

***Fire Rescue Department***

**Office of the Fire Marshal**

**Fire Inspection Fee Schedule  
Update**

**June 6, 2023**



# Presentation Overview



- **Florida Fire Prevention Code**
- **Frequency of Fire Inspections**
- **Building Stock in Orange County**
- **Inspection Program**
- **Fee Schedule Update**
- **Comparative Jurisdictions**
- **Next Steps**



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# Fire Prevention Code



## Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC) Seventh Edition

*(adopted Statewide 12/31/2020)*

**NFPA 1, *Fire Code***

**NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code***

### Florida Fire Prevention Code

Seventh Edition

Jimmy Patronis  
Chief Financial Officer  
State Fire Marshal





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# Inspection Schedule



## New Code Requirement in the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition FFPC – NFPA 1

### 10.2.7 Minimum Fire Prevention Inspection Frequencies for Existing Occupancies.

10.2.7.1 Fire prevention inspections shall occur on existing premises in accordance with the minimum inspection frequency schedule specified in Table 10.2.7.1.

**Table 10.2.7.1 Minimum Inspection Frequency**

Occupancy Risk Classification	Frequency
High	Annually
Moderate	Biennially
Low	Triennially
Critical infrastructure	Per AHJ

[1730:Table 6.7]



[1730:Table 6.7]



# Definition



## Critical Infrastructure *Annual Inspection*

- Critical, vital, or essential to the safety, welfare, functionality, and economy of Orange County

*[e.g., 911 Communication Center, EOC, Water Plant, Correctional Facility, Power Plants, Fire Stations, and Hospitals]*





# Definition



## High Risk Occupancy *Annual Inspections*

- High frequency of fires
- High potential for loss of life or economic loss
- High dependency on built-in fire protection features, or staff to assist in evacuation

*[e.g., Apartments, Hotels, Dormitories, Lodging & Rooming, Assembly, Childcare, Detention, Education, Healthcare/ALF, & Fireworks Sales & Storage]*







# Definition



## Moderate Risk Occupancy *Biennial Inspections*

- History of moderate frequency of fires, or moderate potential for loss of life or economic loss

*[e.g., Ambulatory Healthcare and Industrial]*





# Definition



## Low Risk Occupancy *Triennial Inspection*

- History of low frequency of fires, and minimal potential for loss of life or economic loss

