

CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BEXLEY
PART SIXTEEN - FIRE PREVENTION CODE

Chap. 1610. Ohio Fire Code.

Chap. 1620. Fireworks.

CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BEXLEY
PART SIXTEEN - FIRE PREVENTIION CODE

CHAPTER 1610
Ohio Fire Code

<p>1610.01 Adoption. 1610.02 Purpose. 1610.03 Application. 1610.04 Enforcement. 1610.05 Compliance. 1610.06 Posting arson laws. 1610.07 Setting fires which spread. 1610.08 Unfriendly fires in buildings; alarm duties.</p>	<p>1610.09 Disclosure of true Fire Safety Inspector status. 1610.10 Fire equipment sale or use; certification of installers. 1610.11 Copies. 1610.12 Conflict. 1610.99 Penalty.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law
 Appeals of orders - see Ohio R.C. 119.12
 State certification of firefighters - see Ohio R.C. 737.08,
 737.22, 3737.33
 State certification of Fire Safety Inspectors - see Ohio R.C.
 3737.01(C), 3737.34
 Fire investigation - see Ohio R.C. 737.27, 3737.24 et seq.
 Entry and Inspection - see Ohio R.C. 737.34 et seq.,
 3737.14, 3737.41, 3737.42
 Common Pleas Court jurisdiction - see Ohio R.C. 3737.44(A),
 3737.51(H)
 Ohio Fire Code - see Ohio R.C. 3737.82 et seq.; OAC Ch.
 1301:7-1 et seq.
 Fire extinguishing and alarm systems in rest and nursing
 homes - see Ohio R.C. 3721.071
 Self-service filling stations - see Ohio R.C. 3741.14
 Fireworks exhibitions - see Ohio R.C. 3743.50 et seq.

1610.01 ADOPTION.

The Ohio Fire Code (OFC) as adopted, from time to time, by the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshall, Department of Commerce, and published in Division 1301:7 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) is hereby adopted as the City fire prevention code, and the city fire code official shall be authorized to enforce the provisions of the Ohio Fire Code. (Ord. 78-06. Passed 11-14-06.)

1610.02 PURPOSE.

The purpose of the Ohio Fire Code as adopted herein is to prescribe minimum standards and regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion.

1610.03 APPLICATION.

The Ohio Fire Code as adopted herein applies to the use of all lands and properties within the Municipality and such other lands or properties owned by the Municipality which are situated outside the corporate limits thereof.

1610.04 ENFORCEMENT.

(a) No person shall serve as Municipal Fire Safety Inspector unless he has received a certificate issued by the Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction under Ohio R.C. 3303.07 evidencing his satisfactory completion of a fire safety inspection training program. (ORC 3737.34)

(b) For Municipal criminal proceedings, the complaint, warrant or summons, or the issuance of a citation in minor misdemeanor cases shall be, as is prescribed in the Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure, by referencing the numerical designation of the applicable Municipal ordinance, including the specific provision of the Ohio Fire Code, or any order issued pursuant thereto, provided such order fixes a reasonable time for abatement of the violation. State enforcement proceedings for violation of Ohio R.C. Chapter 3737 or the Ohio Fire Code shall be as is prescribed in Ohio R.C. 3737.41 to 3737.46.

(c) A copy of such complaint or citation shall be prominently posted at or near each place a violation referred to occurs.

(d) Upon request of the Municipal Fire Safety Inspector, the Municipal Legal Officer shall institute and prosecute any necessary action or proceeding to enforce this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 3737.

1610.05 COMPLIANCE.

(a) No person shall knowingly violate any provision of the Ohio Fire Code as adopted herein or any order issued pursuant thereto. (ORC 3737.51(A))

(b) No person shall fail to comply with the fire prevention measures or fire protection activities as prescribed in the Ohio Fire Code, or fail to obtain a permit or license for the various uses or activities as required by such Code, or fail to comply with the Municipal application and plan submission and processing requirements including payment of the fees designated therefor.

