



**Campus Administrative Policy**

**Policy Title: Authority Having Jurisdiction for Fire Prevention and Life Safety**

Policy Number: 3003                      Functional Area: Facilities Management

Effective: January 1, 2013  
 Date Last Amended/Reviewed: January 7, 2020  
 Date Scheduled for Review: July 1, 2027  
 Supersedes: Authority Having Jurisdiction for Fire Prevention and Life Safety (August 19, 2002)

Approved by: Jay M. Campbell  
 Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management  
 Authority Having Jurisdiction for Fire Prevention and Life Safety  
 Duxton Milam  
 Campus Fire Marshal

Prepared by: Campus Fire Marshal  
 Reviewing Office: Facilities Management  
 Responsible Officer: Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management

Applies to: CU Anschutz Medical Campus  
 CU Denver Campus

**A. POLICY STATEMENT**

Due to the complexities of the campuses, and in order to minimize risks and maintain a fire-safe campus setting, in 2002 the CU Denver Campus and CU Anschutz Medical Campus (“the university”) created an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for fire prevention and life safety. The provisions contained herein apply only to those buildings owned by the university; University of Colorado Hospital and other entities are not covered.

The term "AHJ," as commonly used in both the International Fire Code (IFC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, shall be defined as the entity that is responsible for requiring adherence to the adopted fire and life safety provisions for the property under the university jurisdiction. With regard to the university, the power of the AHJ is vested with the university Chancellors, and delegation will be at a level no lower than an Assistant Vice Chancellor. Final decisions as to application of the codes will be made after consultation with the university Campus Fire Marshal.

The purpose of this policy is to provide policy and procedures to ensure that issues related to Fire and Life Safety are handled in a manner that minimizes risk and maintains a safe campus environment through delegation by the Chancellors of an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

## **B. PROCEDURE**

As the AHJ for Fire and Life safety, the university will institute the following provisions:

1. The university, as the AHJ, is empowered to order corrections and require conformance to the fire and life safety codes on the CU Denver Campus and CU Anschutz Medical Campus.
2. All new construction must meet the State of Colorado Building Department (known as State Buildings) guidelines. After the Campus Building Official signs the final Certificate of Occupancy, the Campus Fire Marshal will be the primary contact for on-going fire prevention and life safety issues. The Campus Fire Marshal retains advisory status to both the Campus Building Official and the post occupancy AHJ.
3. The university, as the AHJ, adopts all articles and appendices of the IFC, 2018 edition, hereafter referred to as the "Fire Code."

When new editions are published, the AHJ has the option of adopting all or portions of the Fire Code.

4. The university, as the AHJ, will utilize the NFPA standards, including the Life Safety Code, for comparative reference to the Fire Code. NFPA guidelines may be used in lieu of the Fire Code, based upon the decisions of the AHJ.
5. The university, as the AHJ, is authorized to approve alternative materials or methods, provided that the AHJ finds that the proposed design, use, or operation satisfactorily complies with the intent of the Fire Code.
6. The university, as the AHJ, is authorized to render interpretations of the Fire Code and NFPA standards, and to make and enforce rules and supplementary regulations in order to carry out the application and intent of the Fire Code.
7. Recognizing that the local fire department is necessary for response to fires and emergency medical situations, the university grants the local fire department authority during emergency calls to the campus and for any post-fire investigations.
8. The university will allow the local fire department access to buildings, post occupancy, in order to make recommendations regarding fire safety and prevention. (Note: local fire inspections must be provided at no charge.) The local fire department must arrange times for audits and pre-fire planning with the Campus Fire Marshal. All fire or life safety comments from the local fire department will receive a written response from the Campus Fire Marshal. The

university also agrees to maintain a close relationship with the local fire prevention bureau and to keep them informed of changes related to new buildings and major modifications to existing structures.

9. The university agrees that violations of the Fire Code will be addressed in a timely manner. The AHJ will make final decisions as to the method and/or need for corrective actions. Certain conditions may be placed on a priority list, such that the violations are duly acknowledged. As funding becomes available, projects on the priority list will be corrected, however the university reserves the right to make determinations as to the ordering of priorities based on cost/benefit and risk analysis.
10. Due to the age of many of the buildings on the campus, certain "pre-existing conditions" may be accepted, even though they do not meet the Fire Code of today. Such buildings must meet the applicable requirements of the "existing conditions" of the NFPA Life Safety Code (or equivalent).
11. This policy will be reviewed at least every three years and/or whenever the Chancellor or delegated AHJ changes.

## Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:  
August 19, 2002: Adopted by CU Denver Chancellors  
November 29, 2006: Updated and reinstated  
January 1, 2013: Updated and reinstated  
May 20, 2019: Formatting Updated  
January 7, 2020: Reviewed  
August 1, 2020: Revised
2. History:  
May 20, 2019: Modified to reflect a 2018 Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize Campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statements organized around the several operational divisions of the university. Article links, University branding, and formatting updated by the Provost's office.  
January 7, 2020: Editorial changes only.  
August 1, 2020: New AHJ Update—administrative change only.
3. Initial Policy Effective Date: August 19, 2002
4. Cross References/Appendix:
  - [AHJ Memo from CU Anschutz Chancellor, August 1, 2020](#)
  - [AHJ Memo from CU Denver Chancellor, August 1, 2020](#)
  - [International Building Code](#)
  - [International Fire Code](#)
  - [National Fire Protection Association Standards and Life Safety Code](#)