**Fire Code Permits and Inspections**

Fire inspections occur throughout the year and each business is subject to an annual inspection that has an associated fee of between $48 to $120 dollars based on square footage. A re-inspection to clear issues found during the first inspection has no charge but subsequent inspections have fees associated with them. A small number of occupancies require more frequent inspections. If the occupancy is up to code, the one inspection is all that is required. Home businesses are not subject to a fire inspection.

The permit program (more information below) is on a recurring Fiscal Year basis and requires permits for various activities at businesses. The permitting process allows the Fire Department to monitor potentially hazardous or special activities and provides the business and employees performing those activities fire code and life safety requirements to help reduce the occurrence of accidents resulting in fire, injury or property damage. Some home based businesses may require a permit.

The Department bills through a third party vendor and sends invoices out for both inspections and required permits. The fee schedule can be found on the City website.

The Fire Department is responsible for the inspection of existing occupancies for compliance with the California Fire Code (CFC), Title 19-California Code of Regulations, the California Health and Safety Code, the City of Rio Vista Municipal Code, applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and other approved national standards. There are over 350 occupancies assigned to the Fire Department for inspections to ensure compliance with the fire code operational permit requirements or other statutory requirements for annual fire and life safety inspections within certain occupancies.

The Fire Department inspects multi-family residential occupancies (apartments), public and private schools, residential care facilities for the elderly, child and adult day care facilities as required by state statute. Additional occupancies where inspections are conducted pursuant to fire code operational permits include places of assembly (churches, restaurants, theaters, and concert venues), gas stations, repair garages, covered and open shopping malls, dry cleaners, aviation facilities, and lumber yards and woodworking plants.

Hazardous occupancies where storage of, or processes involving, hazardous materials exist, such as, industrial fabrication facilities, high piled storage and high rack storage facilities, are also inspected for compliance with fire code operational permit requirements. Fairs, festivals, temporary tent structures, haunted houses, Grad Night events and pyrotechnic events all require operational permits and add a seasonal workload to the Fire Department during the spring, summer and autumn months.

Included with this packet is a list of required permits to perform various activities within the City.

Specific information regarding the above required operational permits may be found in the California Fire Code 2013 edition as amended by the City of Rio Vista Fire Department and codified in Ordinance 2015-002 replacing Chapter 8.20 in the City of Rio Vista Municipal Code.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Fire Station at 350 Main Street.