1610.06 POSTING ARSON LAWS.

The owner, operator or lessee of any transient residential building shall post the provisions of Ohio R.C. 2909.02 and 2909.03 in a conspicuous place in each room occupied by guests in such building. The owner, operator or lessee of any nontransient residential building, institution, school or place of assembly shall post the provisions of such sections in conspicuous places upon such premises. No person shall fail to comply with this section. (ORC 3737.61)

1610.07 SETTING FIRES WHICH SPREAD.

No person shall set, kindle or cause to be set or kindled any fire, which through his negligence, spreads beyond its immediate confines to any structure, field or wood lot. (ORC 3737.62)

1610.08 UNFRIENDLY FIRES IN BUILDING; ALARM DUTIES.

(a) The owner, operator or lessee, an employee of any owner, operator or lessee, an occupant, and any person in direct control of any building regulated under the Ohio Basic Building Code, upon the discovery of an unfriendly fire, or upon receiving information that there is an unfriendly fire on the premises, shall immediately, and with all reasonable dispatch and diligence, call or otherwise notify the Fire Department concerning the fire, and shall spread an alarm immediately to all occupants of the building.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "unfriendly fire" means a fire of a destructive nature as distinguished from a controlled fire intended for a beneficial purpose.

(c) No person shall fail to comply with this section. (ORC 3737.63)

1610.09 DISCLOSURE OF TRUE FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR STATUS.

No person who is not a certified Fire Safety Inspector shall act as such or hold himself out to be such, unless prior to commencing any inspection function, he discloses the purpose for which he is making such inspection and the fact that he is not employed by any state or local fire service or agency, and that he is not acting in an official capacity for any governmental subdivision or agency. (ORC 3737.64)

1610.10 FIRE EQUIPMENT SALE OR USE; CERTIFICATION OF INSTALLERS.

(a) No person shall sell, offer for sale, or use any fire protection or fire fighting equipment that does not meet the minimum standards established by the Ohio Fire Marshal in the Ohio Fire Code.

(b) Except for public and private mobile fire trucks, no person shall service, test, repair or install for profit any fire protection or fire fighting equipment without a certificate issued by the Ohio Fire Marshal. (ORC 3737.65)

1610.11 COPIES.

Copies of Codes as adopted in this chapter are on file with the Council Clerk for inspection by the public, and also on file in the County Law Library, and the Clerk has copies available for distribution to the public at cost.

1610.12 CONFLICT.

(a) The rules of the Ohio Board of Building Standards including the Ohio Basic Building Code shall supersede and govern any order, standard or rule of the Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal including the Ohio Fire Code, in all cases where such orders, standards or rules are in conflict with such rules or the Ohio Basic Building Code, except that rules adopted and orders issued by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 3743 entitled "Fireworks" prevail in the event of conflict. (OAC 4101:2-1-04(B))

(b) In all other cases of conflict between the Ohio Fire Code and any other Municipal ordinance or technical code adopted thereby, the more restrictive provision shall govern.

1610.99 PENALTY.**(a) Criminal Penalties.**

- (1) Whoever violates Section 1610.05(a) is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 3737.99(B))
- (2) Whoever violates Sections 1610.05(b) or 1610.06 is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 3737.99(C))
- (3) Whoever violates Sections 1610.07 or 1610.09 is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 3737.99(D))
- (4) Whoever violates Sections 1610.08 or 1610.10 is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 3737.99(E))

(b) Civil Penalties.

- (1) Any person who has received a citation for a serious violation of the Ohio Fire Code or any order issued pursuant to it, shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each such violation.
- (2) Any person who has received a citation for a violation of the Ohio Fire Code or any order issued pursuant to it, and such violation is specifically determined not to be of a serious nature, may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each such violation.
- (3) Any person who fails to correct a violation for which a citation has been issued within a period permitted for its correction, may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day during which such failure or violation continues.
- (4) Any person who violates any of the posting requirements, as prescribed by Section 1610.04(c), shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation.
- (5) Due consideration to the appropriateness of the penalty with respect to the gravity of the violation, the good faith of the person being charged, and the history of the previous violations shall be given whenever a penalty is assessed under this chapter.

