

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 _____

**AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CODE CHAPTER 279 TITLED FIRE PREVENTION
STANDARDS**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 279 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF
LATROBE, COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND, COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA – TITLED FIRE PREVENTION STANDARDS**

WHEREAS, the City of Latrobe seeks to modernize and strengthen its fire prevention regulations by repealing outdated provisions and adopting the most recent editions of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards, including all supplements, modifications, and revised editions issued after the enactment of this chapter, as reflected in the updated Fire Prevention Code; and,

WHEREAS, the City finds it necessary to replace the existing Chapter 279 in its entirety to ensure consistency with current IFC and NFPA fire safety requirements, improve administrative and enforcement procedures, and enhance public safety by reducing hazards and ensuring safer occupancy conditions throughout the community; and,

WHEREAS, the City seeks to enhance public safety by strengthening building standards to reduce hazards and ensure safer occupancy conditions and,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted and ordained by the Council of the City of Latrobe, and the City of Latrobe hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 279 – Fire Prevention Standards be repealed and replaced as outlined on the attached Exhibit A.

SECTION 2. Nothing in this Ordinance hereby adopted shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired or liability incurred, or any cause of action acquired or existing under any prior ordinance or regulation; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired, or affected by this Ordinance. In the event any regulation contained herein conflicts with a regulation established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and enforced by its agencies, the state regulation shall preempt the applicable local ordinance section.

SECTION 3. That the within Ordinance shall take effect no later than (30) days following the date of publication of the post-enactment notice of passage

SECTION 4. That the City Manager, The City Council Secretary, Mayor and any other proper City official is authorized and directed to execute any and all documents and to take any action necessary in order to carry in effect the within ordinance.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this _____ day of September October, 2026.

ATTEST:

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LATROBE:

Janina Hall, Council Secretary

By:

Eric Bartels, Mayor

§ 279-1. Adoption of standards; International Fire Code.

The 2021 edition of the International Fire Code, including all errata issued by the International Code Council, is hereby adopted in its entirety with the following amendments:

- A. In Section 101.1, entitled, "Title," insert: "City of Latrobe."
- B. In Section 112.4, insert "summary offense", "up to \$600.00", and "thirty (30) days", in the [SPECIFY OFFENSE], [AMOUNT], and [NUMBER OF DAYS] locations.

§ 279-2. Adoption of standards; National Fire Protection Association.

The following National Fire Protection Association codes and standards are hereby adopted in their entirety:

- A. NFPA 101 – Life Safety Code (2024)
- B. NFPA 72 – National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (2025)
- C. NFPA 13 – Standard for Installation of Sprinkler Systems (2022-2025)
- D. NFPA 25 – Inspection, Testing, & Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (2026)
- E. NFPA 70 – National Electrical Code (2023)
- F. NFPA 82 – Standard on Incinerators (2024)

§ 279-3. Additional standards.

The City of Latrobe Fire Prevention Code is amended and changed in the following respects:

- A. Whenever the Fire Chief or any of his properly authorized inspectors under National Fire Code of the most recently adopted edition shall find in any building or upon any premises dangerous or hazardous conditions or materials as hereafter listed, he shall report such conditions to the Code Enforcement Officer, who shall serve notice on the owner, operator or occupant as is prescribed by the International Fire Code.
- B. At automotive service stations, storage tanks containing Class I or Class II liquids installed of necessity in accordance with the most recently adopted International Fire Code and national Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards shall not exceed 8,000 gallons' individual or 24,000 gallons' aggregate capacity.
- C. At automotive service stations, storage tanks shall be built of steel except as provided in accordance with the most recently adopted International Fire Code and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) code and standards. All steel tanks must be Harco SRC System or a comparable system and installed in accordance with manufacturer's regulations. In lieu of steel tanks, fiberglass tanks may be used, provided that the same meet the requirements of the IFC and NFPA codes and standards.
- D. In addition to all other requirements of this Fire Prevention Code, every self-service filling station located in the City of Latrobe shall comply with the following regulations:

