

Chapter 14

Fire/Fire Department

Section 14-1 Fire districts and zones.

The entire city is declared to be a fire district, including the fire zone, which consists of the following blocks, including the lots therein:

All of Block One (1), and Two (2), and the North Half (N1/2) of Block Three (3), of the Original Plat of the Town, now City of Menno, Hutchinson County, South Dakota; and the West Half (W1/2) of Block One (1) and Block 2 (2), of A. Mettler's 1st Addition; and the West Half (W1/2) of Block (4), of A. Mettler's 4th Addition, all in the City of Menno, Hutchinson County, South Dakota.

Section 14-2 Exits in public buildings.

Every public building designated to accommodate two hundred (200) people or more shall have at least two (2) exits, each at least four (4) feet in width, and the doors at all such exits shall open outwards, and no chairs or seats shall be allowed in the aisles when the audience is present.

Section 14-3 Public building defined.

Every building used as an opera house, theater, dance hall, lodge hall, and any place where public meetings or assemblies are held, is hereby declared to be a public building within the meaning of this ordinance.

Section 14-4 Storage of inflammable substance.

No person, firm or corporation shall keep in store within the corporate limits of the city, a greater amount of petroleum, kerosene, gasoline, benzene, naphtha, or other inflammable fluid, except any such inflammable used and necessary for the purpose of heating the residence or building where stored, than ten (10) gallons at any time, without first obtaining the consent of the city council.

Section 14-5 Volunteer fire department established.

There shall be and is hereby established what shall be known as the Menno Volunteer Fire Department.

Section 14-6 Compensation.

No member of such fire company shall receive any compensation for his services therein.

Section 14-7 Officers.

The officers of such fire department shall embrace a chief, an assistant chief, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as the said fire department shall deem necessary. The fire department shall be governed by the Constitution and By-Laws thereof heretofore approved.

Section 14-8 Duties of fire chief.

The fire chief shall be responsible for the discipline and proper conduct of the fire department, the enforcement of all laws and regulations pertaining thereto and for the care and condition of the property of the department. He shall have command of all members of the fire department and in case of his absence, the assistant fire chief or other officer placed in command, shall have the same powers as the fire chief would have. At all fires he shall have the full power of a police officer. He shall make a report to the city council annually of all fires that have taken place in the preceding year, giving the causes thereof, the names of owners and occupants, and the amount of loss.

Section 14-9 Powers of fire chief.

The fire chief may prescribe limits in the vicinity of a fire within which no person except those residing therein, members of the fire department, police force, and those admitted by the chief or his subordinate, shall be permitted to come. The chief or officer having charge at any fire may call upon any person present to assist the firefighters in their duties. The fire chief shall have the power to cause the removal of all wires or to turn off all currents interfering with the work of the fire department.

Section 14-10 Chief may remove buildings.

The fire chief, during the progress of any fire, whenever in his judgment it becomes necessary to check or control the same, shall have power to order any fence, building, or structure of any kind to be torn down and removed.

Section 14-11 Interfering with department.

No person shall willfully hinder or interfere with any city officer or fireman in the performance of his duty at, going to, or returning from, any fire, or while attending to his duty as a member of the fire department. Nor shall any person willfully or negligently drive any motor vehicle or other vehicle across or upon any hose.

Section 14-12 False alarm of fire.

No person shall knowingly give a false alarm or false report of a fire.

Section 14-13 Duties of police.

In the vicinity of a fire it shall be the duty of the chief of police and his assistants to preserve order, protect property, and give any other assistance needed.

Section 14-14 Fire apparatus.

No fire apparatus shall be taken out of the city unless under such regulations as the chief may establish, nor shall any fire apparatus be applied to any private use, nor taken from the house where it shall be usually kept, except in case of an alarm of fire, without the permission of the chief.

Section 14-15 Interfering with fire hydrants.

No person, except as authorized by the superintendent of the water department or the fire department in the discharge of their duties, shall open to take any water from any fire hydrant belonging to the city nor shall any person in any way interfere with, injure, break, or deface any fire hydrant. If any person requests any fire hydrant to be removed from its existing location and it is the opinion of the water department superintendent and the city mayor that the present location of said fire hydrant is satisfactory

as far as the city is concerned, the person requesting the moving of said fire hydrant shall pay the entire cost of moving fire hydrant. Any person damaging a fire hydrant or water main or any connection thereto shall notify the water department or the city police at once, and the person responsible for the damage shall pay the cost of repairs or replacements.