

CHAPTER 6

FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICE

- 6.01 Fire Department
- 6.02 Fire Chief, Powers and Duties
- 6.03 Assistant Chiefs, Duties
- 6.04 Fire Inspector
- 6.05 False Alarms
- 6.06 Use of Adjacent Property
- 6.07 Destruction of Property to Check Progress of Fire
- 6.08 Apparatus To and From Fires
- 6.09 Traffic Laws Apply to Volunteers
- 6.10 Safety Regulations
- 6.11 Duty of Bystanders
- 6.12 Damage to Equipment and Interference
- 6.13 Driving Over Fire Hose Prohibited
- 6.14 Combustible Materials Prohibited
- 6.15 Careless Smoking Prohibited
- 6.16 Gasoline, Benzine, Naphtha, Etc.
- 6.17 Gunpowder
- 6.18 Dynamite
- 6.19 Ambulance Service
- 6.20 Penalty

FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICE

6.01 FIRE DEPARTMENT.

(1) **COMPOSITION.** The Fire Department of the Belmont Fire Protection District, Inc., comprised of the Village and all or parts of the Towns of Belmont, Elk Grove, Kendall and Seymour shall consist of the Fire Chief, 2 Assistant Chiefs and not less than 19 active firemen to make a minimum complement of 22 active firemen.

(2) **APPOINTMENT, TERMS, DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.** The members of the Fire Department shall elect the Fire Chief and Assistant Chiefs, who shall hold office for a 2 year term. The Chief shall appoint subordinate members of the Department. The Chief may temporarily suspend members of the Department subject to an appeal to the membership of the Department.

(3) **REGULATIONS.** Members of the Department shall be governed by the bylaws of the Department, the rules and regulations adopted by the Belmont Fire Protection District Board, the resolutions and ordinances of the Village and the Wisconsin Statutes.

6.02 **FIRE CHIEF, POWERS AND DUTIES.** The Fire Chief shall direct the operation of the Department at fires, subject to the rules and regulations which may be adopted by the Village Board and the Belmont Fire Protection District Board, issue and enforce such orders as in his judgment may be best calculated for the protection of property and the extinguishing of fires; enforce all ordinances and rules and regulations of the Village Board governing the Fire Department; report annually to the Village Board and the Belmont Fire Protection District Board all fires occurring in the Fire Protection District, the origin thereof, if possible, together with the amounts and value of property destroyed and the amount of insurance, if any; make a full statement of the condition of the Department at the end of each year and make further reports when ordered to do so by a resolution of the Village Board or required to do so by the rules and regulations of the Belmont Fire Protection District Board. He shall report promptly to the membership of the Department any member of the Department who may have disobeyed his orders or violated any of the rules governing the Department and shall have control and supervision of the fire alarm.

6.03 **ASSISTANT CHIEFS, DUTIES.** In the absence of the Chief, the senior ranking Assistant Chief shall take command and perform his duties.

6.04 FIRE INSPECTOR.

(1) **APPOINTMENT.** The Fire Chief shall appoint the Belmont Fire Protection District Fire Inspector.

(2) **POWERS AND DUTIES.** The Fire Inspector makes such inspections as may be necessary to ascertain the compliance of the owners or occupants of private premises with the provisions of this chapter, and he may enter any building or upon any premises at any reasonable hour for the purpose of such inspection. Should he find a fire hazard within the Village, he may serve a notice in writing on the owner of the property, giving the owner 48 hours in which to remove the hazard. If the fire hazard is not removed within that time, it is deemed a nuisance and the Fire Inspector may have the same removed by the Village and the cost of removal shall be recovered by the Village as a special charge pursuant to §66.60(16), Wis. Stats.

FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICE

(3) INVESTIGATION AND RECORD OF FIRES. The Fire Inspector shall investigate the cause of all fires occurring within the Village as soon as possible after their occurrence and he shall keep a record thereof, and of the evidence in each case, on file in his office as public record.

6.05 FALSE ALARMS. Whoever, without reasonable cause, by outcry or otherwise, makes any false alarm of fire, shall be penalized under sec. 6.20 hereof.

