Exempt Jurisdictions: Commercial vs. Residential

Our office is open during business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We are closed on major holidays.

In a commercial context, the building is titled “first floor.” This is important to know when scheduling inspections and other related activities. In a residential context, the building is titled “ground floor.”

The Saskatchewan Building Code (SBC) is adopted by municipalities and non-municipal territories to ensure that buildings are constructed in a safe and effective manner. The SBC is a set of regulations that govern the design, construction, and safety standards of buildings.

Codes Success Story: In November 2019, a sprinkler activation at a cabin in Pigeon Forge helped limit damage at a $1.2 million property to just $15,000.

Employee Spotlight: Happy Retirement Fred Garbler! Fred Garbler started with the State of Tennessee in 1971 as a firefighter, EMT, and Fire Chief. He has served in the fire service for over 46 years, including as Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance Assistant Commissioner Gary and as a Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) manager. Fred will retire following his term as a Plans Review Supervisor in 2003, and eventually as Codes Manager in 2008.

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance is responsible for regulating the fire safety of buildings and enforcing building codes. The agency ensures that buildings are constructed in a safe and effective manner, and that they meet the standards set by the State of Tennessee.

Codes Corner: Tennessee’s Building Codes

The codes in place today are the result of a long process of development and refinement. A listing of the State’s currently adopted codes is available here. Each county or municipality may adopt additional codes to meet specific local needs.

Jurisdictions:

Exempt jurisdictions are those that have been approved by the State to adopt local codes. Exempt jurisdictions may adopt codes that are less stringent than the State’s minimums. However, all jurisdictions must have a fire marshal on staff in order to become an exempt jurisdiction.

The regulation of building construction is not a modern invention. Socrates once worked in Plans Review. He became Plans Review Supervisor in 2003, and eventually Codes Manager in 2008.

Building codes are written to prevent the recurrence of past problems and to protect the safety of the public. Building codes are enforced by local codes enforcement offices, which are responsible for ensuring that buildings are constructed in accordance with the codes.

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance is responsible for regulating the fire safety of buildings and enforcing building codes. The agency ensures that buildings are constructed in a safe and effective manner, and that they meet the standards set by the State of Tennessee.

There is an exception to these minimum requirements in non-exempt jurisdictions. Non-exempt jurisdictions may adopt local codes to meet specific local needs. However, all jurisdictions must have a fire marshal on staff in order to become an exempt jurisdiction.

Building codes and standards are provided with a series of codes, specifications, and materials. The codes are designed to prevent fire and protect the safety of the public.

Building codes and standards are used by architects, engineers, and builders to ensure that buildings are constructed in a safe and effective manner. Building codes and standards are also used to ensure that buildings meet the requirements of the International Building Code.

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