-
- (6) For purposes of this section, a serious violation shall be considered to exist if there is a substantial probability that an occurrence causing death or serious physical harm to persons could result from a condition which exists, or from one or more practices, means, methods, operations or processes which have been adopted or are in use, unless the person did not and could not with the exercise of reasonable diligence, know of the presence of the violation.
- (7) Civil penalties imposed by this chapter shall be paid to the Municipal Chief Fiscal Officer for deposit into the General Revenue Fund. Such penalties may be recovered in a civil action in the name of the Municipality brought in the Court of Common Pleas.
(ORC 3737.51(B) to (H))

CHAPTER 1620
Fireworks

1620.01	Definitions.	1620.04	Possession, sale or discharge prohibited; exceptions.
1620.02	Public exhibition permit required; fee; bond; records.	1620.05	Application.
1620.03	Unlawful conduct by exhibitor.	1620.99	Penalty.

CROSS REFERENCES

- Manufacturers to comply with building and zoning ordinances - see Ohio R.C. 3743.06(F)
- Wholesalers to comply with building and zoning ordinances - see Ohio R.C. 3743.19(G)
- Arrests, seizure of fireworks by certified fire safety inspector - see Ohio R.C. 3743.68
- Conflict of Fire Marshal's rules with rules of Ohio Board of Building Standards - see Ohio R.C. 3781.11(D)

1620.01 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Beer" and "intoxicating liquor" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4301.01.
- (b) "Booby trap" means a small tube that has a string protruding from both ends, that has a friction-sensitive composition and that is ignited by pulling the ends of the string.
- (c) "Cigarette load" means a small wooden peg that is coated with a small quantity of explosive composition and that is ignited in a cigarette.
- (d) (1) "1.3 G fireworks" means display fireworks consistent with regulations of the United States Department of Transportation as expressed using the designation "Division 1.3" in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.
- (2) "1.4 G fireworks" means consumer fireworks consistent with regulations of the United States Department of Transportation as expressed using the designation "Division 1.4" in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.
- (e) "Controlled substance" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 3719.01.

- (f) "Fireworks" means any composition or device prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, deflagration or detonation, except ordinary matches and except as provided in Section 1620.05.
- (g) "Licensed exhibitor of fireworks" or "licensed exhibitor" means a person licensed pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3743.50 to 3743.55.
- (h) "Licensed manufacturer of fireworks" or "licensed manufacturer" means a person licensed pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3743.02 to 3743.08.
- (i) "Licensed wholesaler of fireworks" or "licensed wholesaler" means a person licensed pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3743.15 to 3743.21.
- (j) "Novelties and trick noisemakers" include the following items:
 - (1) Devices that produce a small report intended to surprise the user, including, but not limited to, booby traps, cigarette loads, party poppers and snappers;
 - (2) Snakes or glow worms;
 - (3) Smoke devices;
 - (4) Trick matches.
- (k) "Party popper" means a small plastic or paper item that contains not more than sixteen milligrams of friction-sensitive explosive composition, that is ignited by pulling string protruding from the item, and from which paper streamers are expelled when the item is ignited.
- (l) "Railroad" means any railway or railroad that carries freight or passengers for hire, but does not include auxiliary tracks, spurs and sidings installed and primarily used in serving a mine, quarry or plant.
- (m) "Smoke device" means a tube or sphere that contains pyrotechnic composition that, upon ignition, produces white or colored smoke as the primary effect.
- (n) "Snake or glow worm" means a device that consists of a pressed pellet of pyrotechnic composition that produces a large, snake-like ash upon burning, which ash expands in length as the pellet burns.
- (o) "Snapper" means a small, paper-wrapped item that contains a minute quantity of explosive composition coated on small bits of sand, and that, when dropped, implodes.
- (p) "Trick match" means a kitchen or book match that is coated with a small quantity of explosive composition and that, upon ignition, produces a small report or a shower of sparks.
- (q) "Wire sparkler" means a sparkler consisting of a wire or stick coated with a non-explosive pyrotechnic mixture that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition and that contains no more than one hundred grams of this mixture. (ORC 3743.01)

1620.02 PUBLIC EXHIBITION PERMIT REQUIRED; FEE; BOND; RECORDS.

(a) A licensed exhibitor of fireworks who wishes to conduct a public fireworks exhibition within the Municipality shall apply for approval to conduct the exhibition to the Fire Chief and from the Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or the designee of the Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer.

