

Life Safety Code

December 2018

PART 100 UPDATE FACT SHEET

Where Does the Life Safety Code Apply?

The National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 101, Life Safety Code as adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is applicable to all occupied buildings throughout the state, except in home rule communities recognized as such by the State of Illinois and schools that fall under the codes and rules of the Illinois State Board of Education. Throughout the state, including in home rule communities, the OSFM-adopted code applies to state buildings, state licensed facilities, and other occupancies under the purview of the OSFM.

We are a home rule community. What code do we use?

Home rule communities can choose to follow the OSFM-adopted code or assert their home rule exemption by adopting an ordinance related to the fire code for the municipality. Throughout the state, including in home rule communities, the OSFM-adopted code still applies to state buildings, state licensed facilities, and other occupancies under the purview of the OSFM.

As a home rule community, are we required to adopt our own rules or codes for fire prevention and safety?

No. Home rule communities can choose to follow the OSFM-adopted code instead of adopting their own.

We are not a home rule community. What code do we use?

In accordance with the Fire Investigation Act (425 ILCS 25), local fire chiefs are responsible for enforcing the code adopted by the OSFM unless their community has adopted fire prevention and safety standards equal to or higher than the OSFM-adopted code.

We are not a home rule community. How do we know if our code is 'equal to or higher than' the OSFM-adopted code?

- The proposed rulemaking introduces a process by which OSFM and a local jurisdiction can determine whether the locally enforced code is equal to or higher than the OSFM-adopted code.
- This new tool is intended to reduce confusion for owners, builders, and local officials in those municipalities that have equivalent or greater fire safety standards.
- Municipalities that meet this standard will be able to enforce the local code without worrying about overlapping requirements, except at state buildings, state licensed facilities, and other occupancies under the purview of the OSFM which must continue to meet the OSFM-adopted code.



STATE FIRE MARSHAL

We are not a home rule community. What if our code is not 'equal to or higher than' the OSFM-adopted code?

Those non-home rule municipalities that either do not have a locally adopted fire prevention and life safety code or whose locally adopted code is determined not to be equal to or higher than the OSFM-adopted code will continue to use the OSFM-adopted code as the minimum level of life safety in the municipality.