



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



Department of Consumer
and Business Services

Building official and fire official collaboration in plan review and inspection

The Oregon State Fire Marshal and Building Codes Division are committed to growing public safety within the built environment, while also helping ensure regulated building construction proceeds in a timely efficient manner. The OSFM and BCD continue to clarify roles and responsibilities of the building department and the fire service. Legislation and advice from the Department of Justice have helped clarify the role of building officials and fire officials, which has been consistently relayed to local representatives through our agency partnership over the past decade. The Building Codes Division has authority to regulate construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair and set forth all associated construction standards for governed buildings and other structures. The Oregon State Fire Marshal has broad authority to establish minimum fire and life safety standards for the protection of life and property for existing buildings, facilities, storage and operational processes which include maintenance requirements in occupied buildings, evaluation of adequate fire apparatus, access road requirements, firefighting water supplies for building sites, and more.

Good working relationships between the building department and the fire service result in increased efficiency and better outcomes for customers. In support of that goal, each building inspection program must have a written agreed upon plan outlining how the building official and fire official collaborate in the plan review and inspection of new construction permits. As outlined in ORS 455.148(8) " ... the plan must specify how cooperation with the State Fire Marshal or a designee of the State Fire Marshal will be achieved..." Fire officials, by law, are provided the opportunity to offer advice and input to the building official.

The purpose of this agreement and plan is to clarify for all parties at the local level that building officials make final decisions for those matters governed by the state building code, which includes those areas that fire officials review when conducting ongoing maintenance inspections. The local plan is intended to describe how local building officials and fire officials plan to coordinate efforts, working collaboratively to ensure the state requirements are conveyed consistently to local customers. Providing opportunity for input is vital, and projects should not be unnecessarily delayed or held past any time commitments made to the customer. Working together with timely service delivery at the forefront will help ensure the shared performance objectives continue to be obtained.

Our agencies and technical teams remain available to support our local partners in pursuit of these joint objectives and will continue our ongoing collaboration into the future.

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