

CHAPTER 153

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

153.01 Purpose	153.09 Request for Hearing
153.02 Definitions	153.10 Overcrowding
153.03 Authority for Enforcement	153.11 Nuisances
153.04 Interference With the Property Maintenance Official	153.12 Notice to Abate
153.05 International Property Maintenance Code Adopted	153.13 Emergency Abatement Measures
153.06 Amendments to the Property Maintenance Code	153.14 Code on File
153.07 Scope	153.15 Smoke Detectors
153.08 Unsafe Structures and Equipment	

153.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to designate the responsibilities of persons for maintenance of structures, equipment and exterior property within the City, to define nuisances as a result of the failure to perform such maintenance and to provide for the abatement of such nuisances in order to provide for the safety and preserve the health and welfare of the citizens of the City.

153.02 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. “Blighted area” is defined as set forth in Section 403.17 of the Code of Iowa.
2. “Vermin” means any of various insects, bugs or small animals regarded as objectionable because they are destructive, disease carrying, etc.

153.03 AUTHORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT. The City Manager shall be responsible for the enforcement of this chapter and shall have all the necessary authority to carry out such enforcement. Any person designated by the City Manager to enforce this chapter shall be known as the Property Maintenance Official.

153.04 INTERFERENCE WITH THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICIAL. No person shall interfere with the Property Maintenance Official while engaged in the enforcement of this chapter.

153.05 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE ADOPTED. Except as hereinafter added to, deleted, modified or amended, there is hereby adopted as the Property Maintenance Code of the City of Marion that certain code known as the *International Property Maintenance Code, 2015 Edition*, First Printing, including Appendix A, as prepared and edited by the International Code Council, Inc" and the provisions of said Property Maintenance Code shall be controlling in maintaining minimum requirements and standards of structures and properties within the corporate limits of the City and shall be known as the Marion Property Maintenance Code.

153.06 AMENDMENTS TO THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE. Certain sections and portions of sections of the *International Property Maintenance Code, 2015 Edition*, are hereby amended, deleted, modified or added to as more specifically set forth below and in the following sections of this chapter.

- Section 101.1 Insert: {City of Marion, Iowa}
- Section 103.5 Insert: {fee schedule as set by Council resolution}
- Section 112.4 Insert: {fine schedule as set by Council resolution}
- Section 302.4 Insert: {8 inches} (from 52.02 #13 Weeds)
- Section 304,14 Insert: {April 1, September 30}
- Section 602.3 Insert: {October 1, April 30}
- Section 602.4 Insert: {October 1, April 30}

153.07 SCOPE. The Marion Property Maintenance Code is hereby amended by adding a new exception to Section 101.2 of the *International Property Maintenance Code, 2015 Edition*, as follows:

Exception: Within occupied dwelling units regulated by the Marion Housing Code as provided in Marion Code of Ordinances Chapter 165.

153.08 UNSAFE STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT. The Marion Property Maintenance Code is hereby amended by repealing Section 108.1 of the *International Property Maintenance Code, 2015 Edition*, and by replacing said section with a new section, as follows:

108.1 General. When a structure or equipment is found by the Code Official to be unsafe, or when a structure is found unfit for human occupancy, or is found unlawful, the Code Official shall commence proceedings to cause the repair, vacation or demolition of the structure and the structure may be condemned pursuant to the provisions of this code.

153.09 REQUEST FOR HEARING. The Marion Property Maintenance Code is hereby amended by repealing in entirety, Section 111 from the *International Property Maintenance Code, 2015 Edition*, and by replacing said section with a new Section 111, as follows:

Section 111 Request for Hearing.

Any person ordered to abate a nuisance or any person interested therein may have a hearing with the Nuisance Enforcement/Property Maintenance Advisory Board as to whether a nuisance exists or on a request for an extension of time in which to abate a nuisance. A request for a hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the Nuisance Enforcement/Property Maintenance Advisory Board within the time stated in the order to abate, or it will be conclusively presumed that a nuisance exists and it must be abated as ordered. The Nuisance Enforcement/Property Maintenance Advisory Board shall set a hearing date and provide notice to the person appealing from the order to abate. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Nuisance Enforcement/Property Maintenance Advisory Board shall render a written decision as to whether or not a nuisance exists. If the Nuisance Enforcement/Property Maintenance Advisory Board finds that a nuisance exists, it shall order the nuisance abated within an additional time which is reasonable under the circumstances. The findings of the Nuisance Enforcement/Property Maintenance Advisory Board shall be the final decision on the matter.

153.10 OVERCROWDING. The Marion Property Maintenance Code is hereby amended by adding a new exception to Section 404.5 of the *International Property Maintenance Code, 2015 Edition*, as follows:

Exception: The actual number of persons occupying a dwelling unit shall not create conditions that, in the opinion of the Code Official, endanger the life, health, safety, or welfare of the occupants.

153.11 NUISANCES. A failure to satisfy any of the provisions of the Marion Property Maintenance Code shall constitute a nuisance.

153.12 NOTICE TO ABATE. Upon discovery of any violation of Section 153.06, the City shall within five (5) days initiate abatement procedures as outlined in Chapter 50 of this Code of Ordinances.

153.13 EMERGENCY ABATEMENT MEASURES. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, whenever in the judgment of the Property Maintenance Official any nuisance is an immediate and imminent threat to life and property, the Property Maintenance Official may, with or without prior notice as required herein, order the nuisance abated and costs assessed against the property for collection in the same manner as a property tax. However, prior to such assessment, the City shall give the property owner notice as provided by the Code of Iowa and this Code of Ordinances.

153.14 CODE ON FILE. An official copy of the Marion Property Maintenance Code hereby adopted, including a certificate by the Clerk as to its adoption and the effective date thereof, shall be on file in the Office of the Clerk in City Hall and shall be kept there on file, and copies shall be available for public inspection. A copy of this chapter shall be available in the Building Department Office.

153.15 SMOKE DETECTORS. The Marion Property Maintenance Code is hereby amended by repealing Section 704 of the *International Property Maintenance Code, 2015 Edition*, and by replacing said section with a new section, as follows:

704.1 Smoke detection and notification. Smoke alarms shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 217 and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and the household fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72.

704.2 Smoke detection systems. Household fire alarm systems installed in accordance with NFPA 72 that include smoke alarms, or a combination of smoke detector and audible notification devices installed as required by this section for smoke alarms, shall be permitted.

704.3 Location. Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In each sleeping room.
2. Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
3. On each story of the dwelling including basements.

704.3.1 Alterations, repairs and additions. When alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms in locations as required in R314.3 for new dwellings.

Exceptions:

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of an open porch or deck, are exempt from the requirements of this section.
2. Installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems are exempt from the requirements of this section.

704.4 Power source. Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring when such wiring is served from a commercial source, and when primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection.

Exception: Hard wiring of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for hard wiring without the removal of interior finishes.

704.5 Interconnection. Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit in accordance with Section R314.3, the alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. Physical interconnection of smoke alarms shall not be required where listed wireless alarms are installed and all alarms sound upon activation of any one alarm.

Exception: Interconnection of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required where alterations or repairs do not result in removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for interconnection without removal of interior finishes

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