

TITLE 5

Public Safety

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CHAPTER 1

Fire and Emergency Protection

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SEC. 5-1-1 FIRE PROTECTION.

(a) General Authority.

- (1) The Village Board shall provide for fire protection for the Village. Fire protection for the Village, or any portion of the Village, may be provided in any manner, including:

- a. Establishing a Village fire department.
 - b. Joining with another Village, village, or city to establish a joint fire department. If the Village Board establishes a joint fire department with a village under Sec. 61.65(2)(1)3, Wis. Stats., the Village Board shall create a joint board of fire commissioners with the village under Sec.61.65(2)(b)2, Wis. Stats.
 - c. Contracting with any person or unit of government.
 - d. Utilizing a fire company organized under Ch. 213, Wis. Stats.
- (2) The Village Board may provide for the equipping, staffing, housing, and maintenance of fire protection services.
- (b) **Funding.** The Village Board may:
- (1) Appropriate money to pay for fire protection in the Village.
 - (2) Charge property owners a fee for the cost of fire calls made to their property.
 - (3) Levy taxes on the entire Village to pay to for fire protection.
 - (4) Levy taxes on property served by a particular source of fire protection, to support the source of protection.
- (c) **Fire Department Officially Recognized; Organization.** The Village of Caledonia Fire Department is hereby officially recognized, and the duty of conducting the Fire Department is hereby delegated to such organization, and its organization and internal regulations shall be governed by the constitution and bylaws of that organization, insofar as they do not conflict with the provisions of this Chapter.

State Law Reference: Sec. 60.55, Wis. Stats.

SEC. 5-1-2 FIRE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED; DUTIES; POWERS.

- (a) **Organization.**
- (1) There shall be a Village of Caledonia Fire Department as established by the Village Board pursuant to state law. The duties of fire prevention and fire fighting in the Village of Caledonia are delegated to that Department.
 - (2) The organization and internal regulation of the Fire Department shall be governed by the provisions of this ordinance and by such rules and regulations as are, from time to time, issued by the Fire Chief.
- (b) **Personnel.**
- (1) There shall be a Fire Chief appointed by the Police and Fire Commission. The Fire Chief shall have general supervisory authority over the Fire Department and shall exercise all powers and authority as the Village Board shall, from time to time, vest in him.
 - (2) There shall be an Assistant Chief appointed by the Police and Fire Commission. The Assistant Chief shall have such responsibilities and exercise such authority as the Fire Chief shall, from time to time, direct.
 - (3) There shall be such additional officers and personnel as the Village Board shall, from time to time, direct. These officers and personnel shall perform the duties assigned to them by the Fire Chief, his assignees and the Village Board.

SEC. 5-1-3 AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Village Board shall contract for or operate and maintain ambulance services unless such services are provided by another person. The Village Board may purchase equipment for medical and other emergency calls.

State Law Reference: Sec. 60.565, Wis. Stats.

SEC. 5-1-4 IMPEDING FIRE EQUIPMENT PROHIBITED.

No person shall impede the progress of a fire engine, fire truck or other fire apparatus of a Fire Department along the streets, roads or alleys of the Village of Caledonia at the time of a fire or when a Fire Department is using such streets or alleys in response to a fire alarm or for practice.

SEC. 5-1-5 POLICE POWER OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

(a) Police Authority at Fires.

- (1) The Chief and Assistants or officers in command of a Fire Department at any fire are hereby vested with full and complete police authority at fires. Any officer of a Fire Department may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right-of-way to a Fire Department in responding to a fire.
- (2) The Fire Chief may prescribe certain limits in the vicinity of any fire within which no persons, excepting firemen and law enforcement officers and those admitted by order of any officer of the Department, shall be permitted to come.
- (3) The Fire 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 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.

(b) Firemen to Have Powers of Traffic Officers. Members of a Fire Department, when at the scene of a fire or other emergency, or when Fire Department vehicles are upon the street pursuant to an emergency call, shall have the authority and duty of traffic officers to direct traffic, as conditions require, notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter.

SEC. 5-1-6 FIRE INSPECTIONS.

- (a) The Fire Chief and Assistant Chiefs of the fire department serving the Village of Caledonia shall be the Fire Inspectors of the Village of Caledonia 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 Industry, Labor and Human Relations, particularly Sec. 101.14, Wis. Stats.
- (b) While acting as Fire Inspectors pursuant to Sec. 101.14(2), Wis. Stats., the Fire Chief, or any officer of the Fire Department designated by the Fire Chief, shall have the right and

authority to enter any building or upon any premises in the Village of Caledonia at all reasonable hours for the purpose of making inspections or investigations which, under the provisions of this Code of Ordinances, he may deem necessary. Should the Fire inspector find that any provisions of this Code 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 duty to give such directions for the abatement of such conditions as he shall deem necessary and, if such directions be not complied with, to report such noncompliance to the Village Board for further action.

