

Title 5 ▶ Chapter 2

Fire Protection

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Sec. 5-2-1 Fire Department Organization; Goals of the Department.

- (a) **Fire Department Recognized.** The Merrilan Fire Department is officially recognized as the Fire Department serving the Village of Merrilan, and the duties of firefighting and fire prevention in the Village are delegated to such Department. The Merrilan Fire Department shall be responsible for the program of fire defense for the citizens and property within the Village of Merrilan.
- (b) **Appropriations.** The Village Board shall appropriate funds for Fire Department operations and for such apparatus and equipment for the use of the Fire Department as the Board may deem expedient and necessary to maintain efficiency and properly protect life and property from fire.
- (c) **Goals of the Fire Defense Program.**
 - (1) The primary objective of the fire defense program is to serve all citizens, without prejudice or favoritism, by safeguarding, collectively and individually, their lives against the effects of fires and explosions.
 - (2) The second objective of the fire defense program is to safeguard the general economy and welfare of the community by preventing major conflagrations and the destruction by fire of industries and businesses.

- Merrillan at all reasonable hours for the purpose of making inspections or investigations which, under the provisions of this Code of Ordinances, he/she may deem necessary. Should the Fire Inspector find that any provisions of this Code relating to fire hazards and prevention of fires are being violated, or that a fire hazard exists which should be eliminated, it shall be his/her duty to give such directions for the abatement of such conditions as he/she shall deem necessary and, if such directions be not complied with, to report such noncompliance to the Village Board for further action.
- (3) The Chief of the Fire Department is required, by himself/herself or by officers or members of the Fire Department designated by him/her as fire inspectors, to inspect all buildings, premises and public thoroughfares, except the interiors of private dwellings, for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable to cause fire, or any violations of any law or ordinance relating to the fire hazard or to the prevention of fires. Such inspections shall be made at least once in six (6) months in all of the territory served by the Fire Department, and not less than once in three (3) months in such territory as the Village Board has designated or thereafter designates as within the Village or as a congested district subject to conflagration, and oftener as the Chief of the Fire Department orders. Each six (6) month period shall begin on January 1 and July 1, and each three (3) month period on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of each year.
 - (4) Written reports of inspections shall be made and kept on file in the office of the Chief of the Fire Department in the manner and form required by the Department of Commerce. A copy of such reports shall be filed with the Fire Chief.
- (c) **Fire Inspectors Handbook.** The *Fire Inspectors' Handbook, DILHR* is hereby adopted and made part of this Code of Ordinances by references.

State Law Reference: Sec. 101.14(2), Wis. Stats.

Sec. 5-2-4 Damaging Fire Hose Prohibited; Parking by Hydrants; Blocking Fire Lanes.

- (a) **Driving Over Fire Hose.** No person shall willfully injure in any manner any hose, hydrant or fire apparatus belonging to the Village of Merrillan, and no vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of the Fire Department when laid down on any street, private driveway or other place, to be used at any fire or alarm of fire, without the consent of the Fire Department official in command.
- (b) **Parking Vehicles Near Hydrants.** It shall be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle or leave any object within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant at any time.
- (c) **No Parking Near Fire.** It shall be unlawful for any person, in case of fire, to drive or park any vehicle within one block from the place of fire without the consent and authority of the Fire Chief or any police officer.

- (b) **Exceptions.** Open burning is permitted as follows:
- (1) Any resident using a burning container for the use of burning papers and cardboards only will do so under the following guidelines:
 - a. Any container used for burning cannot exceed the size of a two hundred fifty (250) gallons in size.
 - b. Any container used for burning shall not exceed fifty-five (55) gallons in size and must have a screen covering.
 - c. All containers determined by the Fire Chief to be unsafe and/or located in an unsafe environment will be banned from burning use.
 - (2) Outdoor cooking over a fire contained in a device or structure designed for such use is permissible;
 - (3) Recreational burning pits not exceeding four (4) feet in diameter and not located less than twenty-five (25) feet from any structure (the burning of clean wood only is permitted and the use of burning pits to burn refuse is prohibited);
 - (4) Controlled burning of grass or similar vegetation for environmental management purposes, with the prior approval of the Chief of Police or Fire Chief, or their designee, may be permitted; this exception is not to be used for the burning of grass, leaves or other lawn debris;
 - (5) Ceremonial campfire or bonfires, with prior approval of the Fire Chief, or his/her designee, may be permitted.
 - (6) Other occasions of desirable outdoor burning not specified by this Subsection, but not as an alternative to refuse removal or disposal of which other methods are available, may be granted single occasion approval as in Subsections (2) and (3) above.
 - (7) Open burning when a permit or verbal authorization is issued.
- (c) **Application.**
- (1) ***Procedure for Burning Authorization.*** Before the setting or starting of any open burning not automatically permitted under this Section, authorization shall be first obtained by the owner, operator, or agent from the Fire Chief or from such other person as may be authorized or designated by the Fire Chief to issue such authorization. The Fire Chief may also establish from time to time special rules or restrictions relating to open burning by permit. Such rules may govern conditions including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:
 - a. Hours when burning is allowed;
 - b. Day(s) when burning is allowed;
 - c. Material which may or may not be burned;
 - d. Whether open burning is allowed or whether burning is only allowed with an approved incinerator or burning device;
 - e. The length of time the permit is valid;
 - f. The size of the material pile burned by open burning;
 - g. The distance or distances to be maintained between the material being burned and other flammable material;

affects the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the Village of Merrilan and constitutes a state of emergency. It is hereby found that the regulation of fires, burning materials, and fireworks is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, welfare and good order of the Village of Merrilan during said emergency.

- (b) **Regulation of Fires, Burning Materials and Fireworks.** Pursuant to Sec. 66.325, Wis. Stats., and when a burning state of emergency is declared, it may be ordered that a person may not:
- (1) Set, build, or maintain any open fire, except:
 - a. Charcoal grills using charcoal briquets, gas grills, or camp stoves on private property; or
 - b. Charcoal grills using charcoal briquets, gas grills, or camp stoves in Village parks placed at least twenty (20) feet away from any combustible vegetation.
 - (2) Throw, discard or drop matches, cigarettes, cigars, ashes, charcoal briquets or other burning materials while outdoors except into a noncombustible container that does not contain combustible materials.
 - (3) Light or ignite a flare, except upon a roadway in an emergency.
 - (4) Light, ignite, or use anything manufactured, processed, or packaged solely for the purpose of exploding, emitting sparks or combustion for amusement purposes, including fireworks, firecrackers, bottle rockets, caps, toy snakes, sparklers, smoke bombs, or cylindrical or cone fountains that emit sparks and smoke, except in displays authorized by the Village where adequate fire prevention measures have been taken.
- (c) **Period of Emergency.**
- (1) The periods of emergency for which this Section shall be in effect shall be during such periods that Jackson County, Wisconsin, is under Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources emergency fire regulations banning outdoor smoking and campfires, or when necessary as determined by the Village President, upon the recommendation of the Fire Chief.
 - (2) Pursuant to Sec. 66.325, Wis. Stats., burning emergencies shall become effective upon the time and date of the Village President declaring a state of emergency and shall remain in effect until the period of emergency ceases to exist or until the ratification, alteration, modification, or repeal of the burning state of emergency by the Village Board.