

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



August 11, 2017

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State Fire Marshal Releases Revised Draft of 2017 Fire Code

The Ohio Fire Marshal announced the release of the 'REVISED Draft 2017 Ohio Fire Code' (OFC) and the 'Report on Comments' (ROC), regarding all comments received to update the current OFC, also currently known as Administrative Code (OAC) sections 1301:7-7-01 through 1301:7-7-47.

This information is being provided pursuant to the requirements of Executive Order 2011-01K and Senate Bill 2 of the 129th General Assembly, which requires state agencies, including the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM), to draft rules in collaboration with stakeholders, assess and justify any adverse impact on the business community (as defined in S.B. 2), and provide an opportunity for the affected public to provide input on the rules. The Ohio Fire Code is being reviewed as a part of the required five year rule review process.

With the release of the Revised Draft 2017 OFC and the ROC, the Division of the State Fire Marshal will enter the next phase of the rule revision process and the beginning of the formal rule filing process, i.e., filing with the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office.

You can view the proposed rules, along with the ROC and the Business Impact Analysis (BIA) instrument by going to the SFM's [website](#) and clicking on the "UPDATE: 2017 Ohio Fire Code" tab on the right hand side of the screen. There you will find the "Revised Draft 2017 Ohio Fire Code," the "Report on Comments," the "Business Impact Analysis," a "Revised Timeline" for the update process, as well as previously released documents regarding the OFC update.

If you wish to submit a comment on the Revised Draft 2017 OFC or the BIA, please send your comments to the SFM (OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us) AND to the Common Sense Initiative Office (csipubliccomments@governor.ohio.gov) by 10:00 a.m. on Monday August 21, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding the Revised Draft 2017 OFC, any of its associated materials, or the update process in general, please send an inquiry to OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us or contact the SFM Code Enforcement Bureau at (614) 728-5460.

Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant Applications Now Open

The Cleanup and Remediation track of the Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant Program is now accepting applications. Now grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Funding totaling \$4 million per fiscal year will be available for these grants. Applicants must have a minimum score of 50 points to be eligible for funding consideration.

Applications for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018 will be accepted until April 30, 2018. Applications received after this date may be funded in SFY 2019.

Property Assessment and Fast Track grants are awarded on an on-going basis with no annual cap on funding, if the project meets minimum eligibility requirements.

The application and scoring matrix can be found on Ohio Development Services Agency's Abandoned Gas Station Program [webpage](#).

A list of past projects funded since the program's inception is located [here](#).

If you have any questions about the program, please contact April Stevens at (614) 466-4007 or April.Stevens@development.ohio.gov.

USDA Rural Broadband Loan Program

Solicitations for the USDA rural broadband loan and loan guarantee program have been released. You can find more about the program [here](#). Additionally, click [here](#) for a two-page summary of the program.



BWC
Safety Innovation
Awards

The banner features a background of a person's hands holding a glowing blue hexagonal shape labeled "INNOVATION". Surrounding this central element are several other hexagons containing the words: "Idea", "Research", "Technology", "Develop", "Experiment", and "Invention".

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) is seeking entries for the 2018 Safety Innovation Awards. Winners will receive \$1,000 to \$6,000 in cash awards and be recognized at the 2018 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo. Your innovation must demonstrate reduction in safety or ergonomic risk factors, or occupational health exposures. The deadline to apply is Sept. 30, 2017. Learn more and apply [here](#) today!

Ohio Township Association

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