

AUTHORITY TO CHARGE AND COLLECT FEES FOR INSPECTIONS

The fire department shall charge fees to defray its administrative costs, (**Sacramento City Code section 2.24.090**), including but not limited to inspections by fire department personnel, in connection with all applications for a permit or clearance, or annual renewal thereof, required under the Uniform Fire Code, the California Health and Safety Code, Title 19 of the California Administrative Code, or the Sacramento City Code. The fees shall be set by resolution of the city council and shall be charged and collected at the time an application for a permit or clearance is made. The application fee shall not be refunded upon failure of an applicant to receive a permit or clearance or upon any revocation or suspension of a permit or clearance. No permit or clearance shall be valid until the required fee has been paid to the city revenue officer.

Local government must pay for providing these inspections since the state does not provide funding. A fire permit fee is charged to business and building owners, in order to recover the cost of these inspections.

California Health and Safety Code section 13146.2b Since no state funds are made available to locals to defray costs, this regulation allows local jurisdictions to charge and collect a fee for the inspection of a structure. In order to make such programs self supporting a resolution must be passed by city council giving the authority to charge a fee for the inspections and program administration.

For the fire department, this process began in September of 1984 with **Resolution #84-797**, which established fees, and **Ordinance #84-093** of the same date, which established the authority to charge fees to defray inspection costs, (effective October 1984). Once the program was approved by the city council, its administration is left to the discretion of the department.

Once established, fees and charges become amended or sustained on an Annual Fee and Charge Report which is reviewed and passed by the city council. In 1992, there was a **Fee and Charge Report Revision (#92-02)**, which increased fees for fire inspection cost recovery.

In 2004, **Resolution #2004-941** established permits and fees for single events and services, and increased the already established fees to levels needed to recover costs which had increased in the 1992-2004 time frame. The increase was spread over three fiscal years from 2004 to 2007. The current fees charged in 2009 are based on Resolution 178 fee and charge report adopted by city council on March 24th and implemented on May 1st.

FIRE PERMIT PROGRAM

Before permits are granted, an inspection must take place, and a permit fee paid. The list of permits is found in **Appendix Chapter 1**, (beginning with subsection 105.6.47 through 105.6.55) of the **California Fire Code**. The local regulations that amend fire permits and add permits are found in **City Code Title 15, Section 15.36**. This section also adopts the California Fire Code. Permits for hotels, motels and apartment complexes, and residential day care businesses are examples of added permits by the city code for our local jurisdiction.

A permit shall constitute permission to maintain, store or handle materials; or to conduct processes which produce conditions hazardous to life or property; or to install equipment utilized in connection with such activities; or to install or modify any fire protection system or equipment or any other construction, equipment installation or modification in accordance with the provisions of this code where a permit is required by CFC Appendix Chapter 1, Section 105.6 or 105.7. Such permission shall not be construed as authority to violate, cancel or set aside any of the provisions of the fire code or other applicable regulations or laws of the jurisdiction.

Permits shall be obtained from the fire code official. The permit fees shall be paid prior to issuance of the permit. Issued permits shall be kept on the premises at all times, and be readily available for inspection by the fire code official.

Examples of Operational Permits

- Aerosol products
- Amusement buildings
- Apartment buildings, hotels and motels
- Aviation facilities
- Carnivals and fairs
- Combustible dust-producing operations
- Combustible fibers and materials
- Compressed gases – including medical gas, flammable and toxic gas and asphyxiants
- Corrosive materials
- Covered mall buildings
- Cutting and welding
- Dry cleaning plants
- Explosives
- Flammable and combustible liquids –storage, manufacture and use
- Fumigation and thermal insecticidal fogging
- Hazardous materials
- High Piled Combustible Stock
- High rise buildings
- Hot work operations – including welding and cutting
- Marinas
- Places of Assembly
- Repair garages and motor fuel-dispensing facilities
- Self Certification Programs
- Spraying or dipping – combustible paints, lacquers, other flammables