*[e.g., Storage, Mercantile and Business]*





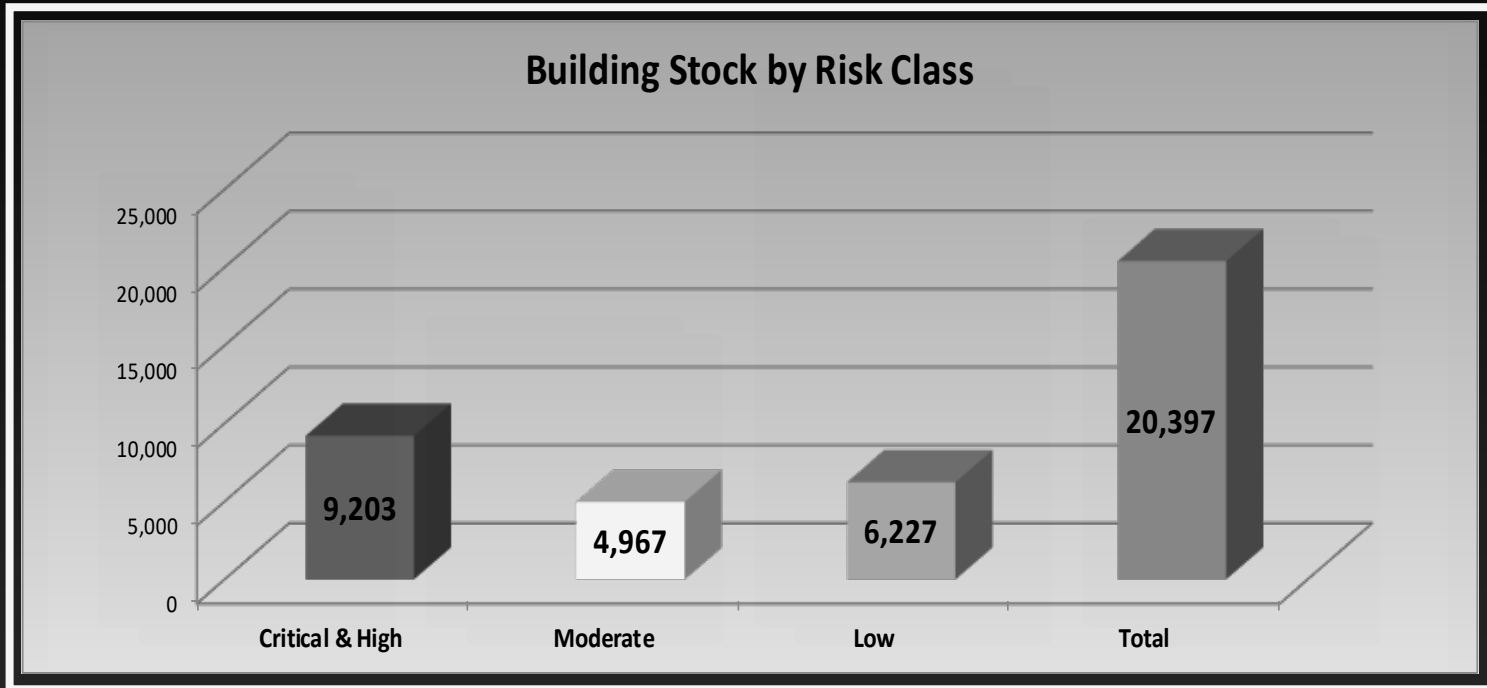
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# Current Building Stock



## Orange County Building Stock October 2022

*Omits 737 Orange County Public School buildings*

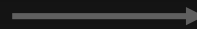


# Current Building Stock

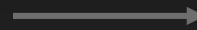


## Annual Inspection Requirements

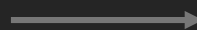
**High Risk Occupancies - 9,203**  
*Inspected every (1) year*



**Moderate Risk Occupancies - 4,967**  
*Inspected every other (2) year*



**Low Risk Occupancies - 6,227**  
*Inspected every third (3) year*



*Annual Demand = Approximately 14,000 Buildings*



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# Existing Buildings Fire Inspections



## What a Fire Inspector Looks For

- Permits/Licenses
- Exterior & Interior
- Fire Department Access
- Fire Systems & Reports
- Egress from Occupancy
- Occupant Load and Operating Features
- Electrical
- Other – Hazardous Materials





# Historic Inspection Performance



## Current Existing Construction Inspectors

- 24 Certified Fire Inspectors

## Performance

- Annual fire inspections average (4-year analysis)
- 22% of Orange County building stock (everything)
- Approximately 3,075 annual *initial* inspections (15%)





# Enhancement of Existing Resources



## FFPC Compliance

In order to meet the requirements of the FFPC Risk-Based Schedule, additional FTEs are required:

*Additional* FTEs – onboarded over two-fiscal years

- 30 Fire Inspectors
- 2 Assistant Fire Marshals
- 6 Permit Analysts



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# Current Fee Schedule



- **Currently, OFM only charges for annual inspections of:**
  - **State-Licensed Facilities - \$226K annually**
  - **Specific Business Request**
- **Current fees at \$72 *Initial* up to 2,000 sq. ft. & \$.02 additional sq. ft.**





# Estimated Revenue



## Consultant (Benesch)

Risk Classification	Buildings Inspected Annually	Inspection Frequency	Building Count	Estimated Revenue		Estimated Annual Revenue	
				Current Schedule	Adjusted Schedule	Current Fee Schedule	\$5,000 Maximum Fee
High	100%	Annually	9,203	\$3,363,353	\$3,123,807	\$3,363,353	\$3,123,807
Moderate	50%	Biennially	4,967	\$1,792,302	\$1,741,060	\$896,151	\$870,530
Low	33%	Triennially	6,227	\$1,719,501	\$1,614,891	\$567,435	\$533,904
<b>Total</b>	-		<b>20,397</b>	-	-	<b>\$4,826,939</b>	<b>\$4,528,241</b>

