



STAFF REPORT

Board Report for January 16, 2024

STAFF CONTACT: Steve Kessmann Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal
AGENDA TITLE: Resolution 02-2024: Acknowledgement of Senate Bill (SB) 1205 Fire Inspections
AGENDA ACTION: Discussion and Possible Action

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors acknowledge and accept the SB 1205 inspection report attached to this resolution as meeting the requirements of California Health & Safety Code Section 13146.2 and 13146.3.

BACKGROUND:

The Fire District has established itself as the Authority Having Jurisdiction as part of our amendment and adoption of the California Fire Code, and in doing so we are obligated to perform life safety fire inspections on high-risk occupancies pursuant to the Health & Safety Code.

On September 27, 2018, SB 1205 became effective, and added a new section to the California Health and Safety Code which affects every fire department or fire district in the State. Existing state law requires every fire department or district providing fire protection services to inspect every building used as a public or private school annually. This same annual inspection requirement is applicable to hotels, motels, lodging houses, and apartment houses.

This new bill also requires every fire department or district to annually report to its administering authority their compliance with the annual inspection requirements of the California Health and Safety Code. The bill also requires the administering authority to formally acknowledge receipt of the compliance report in a resolution or a similar formal document. SB 1205 holds jurisdictional policy makers accountable to make progress on fire prevention resource requests, and ensures fire department funding allocations account for the longstanding needs of resource deficient fire prevention bureaus.

As you can see from the report attached to the resolution, over the past year, we have inspected numerous facilities beyond those required by the Health and Safety Code. We have added to our list of high-risk occupancies, facilities that allow the assembly of large groups of people.

Commercial inspections typically involve multiple contacts for any given facility. The process begins with scheduling followed by an initial inspection and then if violations are found a reinspection will occur to confirm that corrections have been made. Typical violations found are not severe and do not warrant aggressive enforcement action. Minor violations would include out of date fire extinguisher tags, small holes in fire resistive construction, missing spacers in an electrical panel, and storage too close to the ceiling. Major violations that would warrant aggressive enforcement action would include; blocked exits, disabled fire suppression systems and improper hazardous material storage.

Currently, the work of conducting commercial fire inspections is being conducted by Fire Prevention Specialists Brandon Stahl.

ALTERNATIVES:

- Use engine companies to conduct commercial inspections.
- Defer inspections to the State Fire Marshal.
- Perform additional commercial inspections.
- Elevate our compliance reporting requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

- No fiscal impact