




Department of Permitting Services
 Division of Fire Prevention and Fire Code Compliance
 255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

CODE INTERPRETATION/POLICY

Code/Year	Sections of Code	Title of Code Section/Subsection/Policy
<p align="center">Montgomery Code Chapter 22</p>	<p align="center">22-2 and 22-3</p>	<p align="center">EXISTING BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND CONDITIONS</p>
<p>Statement/Background of Issue:</p> <p>Montgomery County Fire Safety Code, Section 22-2 prescribes minimum requirements and controls to safeguard life, property and the public from the hazards of fire, explosion and other conditions.</p> <p>Montgomery County Fire Safety Code, Section 22-3 applies the minimum requirements to existing conditions including those legally in existence in prior codes, when such existing conditions constitute a Distinct Hazard to life or property.</p> <p>Montgomery County has adopted various National Fire Protection Association standards, making the adopted standards part of the Montgomery County Fire Safety Code.</p> <p>Division Interpretation/ Policy:</p> <p>The current Montgomery County Fire Safety Code applies to existing conditions except in cases where: (1) the condition was legally in existence prior to the adoption of the current Montgomery County Fire Safety Code; and (2) the existing condition does not constitute a Distinct Hazard to life or property as determined by the Fire Chief or designee. The current Fire Safety Code applies to the extent necessary to remedy the distinct hazard.</p> <p>An inspection of an existing building may be triggered by many circumstances, including, but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Identification of a distinct hazard condition; (2) Application for, or renewal of, a required permit; (3) A complaint; (4) Identification of systems deficiencies or impairments during inspection, maintenance and testing; (5) A call for emergency service; or (6) Requests by the owner, occupant, or tenant. <p>This interpretation does not apply to new construction or modification(s) to structures or conditions. In cases where meeting the code requirement(s) will create an undue financial burden on a building owner or tenant, the Fire Marshal, with input from the owner or occupant, will attempt to gain acceptable compliance through alternative means and methods in accordance with Chapter 5 of NFPA 101, Chapter 5 of NFPA 1, and Sections 22-2 and 22-3 of the Montgomery County Fire Safety Code</p>		
<p>Interpretation/Policy No.</p> <p>FPCC 18-2018</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>11-06-2018</p>	<p>Division Chief</p> <p align="center"></p> <p align="center">Hernal Mustafa</p>