

Chapter 3 DEFINITIONS

SECTION 301 — GENERAL

For the purpose of this code, certain terms, phrases, words and their derivatives shall be construed as specified in either this chapter or as specified in the Building Code or the Housing Code. Where terms are not defined, they shall have their ordinary accepted meanings within the context with which they are used. *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged*, copyright 1986, shall be construed as providing ordinary accepted meanings. Words used in the singular include the plural and the plural the singular. Words used in the masculine gender include the feminine and the feminine the masculine.

BUILDING CODE is the *Uniform Building Code* promulgated by the International Conference of Building Officials, as adopted by this jurisdiction.

DANGEROUS BUILDING is any building or structure deemed to be dangerous under the provisions of Section 302 of this code.

HOUSING CODE is the *Uniform Housing Code* promulgated by the International Conference of Building Officials, as adopted by this jurisdiction.

SECTION 302 — DANGEROUS BUILDING

For the purpose of this code, any building or structure which has any or all of the conditions or defects hereinafter described shall be deemed to be a dangerous building, provided that such conditions or defects exist to the extent that the life, health, property or safety of the public or its occupants are endangered.

1. Whenever any door, aisle, passageway, stairway or other means of exit is not of sufficient width or size or is not so arranged as to provide safe and adequate means of exit in case of fire or panic.

2. Whenever the walking surface of any aisle, passageway, stairway or other means of exit is so warped, worn, loose, torn or otherwise unsafe as to not provide safe and adequate means of exit in case of fire or panic.

3. Whenever the stress in any materials, member or portion thereof, due to all dead and live loads, is more than one and one half times the working stress or stresses allowed in the Building Code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose or location.

4. Whenever any portion thereof has been damaged by fire, earthquake, wind, flood or by any other cause, to such an extent that the structural strength or stability thereof is materially less than it was before such catastrophe and is less than the minimum requirements of the Building Code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose or location.

5. Whenever any portion or member or appurtenance thereof is likely to fail, or to become detached or dislodged, or to collapse and thereby injure persons or damage property.

6. Whenever any portion of a building, or any member, appurtenance or ornamentation on the exterior thereof is not of sufficient strength or stability, or is not so anchored, attached or fastened in place so as to be capable of resisting a wind pressure of one half of that specified in the Building Code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose or location without exceeding the working stresses permitted in the Building Code for such buildings.

7. Whenever any portion thereof has cracked, warped, buckled or settled to such an extent that walls or other structural portions have materially less resistance to winds or earthquakes than is required in the case of similar new construction.

8. Whenever the building or structure, or any portion thereof, because of (i) dilapidation, deterioration or decay; (ii) faulty construction; (iii) the removal, movement or instability of any portion of the ground necessary for the purpose of supporting such building; (iv) the deterioration, decay or inadequacy of its foundation; or (v) any other cause, is likely to partially or completely collapse.

9. Whenever, for any reason, the building or structure, or any portion thereof, is manifestly unsafe for the purpose for which it is being used.

10. Whenever the exterior walls or other vertical structural members list, lean or buckle to such an extent that a plumb line passing through the center of gravity does not fall inside the middle one third of the base.

11. Whenever the building or structure, exclusive of the foundation, shows 33 percent or more damage or deterioration of its supporting member or members, or 50 percent damage or deterioration of its nonsupporting members, enclosing or outside walls or coverings.

12. Whenever the building or structure has been so damaged by fire, wind, earthquake or flood, or has become so dilapidated or deteriorated as to become (i) an attractive nuisance to children; (ii) a harbor for vagrants, criminals or immoral persons; or as to (iii) enable persons to resort thereto for the purpose of committing unlawful or immoral acts.

13. Whenever any building or structure has been constructed, exists or is maintained in violation of any specific requirement or prohibition applicable to such building or structure provided by the building regulations of this jurisdiction, as specified in the Building Code or Housing Code, or of any law or ordinance of this state or jurisdiction relating to the condition, location or structure of buildings.

14. Whenever any building or structure which, whether or not erected in accordance with all applicable laws and ordinances, has in any nonsupporting part, member or portion less than 50 percent, or in any supporting part, member or portion less than 66 percent of the (i) strength, (ii) fire-resisting qualities or characteristics, or (iii) weather-resisting qualities or characteristics required by law in the case of a newly constructed building of like area, height and occupancy in the same location.

15. Whenever a building or structure, used or intended to be used for dwelling purposes, because of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, decay, damage, faulty construction or arrangement, inadequate light, air or sanitation facilities, or otherwise, is determined by the health officer to be unsanitary, unfit for human habitation or in such a condition that is likely to cause sickness or disease.

16. Whenever any building or structure, because of obsolescence, dilapidated condition, deterioration, damage, inadequate exits, lack of sufficient fire-resistive construction, faulty electric wiring, gas connections or heating apparatus, or other cause, is determined by the fire marshal to be a fire hazard.

17. Whenever any building or structure is in such a condition as to constitute a public nuisance known to the common law or in equity jurisprudence.

18. Whenever any portion of a building or structure remains on a site after the demolition or destruction of the building or structure or whenever any building or structure is abandoned for a period in excess of six months so as to constitute such building or portion thereof an attractive nuisance or hazard to the public.

Chapter 10 SUBSTANDARD BUILDINGS

SECTION 1001 — DEFINITION

1001.1 General. Any building or portion thereof that is determined to be an unsafe building in accordance with Section 102 of the Building Code, or any building or portion thereof, including any dwelling unit, guest room or suite of rooms, or the premises on which the same is located, in which there exists any of the conditions referenced in this section to an extent that endangers the life, limb, health, property, safety or welfare of the public or the occupants thereof, shall be deemed and hereby are declared to be substandard buildings.

