



City of Orange

Legislation Text

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TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

THRU: Rick Otto, City Manager

FROM: Sean deMetropolis, Fire Chief

1. SUBJECT

Status report regarding calendar year 2019 fire inspections of educational and selected residential occupancies in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.4. Resolution No. 11293.

2. SUMMARY

The Orange City Fire Department performed 1,030 required annual inspections in calendar year 2019. Per State law, the Orange City Fire Department is required to report inspection activity to the City Council.

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 11293. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Orange acknowledging receipt of a report made by the Orange City Fire Department regarding performance of certain required annual inspections.

4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 1: Provide for a safe community

- e: Develop and implement effective community outreach services and programs to promote public safety.

6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

Background:

California Health and Safety Code Section 13146 (Code) requires the Orange City Fire Department (Department) to inspect all buildings used as public and private schools, hotels, motels, lodging houses, and apartment houses at least annually, "so far as practicable". Inspections are performed to ensure the safety of a building's occupants, and to look at a building's construction, its fire protection systems, and its operational features that provide safety from fire, smoke, and general panic during emergencies.

Effective January 1, 2019, Code Section 13146.4 requires all fire departments in the state to adopt direct, annual reporting of the number of State-mandated school and residential inspections they performed in the previous calendar year. This creates a clear communication channel between fire departments and their legislative bodies throughout California.

Discussion:

For the 2019 calendar year, the Department phoned, emailed, or visited all management-occupied sites to schedule inspections. Smaller apartment sites that do not have management onsite were automatically inspected. Most buildings' exteriors are generally accessible and the mandate does not require the inspection of the interior of units.

The Orange City Fire Department performed 1,030 of the 1,052 required annual inspections. Of the remaining 22 sites, one site was temporarily closed for the year and five were inadvertently not scheduled for inspection. The remaining 16 occupancies were not completed due to workforce limitations.

The Department completed an additional 2,952 life safety inspections not required to be included by Code Section 13146.4. Those inspections include structures of mid- and high-rise buildings, assembly use, manufacturing, hazardous materials, institutions, mercantile, and storage.

The Department generated either a completion or outstanding violations report, and mailed or emailed it to each inspection site. The 22 sites (2.1%) that were not inspected are tracked to ensure completion as early as possible in the next calendar year **and any that were missed were automatically scheduled for inspection in 2020**. In most cases, inspections completed early in the year for the previous year are inspected twice, as their designated annual inspection remains in place for the current year. At this time, there are no penalties associated with failure to complete all inspections in each calendar year.

7. ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution No. 11293
- Health and Safety Code Section 13146.2, 13146.3, 13146.4