

## Chapter 18

### FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION\*

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**\*Charter Reference** – Authority generally, Section 14.

**Cross Reference** – Buildings and Building Regulations, ch. 8.

**State Law References** – Authority to provide Police and Fire Protection, Ga. Const. art. 9, sec. 2, par. 3(1); statewide application of Standard Fire Prevention Code, O.C.G.A. Section 8-2-25; The Uniform Act for the Application of Building and Fire Related Codes to Existing Buildings, O.C.G.A. Section 8-2-200; providing of fire escapes by building owners, O.C.G.A. Section 8-2-50; Obstruction or hindering of Firefighters, O.C.G.A. Section 16-10-24.1; regulation of fire and other hazards to persons and property generally, O.C.G.A. Section 25-2-1 et seq.; local fire departments generally, O.C.G.A. Section 25-3-2 et seq; authority to enact ordinances or fire and life safety codes, O.C.G.A. Section 25-3-4; firefighter standards and training, O.C.G.A. Section 25-4-2 et seq.; mutual aid resource pacts, O.C.G.A. Section 25-6-1; Georgia Fire Academy Act, O.C.G.A. Section 25-7-1 et seq.; regulation of fireworks, O.C.G.A. Section 25-10-1 et seq; electronic security systems installed and serviced by counties or municipal corporations, O.C.G.A. Section 36-60-12.

#### **Sec. 18-1. Fire Chief's Authority at Fires**

(a) The Chief of the Fire Department shall have complete control at all fires, and the Chief of Police and other peace officers of the city shall be subject to his orders and commands. The control of the Chief of the Fire Department shall continue until all danger is past.

(b) The Chief of the Fire Department shall have power to pull down or blow up any building or portion of any building when he deems it necessary in order to halt the spread of any fire.

(Code 1968, Sections 9-1, 9-2)

#### **Sec. 18-2. Interfering with Firefighters.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with, impede or obstruct any firefighter in the discharge of his duty, whether in attendance at a fire or otherwise.

(Code 1968, Section 9-3)

**State Law Reference** – Obstructing or hindering firefighters, O.C.G.A. Section 16-10-24.1.

**Sec. 18-3. False Fire Alarm.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to falsely turn in or cause to be turned in a fire alarm or to falsely report a fire or to willfully and falsely summon the fire department when there is no fire, by means of the public telegraph fire alarm system, by telephone or by any other means of communications.

(Code 1968, S 9-4)

**Sec. 18-4. Interference with Fire Alarm Boxes.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with any fire alarm box in the city for any other purpose than to give alarm in case of fire. This section does not apply to any officer or servant of the city repairing the box.

(Code 1968, Section 9-4)

**Sec. 18-5. Movement of Pedestrians regulated when fire alarm given.**

When a fire alarm is given, all pedestrians in the streets or on the public square shall seek the sidewalk and remain there until the fire truck passes or goes in an opposite direction.

(Code 1968, Section 9-6)

**Sec. 18-6. Damaging Fire Apparatus.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any vehicle over any hose, or by any means whatsoever to damage any apparatus of the Fire Department.

(Code 1968, Section 9-7)

**Sec. 18-7. Fire Protection outside the city.**

(a) Outside city fire protection by the city forces shall be discontinued except to churches, schools, nursing homes, and industries. Service to industries shall be a mutual aid service limited only to industries that meet the qualifications set by the insurance services office. These qualifications are: the industry must have adequate water available and have and maintain fire equipment such as sprinkler systems and standpipes and have an organized and trained fire brigade within the industry itself. City assistance shall be under a mutual aid agreement which would provide for only assisting the industries' brigades.

(b) The fees for this service shall be as established from time to time by the Mayor and Council

(Code 1968, Section 9-8).

**State Law Reference** – Mutual Aid Resources Pacts, O.C.G.A. § 25-6-1 et seq.