- Current inspection fees applied to all state required properties would generate approximately \$4.9M annually





# Total Budget Required



- Revenue required to sustain the state mandated inspection program
- Includes new FTEs

Description	Figure
<b>Assistant Fire Marshal</b>	
Required to Meet New Schedule Demand <sup>(1)</sup>	3
Loaded Hourly Rate <sup>(2)</sup>	\$59.02
Average Annual Salary <sup>(3)</sup>	\$122,765
<b>Subtotal -- Fire Marshal Salaries<sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>\$368,295</b>
<b>Inspectors</b>	
Required to Meet New Schedule Demand <sup>(5)</sup>	54
Loaded Hourly Rate <sup>(6)</sup>	\$37.72
Average Annual Salary <sup>(7)</sup>	\$78,458
<b>Subtotal - Inspector Salaries<sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>\$4,236,732</b>
<b>Permit Analysts</b>	
Required to Meet New Schedule Demand <sup>(9)</sup>	8
Loaded Hourly Rate <sup>(10)</sup>	\$25.68
Average Annual Salary <sup>(11)</sup>	\$53,414
<b>Subtotal - Permit Analyst Salaries<sup>(12)</sup></b>	<b>\$427,312</b>
<b>Additional Costs</b>	
Vehicle, Equipment, and Software License Cost per Inspector <sup>(13)</sup>	\$9,785
Assistant Fire Marshal & Inspectors <sup>(14)</sup>	57
<b>Vehicle, Equipment, and Software License Cost<sup>(15)</sup></b>	<b>\$557,745</b>
Annual Training Costs <sup>(16)</sup>	\$3,360
<b>Total Budget Required<sup>(17)</sup></b>	<b>\$5,593,444</b>



# Fee Study Recommendations



## Consultant Recommendations (Benesch)



Florida Statute 633.216 states: “...pay only the costs of inspections...and related administrative expenses.”

- **Fee for *Initial Inspections* up to 2,000 sq. Ft.**
  - **From \$72 to \$87 (\$15 increase)**
- **Inspection fee cap at \$5,000**



# Fee Schedule Example



## I-Drive Hotel

548,550 square feet of lodging and convention space

Current fee:  $\$72 + \$10,931 = \$11,003$

Updated fee with cap:  $\$87 + \underline{\text{CAP}} = \$5,000$  annually

Florida Statute 633.216 states: "...pay only the costs of inspections...and related administrative expenses"



# Fee Schedule Example



## What can business owners expect from this change? High/Critical Infrastructure

- 20,000 sq. ft. building
- $\$87 + \$360 = \$447$

*Inspection performed annually, @ \$447*







# Fee Schedule Example



## What can business owners expect from this change? Moderate Risk Classification

- **10,000 sq. ft. building**
- **\$87 + \$160 = \$247**

*Inspection performed biennially, @  
\$123.50 annually*





# Fee Schedule Example



## What can business owners expect from this change? Low Risk Classification

- **1,900 sq. ft building = \$87**

*Property under 2,000 sq. ft.  
Inspection performed triennially, at  
\$29 annually*





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# Fee Schedule Comparison



## Agencies currently charging for all inspections

- **City of Jacksonville**
  - \$0.009 x sq. ft. to max of \$5,000.
  - Fees are updated annually based on revenues
- **Hillsborough County**
  - \$55 routine inspections, + \$1.00 per additional 1,000 sq. ft.
  - Hired consultant to perform fee study - last updated 2015
- **Miami-Dade County**
  - \$30 per life safety permit inspection required annually
  - Additional charges based on occupancy type

## In transition

- **City of Orlando**
  - Currently not charging for existing occupancy inspections
  - Developing a fee schedule



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# Next Steps



- **Adopt the updated *Fee Schedule Resolution***
- **Increase OFM FTEs to comply with required FFPC inspection frequency**
- **Inform the business community of the new state requirements**
- **Begin billing all state required properties – *effective 10-01-2023***



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