1001.2 Inadequate Sanitation. Buildings or portions thereof shall be deemed substandard when they are insanitary. Inadequate sanitation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Lack of or improper water closet, lavatory, bathtub or shower in a dwelling unit or lodging house.
2. Lack of or improper water closets, lavatories, and bathtubs or showers per number of guests in a hotel.
3. Lack of or improper kitchen sink in a dwelling unit.
4. Lack of hot and cold running water to plumbing fixtures in a hotel.
5. Lack of hot and cold running water to plumbing fixtures in a dwelling unit or lodging house.
6. Lack of adequate heating facilities.
7. Lack of or improper operation of required ventilating equipment.
8. Lack of minimum amounts of natural light and ventilation required by this code.
9. Room and space dimensions less than required by this code.
10. Lack of required electrical lighting.
11. Dampness of habitable rooms.
12. Infestation of insects, vermin or rodents as determined by the health officer.
13. General dilapidation or improper maintenance.
14. Lack of connection to required sewage disposal system.
15. Lack of adequate garbage and rubbish storage and removal facilities as determined by the health officer.

1001.3 Structural Hazards. Buildings or portions thereof shall be deemed substandard when they are or contain structural hazards. Structural hazards shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Deteriorated or inadequate foundations.
2. Defective or deteriorated flooring or floor supports.
3. Flooring or floor supports of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety.
4. Members of walls, partitions or other vertical supports that split, lean, list or buckle due to defective material or deterioration.
5. Members of walls, partitions or other vertical supports that are of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety.
6. Members of ceilings, roofs, ceiling and roof supports, or other horizontal members that sag, split or buckle due to defective material or deterioration.

7. Members of ceilings, roofs, ceiling and roof supports, or other horizontal members that are of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety.

8. Fireplaces or chimneys that list, bulge or settle due to defective material or deterioration.

9. Fireplaces or chimneys that are of insufficient size or strength to carry imposed loads with safety.

1001.4 Nuisance. Buildings or portions thereof in which there exists any nuisance as defined in this code are deemed substandard buildings.

1001.5 Hazardous Electrical Wiring. Electrical wiring that was installed in violation of code requirements in effect at the time of installation or electrical wiring not installed in accordance with generally accepted construction practices in areas where no codes were in effect or that has not been maintained in good condition or that is not being used in a safe manner shall be considered substandard.

1001.6 Hazardous Plumbing. Plumbing that was installed in violation of code requirements in effect at the time of installation or plumbing not installed in accordance with generally accepted construction practices in areas where no codes were in effect or that has not been maintained in good condition or that is not free of cross-connections or siphonage between fixtures shall be considered substandard.

1001.7 Hazardous Mechanical Equipment. Mechanical equipment that was installed in violation of code requirements in effect at the time of installation or mechanical equipment not installed in accordance with generally accepted construction practices in areas where no codes were in effect or that has not been maintained in good and safe condition shall be considered substandard.

1001.8 Faulty Weather Protection. Buildings or portions thereof shall be considered substandard when they have faulty weather protection, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Deteriorated, crumbling or loose plaster.
2. Deteriorated or ineffective waterproofing of exterior walls, roof, foundations or floors, including broken windows or doors.
3. Defective or lack of weather protection for exterior wall coverings, including lack of paint, or weathering due to lack of paint or other approved protective covering.
4. Broken, rotted, split or buckled exterior wall coverings or roof coverings.

1001.9 Fire Hazard. Any building or portion thereof, device, apparatus, equipment, combustible waste, or vegetation that, in the opinion of the chief of the fire department, is in such a condition as to cause a fire or explosion or provide a ready fuel to augment the spread and intensity of fire or explosion arising from any cause shall be considered substandard.

1001.10 Faulty Materials of Construction. The use of materials of construction, except those that are specifically allowed or approved by this code and the Building Code, and that have been adequately maintained in good and safe condition, shall cause a building to be substandard.

1001.11 Hazardous or Insanitary Premises. The accumulation of weeds, vegetation, junk, dead organic matter, debris, gar-

bage, offal, rat harborages, stagnant water, combustible materials, and similar materials or conditions on a premises constitutes fire, health or safety hazards that shall be abated in accordance with the procedures specified in Chapter 11 of this code.

1001.12 Inadequate Exits. Except for those buildings or portions thereof that have been provided with adequate exit facilities conforming to the provisions of this code, buildings or portions thereof whose exit facilities were installed in violation of code requirements in effect at the time of their construction or whose exit facilities have not been increased in number or width in relation to any increase in occupant load due to alterations, additions or change in use or occupancy subsequent to the time of construction shall be considered substandard.

Notwithstanding compliance with code requirements in effect at the time of their construction, buildings or portions thereof shall be considered substandard when the building official finds that an unsafe condition exists through an improper location of exits, a

lack of an adequate number or width of exits, or when other conditions exist that are dangerous to human life.

1001.13 Inadequate Fire-protection or Firefighting Equipment. Buildings or portions thereof shall be considered substandard when they are not provided with the fire-resistive construction or fire-extinguishing systems or equipment required by this code, except those buildings or portions thereof that conformed with all applicable laws at the time of their construction and whose fire-resistive integrity and fire-extinguishing systems or equipment have been adequately maintained and improved in relation to any increase in occupant load, alteration or addition, or any change in occupancy.

1001.14 Improper Occupancy. All buildings or portions thereof occupied for living, sleeping, cooking or dining purposes that were not designed or intended to be used for such occupancies shall be considered substandard.