The required approval shall be evidenced by the Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer and by the Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or the designee of the Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, signing a permit for the exhibition, the form for which shall be prescribed by the State Fire Marshal. Any exhibitor of fireworks who wishes to conduct a public fireworks exhibition may obtain a copy of the form from the Fire Marshal or, if it is available, from the Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Officer, Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or the designee of the Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer.

(b) Before a permit is signed and issued to a licensed exhibitor of fireworks, the Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer in consultation with the Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, shall inspect the premises on which the exhibition will take place and shall determine that, in fact, the applicant for the permit is a licensed exhibitor of fireworks. Each applicant shall show the applicant's license as an exhibitor of fireworks to the Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer.

The Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer and the Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, shall give approval to conduct a public fireworks exhibition only if satisfied, based on the inspection, that the premises on which the exhibition will be conducted allow the exhibitor to comply with the rules adopted by the Fire Marshal pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3743.53(B) and (E) and that the applicant is, in fact, a licensed exhibitor of fireworks. The Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer in consultation with the Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, may inspect the premises immediately prior to the exhibition to determine if the exhibitor has complied with the rules, and may revoke the permit for noncompliance with the rules.

(c) The Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer and the Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, shall not issue a permit until the applicant pays a permit fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) plus any necessary costs of investigation of the applicant and of inspecting the premises on which the exhibition will be conducted.

Each exhibitor shall provide an indemnity bond in the amount of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000), with surety satisfactory to the Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer and to Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, conditioned for the payment of all final judgments that may be rendered against the exhibitor on account of injury, death or loss to persons or property emanating from the fireworks exhibition, or proof of insurance coverage of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for liability arising from injury, death or loss to persons or property emanating from the fireworks exhibition. The Legislative Authority may require the exhibitor to provide an indemnity bond or proof of insurance coverage in amounts greater than those required by this subsection. The Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer and Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, shall not issue a permit until the exhibitor provides the bond or proof of the insurance coverage required by this subsection.

- (d) (1) Each permit for a fireworks exhibition issued by the Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer and by the Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, shall contain a distinct number, designate the Municipality, and identify the certified Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer who will be present before, during, and after the exhibition, where appropriate. A copy of each permit issued shall be forwarded by the Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer and by the Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, issuing it to the Fire Marshal, who shall keep a record of the permits received. A permit is not transferable or assignable.

- (2) The Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Officer and Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, shall keep a record of issued permits for fireworks exhibitions. In this list, the Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Officer, Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement officer, or a designee of such Police Chief or similar chief law enforcement officer, shall list the name of the exhibitor, the exhibitor's license number, the premises on which the exhibition will be conducted, the date and time of the exhibition and the number of the permit issued to the exhibitor for the exhibition.

(e) The governing authority having jurisdiction in the location where an exhibition is to take place shall require that a certified Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Chief, or Fire Prevention Officer be present before, during, and after the exhibition, and shall require the certified Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Chief, or Fire Prevention Officer to inspect the premises where the exhibition is to take place and determine whether the exhibition is in compliance with this chapter and Ohio R.C. Chapter 3743. (ORC 3743.54)

1620.03 UNLAWFUL CONDUCT BY EXHIBITOR.

(a) No licensed exhibitor of fireworks shall fail to comply with the applicable requirements of the rules adopted by the Fire Marshal pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3743.53(B) and (E) or to comply with Divisions (C) and (D) of that section.

(b) No licensed exhibitor of fireworks shall conduct a fireworks exhibition unless a permit has been secured for the exhibition pursuant to Section 1620.02 or if a permit so secured is revoked by the Fire Chief or Fire Prevention Officer in consultation with the Police Chief or other similar chief law enforcement official or a designee of such Police Chief or other similar law enforcement official pursuant to that section.

