



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Person County Board of Commissioners will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to receive public comments related to a proposed Person County Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance. The Public Hearing will be held in the Auditorium of the County Office Building located at 304 S. Morgan Street, Roxboro, NC 27573.

The new proposed Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance would enforce items such as the Fire Inspection Frequency of buildings within Person County and the fees or fines associated with this, Permits and Plan Reviews, False Fire Alarms, and Open Burning Guidelines.

Routine fire inspections are conducted on a one, two, or three-year cycle depending on the occupancy. The frequency of the inspection is set forth by the North Carolina State Fire

Prevention Code and North Carolina General Statute §115C-525(b). See table below.

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION	INSPECTION FREQUENCY
Public Schools	Every Six Months
Hazardous	Every Year
Institutional	Every Year
High Rise	Every Year
Assembly	Every Year
Residential* (Excludes one- and two-family dwellings)	Every Year
Industrial	Every Two Years
Educational (Except Public Schools)	Every Two Years
Business	Every Three Years
Mercantile	Every Three Years
Storage	Every Three Years
Churches and Synagogues	Every Three Years

An inspection fee is assess based off the building’s square footage with the adopted fee schedule approved by the Person County Board of Commissioners each year. If approved this would give the occupant 90 days to submit payment. If the fee payment is not received within the time allowed, it will be turned over to the county attorney to collect the associated fees. Violations or any life safety hazards found during a routine or non-routine inspection can also have fines assessed if a violation is found.

A “permit” is an official document issued by the Fire Marshal’s Office authorizing performance of a specified activity, use, operation, or installation. This includes, but not limited to the following types: Use Permit, Special Use Permit, Burning Permit, Operational Permit, Construction Permit, and Permits for Fire Protection Systems, Storage Tanks, and any other items needing a permit per section 105 of the North Carolina Fire Code. Permit applications can be found on the Person County webpage under the Fire Marshal’s Office. Plan reviews shall apply to all buildings and occupancies in the North Carolina Building Code General

Construction and the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code. Plan reviews would be submitted to the Fire Marshal's Office for review and approval prior to any construction being started. This does not apply to one-and two-family dwellings.

The false fire alarm was originally adopted in 2017 by Person County Board of Commissioners and revised in 2020. This ordinance would be incorporated into the new proposed Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance. This states that after the third fire department response to the same address within a one-year period, a fine can be issued to the occupant. Each time after the initial first three alarms, the fee amount increases and the same penalties can be applied by the county attorney if the fines are not paid by the guidelines set forth.

The North Carolina Division of Air Quality has an Open Burning Rule Section .1900 that has been in effect since 1971. This rule covers outdoor burning such as what it allowed to be burned and sets the conditions for allowable fires. Under this rule, it is illegal to burn trash and other non-vegetative materials. If the proposed ordinance is adopted, then fines can be issued for non-compliance. A Person County resident can take their household trash to the landfill and disposed of it at no cost. Items meeting the recycling requirements can also be delivered to the Person County Recycling Center at no cost. The following items are not allowed to be burned under the Open Burning Rule and this new proposed ordinance;

- 1) Newspapers, cardboard, and other paper products
- 2) Rubbish, trash, or any household goods
- 3) Plastics and other synthetic materials
- 4) Paints, household and agricultural chemicals
- 5) Tires and other rubber products
- 6) Asphalt shingles, Asbestos containing materials, and heavy oils
- 7) Lumber and other building materials

8) Wire, buildings, and mobile homes

Leaves, wood, limbs, branches, and other natural vegetative growth can be burned during certain conditions and is covered by the Open Burning Rule.

If you have any questions regarding this or would like to obtain further information on the content of the ordinance, please contact the Person County Fire Marshal's Office at 336-330-2315, Monday thru Friday from 8am-4:30pm. A hyperlink has also been provided to the Person County Fire Marshal's Office for more information on the items listed above and a copy of the proposed ordinance.

<https://www.personcountync.gov/government/departments-and-services/fire-marshals-office>