



Texas Department of Insurance State Fire Marshal's Office – Inspections Division

Mail Code 112-FM, 333 Guadalupe • P. O. Box 149104, Austin, Texas 78714-9104
512-305-7900 telephone • 512-305-7359 fax

April 19, 2011

Kemah City Hall/Police Station
1051 Hwy. 146
Kemah, Texas 77565-3002
Barbara Roberts

Inspection Number: RRO9561A
Date of Consultation: 4/5/2011
Galveston County

Authority: 417.008, Tex. Gov. Code and adopted rules 28 TAC 34.303

As a result of questions raised by concerned citizens and to assist the Kemah Emergency Services District, the State Fire Marshal's Office provided consultation services regarding minimum fire protection requirements for the above noted facility on April 5, 2011.

The City of Kemah is the Authority Having Jurisdiction, and currently enforces the *2003 Edition of the International Fire Code, (IFC) and 2009 Edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code*. The State Fire Marshal's Office has adopted, and currently enforces the *2009 Edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code*.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is only authorized by state statutes to enforce the requirements of *NFPA 101, Life Safety Code*; and is not permitted to enforce or regulate a fire code that is adopted by an incorporated city, or other government entity.

This consultation is intended to provide basic information regarding interpretation of minimum code requirements for features of fire protection for this building occupancy classification. You may wish to cross reference the *Life Safety Code with the IFC* for comparative value regarding minimum life safety standards.

The *2009 Edition of the National Fire Protection Association, 101, Life Safety Code*, is referenced for consultative findings in this report.

Kemah City Hall and Police Station is a single story business occupancy with a loft that contains two offices and a storage area constructed of a steel frame with CMU exterior walls and metal roof. Features of fire protection include a fire alarm system, illuminated exit signs, emergency lighting units and portable fire extinguishers.

Means of Egress Hazards:

The center set of double doors leading from the council chambers to the main foyer are not equipped with an exit sign. These are the main exit doors and shall be marked as such. Remove the exit signs located above the two adjacent sets of double doors and install an illuminated exit sign above the center set of doors.

Various illuminated exit signs are inoperative

The emergency lighting units are inoperative.

The designated exit door on the northeast side of council chambers is subject to being locked. This door is not required as an exit as there are other approved exits properly located.

The south side exit door from the council chambers is equipped with panic hardware and an additional locking device. Doors equipped with panic or fire exit hardware shall not have any additional locking devices.

It is unknown if the locking devices on the doors leading from the council chambers to the foyer are tied into the fire alarm system. Verify that the magnetic locking devices on these doors are released upon activation of the building fire alarm system.

Building Services Hazard:

Extension cords are being used in an unapproved manner to power accessory equipment in place of the building wiring. Extension cords are only intended for use on a temporary basis.



Brad Westberry, CFI-II
Deputy Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal's Office
Fire Safety Inspection Services

cc: Brent E. Hahn, Fire Chief/Fire Marshal
City Administrator