

## Ordinance 2025-6

### Fire Inspections

#### **Preamble**

WHEREAS, the Town of Wood River is dedicated to the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, regular fire inspections are a proven method for mitigating fire hazards, ensuring compliance with fire safety codes, and protecting life and property; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin law and administrative code allow municipalities to establish a schedule of fire inspections;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Wood River, Burnett County Wisconsin, does hereby ordain as follows:

#### **Section 1. Purpose and Intent**

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish the authority and responsibility for conducting annual fire safety inspections within the Town of Wood River. The intent is to identify and correct potential fire hazards to ensure the safety of all occupants, visitors, and emergency responders.

#### **Section 2. Designation of Fire Inspector**

The Fire Chief of the Grantsburg Fire Department shall serve as the primary Fire Inspector. The Fire Chief conducting fire inspections shall have the proper training and certification as required by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

#### **Section 3. Scope of Inspection**

**(a) Annual Inspections.** The Fire Inspector shall perform fire inspections at least once per calendar year, with the interval between inspections not exceeding 15 months, on all public buildings and places of employment as defined by Wisconsin Statutes. The Fire Inspector may schedule more frequent or unannounced inspections as deemed necessary.

**(b) Excluded Properties.** The interior of private, single-family and two-family dwellings is exempt from routine annual inspections unless a fire hazard is reported, or as otherwise provided by law.

**(c) Areas of Inspection.** Inspections shall be conducted to ensure compliance with the Wisconsin Fire Prevention Code (SPS 314), the currently adopted version of NFPA 1, and any other relevant state and local ordinances. The inspection shall cover, but not be limited to:

1. Fire protection systems, including alarms, extinguishers, and sprinklers.
2. Emergency and exit lighting.
3. Exit routes and passageways.
4. Storage of hazardous or flammable materials.
5. Electrical hazards.
6. Building maintenance and general housekeeping.
7. Occupancy load and use.

#### **Section 4. Right of Entry**

The Fire Inspector shall have the authority to enter and inspect any premises, except private dwellings as noted above, at all reasonable hours for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this ordinance. In cases of emergency, the Fire Inspector may enter any premises at any time to mitigate an immediate threat.

#### **Section 5. Notification and Correction of Hazards**

**(a) Written Notice.** If a fire hazard is discovered during an inspection, the Fire Inspector shall issue a written notice to the property owner or occupant, detailing the violation and specifying a reasonable timeframe for correction.

**(b) Failure to Comply.** If the owner or occupant fails to correct the fire hazard within the designated timeframe, the violation shall be deemed a public nuisance. The Fire Inspector may then issue a citation or take other legal action to enforce compliance.

## **Section 6. Maintenance of Records**

The Fire Chief shall be responsible for maintaining a written record of all properties inspected, including the date of inspection, findings, and any follow-up actions. These records shall be maintained for at least seven years, as required by state law.

## **Section 7. Severability**

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be unconstitutional, illegal, or otherwise invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

## **Section 8. Effective Date**


This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed and adopted this 10th day of September, 2025


**Attest:**

  
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Chairman

  
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Clerk

  
Sheri Meyer  
Tina Chell

