

TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION & CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE
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MASSACHUSETTS MOVES TO NEW FIRE PREVENTION CODE

New Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code effective January 1, 2015

SOUTHBOROUGH, MA – Effective January 1, 2015, the Massachusetts Fire Prevention Code will transition from the current 527 Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) chapters 1 – 50, to the “Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code”.

The new Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code (to be known as “527 CMR 1.00”) adopts, in large part, the National Fire Prevention Association’s (NFPA) Model Fire Code (NFPA-1, 2012 Edition), with Massachusetts amendments. These amendments largely consist of parts of the discounting 527 CMR chapters 1-50, which the State feels are vital to remain to ensure a “fully comprehensive” code. Additionally, the NFPA 1 document has been edited (deletions, changes & additions) by the State to make it more focused towards “Massachusetts” rather than that of a general “National” document. Such amendments and edits are common practice when any state adopts NFPA codes.

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services (DFS) stated that; “The new code should result in an improved, more comprehensive fire safety code, using consensus standards recognized throughout the nation.”

In general, the new code will not contain many drastic changes to the current CMR 527 codes and Massachusetts General Law 148 will remain fully enforceable. However, there will be significant changes to the permitting process for the installation and/or renovation of Fire Alarm & Fire Suppression Systems. Any such work in a structure that requires a permit from the Local Building Department will now be processed through that department. The Local Fire Department will continue to review all building and system plans and conduct final inspections but will no longer issue separate permits or charge associated fees. Permits for the shut-down or disabling of any Fire Alarm or Suppression System must still be obtained through the Local Fire Department.

The public and especially contractors of all trades are strongly urged to review and learn the new Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code. Information can be accessed through the DFS website at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/dfs2/osfm/fire-prev/comprehensive-model-fire-code.html>

The Southborough Building and Fire Departments are working together closely to ensure a smooth transition and will continue to work unified moving forth. Both Departments ask for the public’s patience and understanding as we all learn and implement the new codes.

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