



Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Administration: Fire Code Permits

No. FP-2013-29 July 16, 2013

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to describe the regulatory authorities granted by fire code permits.

Permits issued by the fire code official can be a powerful tool to regulate the storage, handling, use and transportation of hazardous materials. The model fire codes give fire officials a great deal of authority with permits.

Fire code permits regulate operational hazards and some construction activities. By issuing a permit, the fire code official authorizes a hazard to exist — such as storing liquefied gases near a building — under controlled conditions. Usually, these controls are listed in the requirements of the various hazardous materials or hazardous operations chapters of the fire code.

Permits can be in any form that the code official wants, but generally include the following information:

1. The operation, activity or construction for which the permit is issued.
2. The address where the operation, activity or construction will occur.
3. The name, address and telephone number of the permit holder.
4. A permit number.
5. The date when the permit was issued and the period of time for which the permit is valid.
6. Inspection requirements.
7. The name and signature of the code official who issued the permit.
8. Any specific conditions required by the code official.

The specific conditions can include items such as maximum amount of materials stored indoors or outdoors, maximum storage height for combustible materials, spacing requirements to keep one hazardous operation from another, or in the case of construction permits, the requirement to call the code official for an inspection before the work is completed.

Permits may be issued at no cost or for a fee established by the jurisdiction.

It is also important to remember that the issuance of a permit — regardless of what it says — does not mean that the permit holder can violate, cancel or set aside any of the provisions of the fire code or other laws of the jurisdiction where the permit is enforced.

For additional information, refer to the administrative chapter of your model fire code.



The quantity and environment for hazardous materials can be regulated through the use of fire code permits.