6.06 USE OF ADJACENT PROPERTY. Any fireman, while acting under the order or direction of the Chief or other officer in command, may enter upon the premises adjacent to or in the vicinity of any building or other property within the Village then on fire for the purpose of extinguishing such fire and no person shall hinder or resist or obstruct any fireman in the discharge of such duty.

6.07 DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY TO CHECK PROGRESS OF FIRE. During the progress of any fire within the Village the Fire Chief, or in his absence the Assistant Chief or truck captain in charge, may order the removal or destruction of any property necessary to prevent the further spread of fire.

6.08 APPARATUS TO AND FROM FIRES. Except when actually responding to a fire alarm or other emergency call or when on duty at a fire within the Village, the apparatus of the Fire Department shall have no special right of way or privileges of any kind, but shall be subject to the same traffic regulations as other vehicles.

6.09 TRAFFIC LAWS APPLY TO VOLUNTEERS. All volunteer firemen, when responding to a fire call with a private vehicle, shall comply with all traffic regulations.

6.10 SAFETY REGULATIONS. The Chief or his designated agent may prescribe certain limits in the vicinity of any fire within the Village within which any persons, excepting firemen and policemen and those admitted by order of any officer of the Fire Department, shall not be permitted. He may cause the removal of any property whenever it shall become necessary for the preservation of such property from fire, or to prevent the spreading of fire, or to protect adjoining property. He may likewise cause the shut-off of electrical and natural gas services where the same creates a dangerous hazard or interferes with the work of the Fire Department during the progress of the fire.

6.11 DUTY OF BYSTANDERS. Every person who may be present at a fire shall be subject to orders of the Chief or other officer in command and every such person shall render assistance as may be ordered by the officer in charge. Any person who shall refuse to obey such order after the official status of the officer in charge shall be made known to him shall be subject to a penalty as provided in sec. 6.20 hereof.

6.12 DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT AND INTERFERENCE. No person shall willfully hinder a fireman in the discharge of his duties, nor shall any person willfully injure in any manner any hose, fire engine or other fire apparatus belonging to the Fire District.

FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICE

6.13 DRIVING OVER FIRE HOSE PROHIBITED. No road vehicle shall be driven over any fire hose unless otherwise directed by the Fire Chief or police officer.

6.14 COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS PROHIBITED. No person shall permit on premises he controls any empty boxes, waste paper, excelsior, rags or other combustible materials in such quantities or manner as to create a fire hazard.

6.15 CARELESS SMOKING PROHIBITED.

(1) No person shall by careless or willful smoking, or use of lighters or matches in smoking, whether intentional or unintentional, set fire to personal property or any building.

(2) The Fire Chief shall post or cause to be posted "No Smoking" signs on any premises or in any building or any section of such premises or building within the Village where by the presence of highly combustible materials, in his opinion, the act of smoking presents a fire hazard.

6.16 GASOLINE, BENZINE, NAPHTHA, ETC. All gasoline stations, bulk gasoline storage facilities, and any facility for storing benzine, naphtha or any other volatile liquid shall be constructed and maintained in conformity with the regulations prescribed by the state statutes and the rules and regulations of the State Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations.

6.17 GUNPOWDER. (Revoked)

6.18 DYNAMITE. No person shall keep or store within the Village any nitroglycerine, dynamite, giant powder or other explosives more violent than gunpowder without the written permission of the Fire Chief or otherwise than in accordance with the conditions prescribed in such permission as granted and in no case shall more than 25 pounds of any such explosive be stored or kept within 20 rods of any dwelling or other occupied building. The Fire Chief may direct the place and the manner of keeping the same and the precautions to be observed in connection therewith.

6.19 AMBULANCE SERVICE. Ambulance service within the Village shall be provided and administered by the Belmont Fire Protection Board pursuant to the agreement entered into by the Village of Belmont and the Towns of Belmont, Elk Grove, Kendall and Seymour.

6.20 PENALTY. Any person who shall violate any provision of this chapter or any order, rule or regulation made hereunder, and any fireman who shall neglect or refuse to perform any duty required hereunder shall be subject to a penalty as prescribed in sec. 20.02 of this Code.