- i. There shall be installed on each service island a total suppression system designed by a suppression system engineer comparable or equivalent to or better than the Walter Kidde Fire Suppression Systems and approved by the Fire Chief of the City of Latrobe or such other person as may be designated by the Fire Chief or City of Latrobe Council from time to time.
- ii. The fire suppression system shall have an automatic firing capability and also a manual firing capability from the service island and from the control point in the self-service station and not more distant than 10 feet from the attendant in the self-service station.
- iii. There shall also be installed for each self-service station a fire alarm box and an audio and visual alarm, self-energized, located on the exterior of the structure of the station and so installed to activate automatically if there is a firing of the suppression system either automatically or manually.
- iv. There shall also be installed a manual pull station located at the control desk at the control point of the station and not more distant than 10 feet from the attendant on duty.
- v. Any service station offering full service with attendant or combination of full service and attendant and self-service which after the effective date of this subsection, replaces or renews pump islands, storage tanks or supply lines to dispensing pumps must install an overhead suppression system as specified in this subsection covering all islands the same as required for self-service stations and be fully automatic as set forth herein.
- vi. Each such suppression system must be tested with an appropriate live test after installation and prior to approval and thereafter at least once in each five years or more frequently as requested by the Fire Chief, as the Fire Chief may reasonably deem appropriate or necessary.
- vii. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all new and existing self-service and full-service stations in the City of Latrobe.

§ 279-4. Limits of district in which storage of explosives and blasting agents is prohibited.

Storage of explosives and blasting agents is prohibited within the limits of the City of Latrobe without a permit signed by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Fire Chief.

§ 279-5. Limits of district in which storage of flammable liquids in outside aboveground tanks is prohibited.

The following area is hereby designated as the district within which flammable liquids may be stored in above-ground tanks located outdoors:

- A. The storage of flammable liquids is prohibited everywhere within the City of Latrobe except those areas that are within industrial zones, and these only with a permit signed by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Fire Chief.

- B. New bulk plants for flammable or combustible liquids are prohibited everywhere within the City of Latrobe except those areas that are within industrial zones, and these only with a permit signed by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Fire Chief.

§ 279-6. Limits of district in which bulk storage of liquefied petroleum gas is restricted.

Bulk storage of liquefied petroleum gas is prohibited everywhere within the City of Latrobe except those areas that are within industrial zones, and these only with a permit signed by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Fire Chief.

§ 279-7. Incinerators.

- A. Prohibition of residential incinerators. No device or apparatus utilized for the process of burning shall be used as an incinerator for the burning of refuse materials. It shall not be unlawful for any furnace, wood-burning stove or fireplace to be utilized for the burning of traditional fossil fuels, including but not limited to oil, coal, gas or wood, for the purpose of home heating; provided, further, however, that the burning of any solid materials during late spring, summer or early fall when the temperature shall be 65° or greater shall be deemed for the purpose of incinerating and shall not be deemed for the purpose of home heating.
- B. Regulation of commercial/industrial incinerators. Any incinerator utilized in a commercial or industrial establishment shall meet all requirements of the NFPA 82 – Standard on Incinerators. No such commercial or industrial incinerator shall, after the effective date of this section, be installed without a permit obtained from the Fire Chief. Any permit application shall include sufficient information to identify the commercial or industrial incinerator and the site on which it is proposed to be constructed, and to demonstrate that the installation will comply with all applicable NFPA standards. The Fire Chief shall inspect the final installation and, thereafter, issue a certificate of acceptance.
- C. Violations and penalties. Any person, which shall include but not be limited to an individual or individuals, partnership or corporation, who shall violate the provisions of this section, shall, upon conviction by a ~~District Justice~~ Magisterial District Judge with appropriate jurisdiction, be subject to a fine or penalty up to \$600. Each separate violation shall constitute a separate offense. Further, the City of Latrobe may, in addition to seeking a fine or penalty pursuant to this provision, invoke any and all other remedies at law or equity to eliminate said violation.

§ 279-8. Interpretation

If any provision of this chapter is found to be in conflict with any provision of Chapter 166 Zoning, Chapter 132 Property Maintenance, Chapter 117 Construction Codes, Uniform, the provision which establishes the highest standard for the promotion and protection of the health and safety of the people shall prevail.

§ 279-9. Severability.

Should any section or provision of this article be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of this article as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

§ 279-10. Title.

This chapter shall be known hereafter as the "City of Latrobe Fire Prevention Code."