

Nolensville Volunteer Fire Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Sprinkler Ordinance Scheduled for Second and Final Reading

NOLENSVILLE, TN. – December 17, 2003 – On March 6, 2003 the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Nolensville, Tennessee passed on first reading, an ordinance to require certain new occupancies over 2,500 square feet and other occupancies regardless of the gross floor area limit to be protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system. Fire Chief Presley Hughes introduced the ordinance several months prior to the first reading in an effort to save life and property. Chief Hughes said, “After working for over 20 months, this ordinance is ready for adoption and we are pleased the Mayor and Aldermen are considering this legislation to provide for the protection of life and property”. Nolensville Mayor Charles Knapper made modifications to include dwellings in Open Space Developments, Planned Unit Developments, dwellings and buildings constructed on property with the access way or road frontage which is more than 15% slope. Mayor Knapper said, “With a population of 3099 persons, the Town is expected to grow to over 10,000 persons by the year 2010. Knapper continued, “This ordinance shows the commitment of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to minimize the risks to our volunteer firefighters and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Nolensville”.

The ordinance requires sprinklers for buildings more than two stories in height, single-family dwellings constructed in a row of three or more attached units, and buildings containing three or more dwelling units regardless of the gross floor area limit. Dwellings or buildings which are set back one hundred (100) feet or more from a public way or fire apparatus access road and/or more that five hundred (500) feet from the nearest operable fire hydrant shall be sprinkled. Included are provisions for renovations and additions made to existing structures; however the ordinance specifically exempted one- and two-family dwellings with a gross floor area less than 3,000 square feet when such dwelling is not required to be sprinklered as another requirement of the ordinance. The most significant modification to the ordinance was automatic fire detection in all new dwellings and dwelling units shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of the 1999 *Standard Building Code* and shall be electrically supervised through a central station monitoring service. It shall be a violation of the ordinance and of the building codes of the Town of Nolensville in the event a building owner or owners discontinue the monitoring service. After many meetings, public hearings, educational sessions and an exhaustive educational campaign the ordinance is scheduled for second and final reading on January 8, 2004.

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