or in any manner from operating at any fire.

b) No person shall locate any vehicle, fence or any other thing in any front or side yard of any dwelling so as to hinder or obstruct any firefighter from free access to the front or rear of any such dwelling.

Sec. 11-2. Open Burning.

(a) No person shall burn any material outside of any building.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), a person, on a residential property, may cook food for human consumption outside of any building in an appliance manufactured for the safe cooking of such food.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), a person may, on a residential property, burn clean, non-processed wood in a fire pit, chiminea or other similar equipment provided (1) its use is solely for recreational enjoyment, ceremonial or religious purposes, (2) such equipment is no more than three feet in diameter at its widest point, (3) such equipment is located at least twenty-five feet from any structure and at least ten feet from the property line and (4) the fire is supervised at all times and there are adequate means to extinguish the fire including but not limited to water access, fire extinguishers, hoses, sand and shovels.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), a person may burn, on residential property, trees, branches, and brush that are no more than three inches in diameter at its widest point without the fire emissions passing through a flue or stack if such person is issued a permit by the open burning official nominated by the mayor pursuant to subsection (f) of section 22a-174 of the general statutes. Such permit shall be conditioned on (1) such burning complying with all applicable state and local laws; (2) reasonable safety precautions including limitation on the size of such fire to an area no larger than ten feet by ten feet, the maintenance of adequate extinguishing materials, the location of the fire more than fifty feet from any structure, the ability of the open burning official or designee to revoke such permit and order the immediate extinguishment of any fire found to be in violation of the permit.

Sec. 11-3 Fire Lanes.

(a) The Fire Marshal may designate any portion of any roadway, parking lot or parking area in _a

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shopping center or mall or property containing a commercial building or apartment complex as a fire lane. The owner of such property shall keep a designated fire lane reasonably free from ice, snow and any other obstruction and shall clearly designate such fire lane with signage, striping and other markings approved by the Fire Marshal.

(b) No person shall park any vehicle in any designated fire lane unless the operator remains in the vehicle.

Sec. 11-3a. Smoke Detectors Required.

Effective upon adoption of this Ordinance, all residential buildings designed to be occupied by two or more families shall have installed a smoke detector capable of sensing visible and invisible smoke particles and providing an alarm suitable to warn the occupants.

Sec. 11-4 Fire Hydrants; Use: Obstruction.

(a) No person shall open any fire hydrant unless authorized by the Chief of the Fire Department.

(b) The owner of a private property on which a fire hydrant is located shall maintain the area around the fire hydrant, keeping the area clear of weeds, rubbish, shrubs, fencing or any other material that could prohibit access of such fire hydrant for use or maintenance.

(c) The owner of a private property on which a fire hydrant is located shall, within eight hours after the end of any snow or sleet event or eight hours following the sunrise after the end of such event, whichever is later, remove any such accumulation on such hydrant and within a three foot radius of such hydrant. A three foot wide path shall be cleared from the hydrant to the adjacent street. Any owner who is in violation of this subsection may be issued a warning by the Fire Chief or designee directing such owner to take action to comply with the provisions of this subsection within three hours of the delivery of such notice to such owner.

(d) No person shall shovel, snowblow, plow or otherwise place snow or ice onto any fire hydrant except if such person is authorized by the town to clear a public road from such snow or ice.

(e) Any violation of this section, except subsection (d), shall be a violation of the Property Maintenance Code of the Town of East Hartford as contained in Article 3 of Chapter 7 of the town ordinances.

Sec. 11-4a. Private Fire Hydrants

(a) Any owner of property who is required to install private fire hydrants as a condition of site plan approval or to enhance fire protection, shall install and maintain a private water main and hydrants in accordance with the specifications and standards of the Metropolitan District Commission.

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(b) Any person who owns fire hydrants in accordance with subsection (a) shall annually pay for a maintenance service provided by the Metropolitan District Commission. The owner of such hydrants shall comply with the provisions of section 11-4 of the town ordinances [keep such hydrants clear of all obstructions and snow and ice, to assure access to such hydrants by town firefighters]. Such person shall maintain a file of hydrant maintenance reports on site for inspection by the Fire Chief or designee.

(c) The Fire Chief may order the owner of such hydrant to repair a defective hydrant by providing written notice of such order to the such owner.

(d) No person shall shovel, snowblow, plow or otherwise place snow or ice onto any fire hydrant except if such person is authorized by the town to clear a public road from such snow or ice.

(e) Any violation of this section, except subsection (d), shall be a violation of the Property Maintenance Code of the Town of East Hartford as contained in Article 3 of Chapter 7 of the town ordinances

Sec. 11-5. Access by Firefighters On Private Property

The owner of any property on which a one or two family residence is located shall maintain a safe and unobstructed means of egress from such residence to a public sidewalk or street. Exits from dwelling units, stairways and handrails shall be maintained in a manner required by the town's building, fire and property maintenance codes.

(Sections 11-1 through 11-5) Effective 03-18-21.