

## **COUNCIL POLICY NO. I-2**

**TITLE:** BURNING PRIVATELY-OWNED BUILDINGS BY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FOR TRAINING PURPOSES

**POLICY:** See attachment.

**REFERENCE:** ORS 487.960(5) Burning permit required  
SRC 56.017 Demolition permit required  
SRC 73.105 Capping abandoned sewers required  
UBC Section 301 Permit required for demolition  
Fire Department Staff Report dated 7/21/86 and 9/15/86  
(Old Council Policy No. 45)

## **BURNING PRIVATELY-OWNED BUILDINGS BY FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR TRAINING PURPOSES**

It is the policy of the City to accept the donation of privately-owned buildings for purposes of burning them in training exercises for City firefighters. Such buildings must meet minimum guidelines for liability risk, neighborhood notification, public safety and training value.

The purpose of this policy is to provide an adequate supply of useful buildings to adequately train City firefighters. No fee will be charged expressly for the burning of the building, although normal permit fees related to disconnecting services, demolition of property, and inspections will be charged.

The City recognizes that controlled burning of buildings by the Fire Department through planned training exercises offers a valuable asset to the community in providing well-trained firefighters. The City further recognizes that the value of the exercises must be weighed against potential negative aspects that may occur in the surrounding neighborhood.

The actual burning of privately-owned buildings will be performed by the Salem Fire Department. Other fire departments and students from the Chemeketa Community College Fire Science program may be invited to participate in the practice burns provided that the other fire departments at the time of the burn have a working mutual aid agreement with the City of Salem and that the City and Chemeketa Community College have an operational fire education contract. The Salem Fire Department will maintain control over the acceptance of buildings to be burned and will maintain command of the training exercise.

Exceptions to this provision will be allowed for buildings within the corporate limits of the City of Salem that are owned by the State of Oregon or the federal government that are proposed to be burned for training purposes by a state fire brigade for a state building or a federal fire brigade for a federal building. In these cases, the burn must be permitted by the Fire Chief or his designee and the agency actually performing the burning exercise must adhere to the guidelines listed below.