- (c) The Chief of the Fire Department is required, by himself or by officers or members of the Fire Department designated by him as fire inspectors, to inspect all buildings, premises and public thoroughfares, except the interiors of private dwellings, for the purpose of 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 in six (6) months in all of the territory served by the Fire Department and oftener as the Chief of the Fire Department orders. Each six (6) month period shall begin on January 1 and July 1 of each year.
- (d) Written reports of inspections shall be made and kept on file in the office of the Chief of the Fire Department in the manner and form required by the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations. A copy of such reports shall be filed with the Village Clerk.

State Law Reference: Sec. 101.14(2), Wis. Stats.

(e) **Fire Prevention Inspection Fees.**

- (1) An annual fire prevention inspection fee shall be charged to the property owner of each residential, commercial, industrial and institutional building within the Village. For purposes of this Subsection only, "residential" shall mean buildings composed of 4 or more dwelling units.
- (2) The annual fee, the amount of which shall be set from time to time by resolution of the Village Board, shall constitute a special charge against the property, pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 66.0627.
- (3) If not paid by October 15 of each year, the annual fire prevention inspection fee shall be considered delinquent and shall automatically be included in the current or next year's tax roll for collection and settlement under Wis. Stats. Chapter 74.
- (4) All buildings owned by the United States, the State of Wisconsin, Racine County, and the Village of Caledonia shall be exempt from this fire prevention inspection fee.
- (5) A fee schedule adopted pursuant to sub (2) above shall provide that the fee for industrial, commercial and institutional buildings shall be based on the total square footage thereof. Total floor area shall be used for purposes of computing square footage. A single fee shall be calculated per building, based on the total square footage thereof, regardless of whether such building is comprised of separate occupancies, and a separate fee shall be calculated for each separate building. The fee for residential buildings, hotels and motels shall be based on the number of dwelling units therein.
- (6) A reinspection fee shall be charged to the property owner for each and every reinspection required under this ordinance. The reinspection fee shall be set, from time-to-time by resolution of the Village Board, and shall constitute a special charge against the property, pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 66.0627, and shall be collected in the same method as the annual fire inspection fee under this ordinance.

SEC. 5-1-7 DAMAGING FIRE HOSE PROHIBITED; PARKING BY HYDRANTS; BLOCKING FIRE LANES.

- (a) **Driving Over Fire Hose.** No person shall willfully injure in any manner any hose, hydrant or fire apparatus belonging to a Fire Department, and no vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of a Fire Department 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.
- (b) **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.
- (c) **No Parking Near Fire.** It shall be unlawful for any person, in case of fire, to drive or park any vehicle within one block from the place of fire without the consent and authority of the Fire Chief or any law enforcement officer.

SEC. 5-1-8 FIREMEN MAY ENTER ADJACENT PROPERTY.

- (a) **Entering Adjacent Property.** It shall be lawful for any fireman while acting under the direction of a 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 fireman in the discharge of his duty as is hereinbefore provided, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of resisting firemen in the discharge of their duty.
- (b) **Destruction of Property to Prevent the Spread of Fire.** During the progress of any fire, a Fire Chief or his assistant 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.

SEC. 5-1-9 DUTY OF BYSTANDERS TO ASSIST.

Every person who shall be present at a fire shall be subject to the orders of a 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.

SEC. 5-1-10 VEHICLES TO YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY.

Whenever there shall be a fire or fire alarm or the Fire Department shall be out for practice, 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.

SEC. 5-1-11 CHARGES FOR FIRE CALLS ON HIGHWAYS.

- (a) There is hereby imposed upon and charged a fire call charge to the owner or user at the time of the fire call of the property involved in a fire call response by the Caledonia Fire

Department on any of the following highways within the Village of Caledonia: county trunk highways, state trunk highways, and any highways which are a part of the national system of interstate highways. The fire call charge shall be in the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) and shall cover the cost of such fire call.

- (b) The Fire Chief of the Village of Caledonia shall submit statements for such charges to all such owners or users of the property subject to a fire call on such highways as soon as practical following the completion of the fire call. All such charges shall be paid to the Village Treasurer, who shall report monthly to the Fire Chief as to all such charges as were collected during the preceding month.

SEC. 5-1-12 BURNING OF CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS.

The burning of construction debris, such as wood scraps, shingles, insulation, etc., in or adjacent to a subdivision in the Village of Caledonia is prohibited, regardless of whether such burning is done by the property owner, contractor or other person responsible for the site.