

investigation into November 25th fire

COOS BAY, Ore. - City of Coos Bay Building Official Joseph McClay provided a report today to Oregon State Supervising Deputy Fire Marshal Bob Wright. The report provides detailed information about code requirements related to the appliances and chimney that were noted during McClay's inspection of the fire site after the fire had been extinguished.

The Deputy Supervising Fire Marshal requested that McClay develop the report to assist with the investigation into the cause and spread of the November 25th fire. The report provides a summary of building and mechanical code requirements that may be relevant to the investigation.

The report states several key points:

- A business license application was made by Automotive Machine Service at 328 N. 2nd Street on January 4, 2001. When approving Business License applications, the protocol includes a site inspection by the Building Official. There are no requirements placed on that inspection by City Code. However, the inspection typically considers required fire exits and extinguishers and a visual inspection of readily accessible areas, including whether there has been a change of use of the building.
- The Building Official inspected the Automotive Machine Service location on July 31, 2001 and determined that the usage was consistent with previous usage of the space and that fire exit and extinguisher requirements were met. The Business License was approved and a Certificate of Occupancy was issued.
- The city has no records regarding the masonry chimney or its date of origin, composition and lining, connections, or status as an interior or exterior chimney.
- The city has no applications for this location for mechanical permits for the installation of an appliance venting to a chimney. An owner, authorized agent or contractor is required to first make application to the code official and obtain the required permit for the work.

The report also goes into detail about the code requirements that the appliances and chimney found after the fire should have met, and states that, from the information available at the site after the fire, it appears that at least some of those requirements were not met.

The report also contains specifics about the make and model of the appliance.

Several simultaneous investigations into the fire continue, including investigations by Oregon OSHA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the City of Coos Bay is cooperating fully with these investigations as requested. The City of Coos Bay is still determining what, if any, additional investigations will be conducted by the City.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The text of the report is attached as a Word document. The appendices are available to be viewed in the City Building Official's Office at 500 Central in Coos Bay. Copies of the appendices can be mailed; however, due to reduced staff resources today, they cannot be mailed until next week. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause.