



Swannanoa Fire & Rescue

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Memorandum

Date: September 29, 2011

To: All personnel

From: Larry Pierson, Deputy Chief

Subject: **New procedures for stove installation inspection**

The process of stove installation inspection has been a service provided at the request of insurance agencies. The entire scope of proper wood stove installation is a complex mix of NFPA 211, NFPA 225, other codes, ordinances and the stove's manufacturer's specifications for each model they produce. Single, double or triple wall pipes, wall or corner installation, pad placement, fresh air intake requirements for some stoves are all issues that limit us for a "one answer" checkbox. I have encountered stove models that allow closer distances than generic forms say is allowable. It is determined that we (as a department) do not have technical expertise or training to combine all factors and determine proper installation.

What has already been changed:

The SVFD stove inspection form has been removed from the Standard Directory and will no longer be used.

What will happen for future stove inspections:

1. The insurance company must provide a copy, by email, of the inspection sheet they want used.
2. The homeowner must provide a manual for installation of that specific model appliance.
3. The appliance must be identifiable as a particular brand and model.
If items 1 through 3 are not compliant, we will not perform the inspection.
4. The completed form will be
 - a. faxed to the insurance company by us
 - b. given to the homeowner at the station, if a copy is requested
 - c. submitted to the Chief (radio room box) for record keeping
5. If there are any technical aspects of the installation that are not 100% clear, we will not sign or complete the form. These may be cases where the installation inspection needs referred to an expert. We can advise the insurance company of the issue or request clarification. The Fire Marshall's office can also be a great resource for questions and clarification.
6. Be ready with proper tools.... especially the tape measure.
7. Remember, this is an excellent opportunity to interact with the community and prevent a fire from occurring. Use good public relations and assist the person as much as possible while not compromising fire & life safety standards.

Clarifying what we DO NOT inspect

We do not inspect Chimneys. It is impossible to properly examine the interior of the flu liner, mortar and other aspects of a chimney or areas that penetrate through a ceiling. Refer the homeowner to a professional chimney sweep/inspector.

Larry L Pierson
Deputy Chief