(c) No licensed exhibitor of fireworks shall acquire fireworks for use at a fireworks exhibition other than in accordance with Ohio R.C. 3743.54 and 3743.55.

(d) No licensed exhibitor of fireworks or other person associated with the conduct of a fireworks exhibition shall have possession or control of, or be under the influence of, any intoxicating liquor, beer or controlled substance while on the premises on which the exhibition is being conducted.

(e) No licensed exhibitor of fireworks shall permit an employee to assist the licensed exhibitor in conducting fireworks exhibitions unless the employee is registered with the Fire Marshal under Ohio R.C. 3743.56. (ORC 3743.64)

1620.04 POSSESSION, SALE OR DISCHARGE PROHIBITED; EXCEPTIONS.

(a) No person shall possess fireworks in this Municipality or shall possess for sale or sell fireworks in this Municipality, except a licensed manufacturer of fireworks as authorized by Ohio R.C. 3743.02 to 3743.08, a licensed wholesaler of fireworks as authorized by Ohio R.C. 3743.15 to 3743.21, a shipping permit holder as authorized by Ohio R.C. 3743.40, an out-of-state resident as authorized by Ohio R.C. 3743.44, a resident of this State as authorized by Ohio R.C. 3743.45, or a licensed exhibitor of fireworks as authorized by Ohio R.C. 3743.50 to 3743.55 and Section 1620.02 and except as provided in Section 1620.05.

(b) Except as provided in Section 1620.05 and except for licensed exhibitors of fireworks authorized to conduct a fireworks exhibition pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3743.50 to 3743.55 and Section 1620.02, no person shall discharge, ignite or explode any fireworks in this Municipality.

(c) No person shall use in a theater or public hall, what is technically known as fireworks showers, or a mixture containing potassium chlorate and sulphur.

(d) No person shall sell fireworks of any kind to a person under eighteen years of age.

(e) No person shall advertise 1.4 G fireworks for sale. A sign located on a seller's premises identifying the seller as a seller of fireworks is not the advertising of fireworks for sale.

(f) No person, other than a licensed manufacturer, licensed wholesaler, licensed exhibitor, or shipping permit holder, shall possess 1.3 G fireworks.
(ORC 3743.65)

1620.05 APPLICATION.

This chapter does not prohibit or apply to the following:

- (a) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use in emergency situations, of pyrotechnic signaling devices and distress signals for marine, aviation or highway use;
- (b) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use of fuses, torpedoes or other signals necessary for the safe operation of railroads;
- (c) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use of blank cartridges in connection with theaters or shows, or in connection with athletics as signals or for ceremonial purposes;
- (d) The manufacture for, the transportation, storage, possession or use by, or sale to the Armed Forces of the United States and the militia of this State of pyrotechnic devices;
- (e) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use of toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns or other devices in which paper or plastic caps containing twenty-five hundredths grains or less of explosive material are used, provided that they are constructed so that a hand cannot come into contact with a cap when it is in place for explosion, or apply to the manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use of those caps;
- (f) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use of novelties and trick noisemakers, auto burglar alarms or model rockets and model rocket motors designed, sold and used for the purpose of propelling recoverable aero models;
- (g) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage or use of wire sparklers.

- (h) The conduct of radio-controlled special effect exhibitions that use an explosive black powder charge of not more than one-quarter pound per charge, and that are not connected in any manner to propellant charges, provided that the exhibition complies with all of following:
- (1) No explosive aerial display is conducted in the exhibition;
 - (2) The exhibition is separated from spectators by not less than two hundred feet;
 - (3) The person conducting the exhibition complies with regulations of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of the United States Department of the Treasury and the United States Department of Transportation with respect to the storage and transport of the explosive black powder used in the exhibition.
(ORC 3743.80)

1620.99 PENALTY.

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree for a first offense and shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned not more than six months or both. (ORC 3743.99(C))