

MCFR INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: May 18, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Bob Palmer, Fire Chief

ISSUE: Public hearing to consider Amending Article 10.3.030.020 of The Dalles Municipal Code, Title 10 - Land Use and Development

BACKGROUND: In August of 2019, Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue brought a discussion item to the City of The Dalles Community Development Department suggesting a code language revision to The Dalles Municipal Code, Title 10 Land Use and Development. The objective for this discussion on code amendments was to ensure that adequate and appropriate emergency services were available for larger developments in our community and that those developments would not detract from the community emergency services currently established.

Over the course of time, our community has continued to develop and grow due to the successes of the City's economic development program. MCFR certainly promotes and encourages economic growth and the vitality that this brings to our community.

MCFR's mission is to provide professional services and education that minimizes loss of life and property. Considering such growth, MCFR must provide an adequate level of service to meet the expectations of both the City and the community that we serve.

MCFR currently maintains an Insurance Services Office (ISO) class of 3/9. We continue to look for ways to improve this rating and correspondingly strive to meet the fire protection standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) which ISO uses as their model to classify fire departments.

Throughout history, the Fire Service's primary goals have remained virtually unchanged. First and foremost is Life Safety in the protection of workers, citizens, and visitors. Second is Property Conservation, or the protection of our community resources, infrastructure and investments. These cannot be taken for granted, nor can the abilities of the Fire District to do so.

MCFR is committed to ensuring we effectively meet these goals. Even though new development is both modern and state-of-the-art, it is certainly not immune to the occurrence of incidents which could result in either significant direct or indirect loss to our community.

The opportunity to engage in dialogue with business and industry on their expectations surrounding their fire protection needs and assumptions will enable MCFR the means

required to adequately respond to and protect the community's citizens, infrastructure and investments. The amendment to Article 10.3.030.020 of The Dalles Municipal Code, Title 10 - Land Use and Development as proposed is designed for this purpose.

WHAT WILL THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE (EMR) PLAN ENCOMPASS?

The purpose of the EMR Plan is to educate MCFR on the proposed project while guiding the applicant through various topics to better understand Fire and Life Safety impacts to the community.

The scope of the EMR Plan relates to Emergency Medical, Fire, Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Incidents. This plan does not cover such incidents relating to Law Enforcement activities.

Following the process, the applicant would submit a plan to the fire district to include all items below. If the applicant chooses to follow a different format, they must ensure they address all items in the outline.

Section 1 – Introduction

1.1 Project Description

- This section should describe in detail the building(s), intended use of the facility, and any other information the fire district needs to know about the proposal.

1.2 Site Plan including building description(s) and identification

- Overall site plan showing parcel(s) and proposed siting on the parcel

1.3 Expected Employment Information

- Construction phase – expected number of people working on site in total
- Occupancy phase – expected number of people working in total

Section 2 – Emergency Communications – During Construction

2.1 External Communication

- This section should describe how the applicant plans to communicate with the fire district.

2.2 Internal Communication and Response Planning

- Describe how the applicant will conduct and provide for emergency communications within their building(s) as well as how they will communicate with responders.
- Describe the applicants understanding and previous use of an incident management methodology such as the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Describe whether a Responder Radio System will be necessary.

2.3 Site Access during construction/communications

- Any special access requirements for inspection personnel? Can this access be granted prior to any of the required site visits?
- Will a Non-Discloser Agreement need to be completed for access during construction?

2.4 Construction Documents, Internal Response Plans

- When construction documents become available, describe how the applicant will share at least one set of the construction documents relating to Fire and Life Safety items, to include Fire Alarm and Suppression Systems, Life Safety Plan with occupant loads and egress planning, site plan showing water system and Fire Department Connection.

2.5 Responding Agencies and Nearest Hospital

- Fire
- EMS
- Law Enforcement

Section 3 – Specific Hazards

3.1 Energy Control Systems

- Describe any specialized Energy Controls Systems that may be involved in this project.

3.2 Back-Up Energy Systems

- Describe any on-site Back-Up energy systems that will be included in the project to include fuel storage.

3.4 Other Specific Hazards

- Describe any other specific hazards that may be involved in this project.

Section 4 – Emergency Policies and Procedures

4.1 Key Contact Personnel with contact methods.

- Include contact information for those individuals that will be communicating with the fire district including name, position, phone and email.

4.2 Access to Site and Building(s) during an Emergency

- Describe any special access requirements for incidents during construction.
- Describe any special access requirements for incidents after occupancy.

4.3 Roles and Expectations of response by the Fire District

- What is their expectation of a response for the following types of incidents?
 - Medical/Trauma Incident
 - Fire Alarm or other service call
 - Technical Rescue – From height or confined space
 - Hazardous Materials Incidents

4.4 Internal Emergency Response Plan, Evacuation Plan and Employee Meeting Areas

- Describe internal safety measures the applicant will have such as basic mitigation training, HAZWOPER, Emergency Response Team, and/or Fire Brigade.

Section 5 – Fire Prevention

5.1 Cultural Practices

- Describe how the applicant will handle Fire Prevention activities such as fire extinguisher monthly inspections, annual systems testing and maintenance, smoking on site or other such fire prevention type activities.
- Emergency Education and Site Safety Training

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR AN APPLICANT TO SUBMIT AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE (EMR) PLAN?

Step 1: Decision to apply.

Step 2: Complete response plan(s).

Step 3: Submit response plan(s) and application to City of The Dalles Community and Economic Development department.

Step 4: MCFR reviews and assesses plan components to include: 1) applicant's expectations; 2) safety; 3) adequate fire protection; 4) impact on resources; 5) applicable National Fire Protection Association standards.

Step 5: MCFR and applicant meet to review EMR plan.

Step 6: MCFR makes decision to: 1) approve plan; 2) approve plan with conditions; or 3) not accept the plan.

Step 7: Plan submitted to City of The Dalles Community and Economic Development Department for site team review approval process.

Step 8: Applicant follows Site Team requirements.

CONCLUSION: MCFR appreciates the City Council's consideration of amending Article 10.3.030.020 of The Dalles Municipal Code, Title 10 - Land Use and Development that is designed to enable MCFR to meet the emergency response expectations of the City and those that we serve. It is our desire to work in harmony with the City to adequately achieve our primary goals of Life Safety and Property Conservation. Thank you for working with MCFR on this important initiative.