

Ray Township Fire & Rescue
Harold DeMan Jr.
Fire Marshal, EMT EMSIC
20301 29 Mile Rd
Ray, MI 48096
(586)749-3059 - Fax (586)749-0004

Fire Prevention Bulletin

February 10, 2021

By: Fire Marshal Harold DeMan Jr

The Ray Township Fire and Rescue Department has been made aware of an increase in the number of fires in and around residential homes within surrounding municipalities due to excessive use of electrical power, as well as an increased risk of occurrence of such fires. Due to uses of power in residential homes that far exceed the usage levels for which most residential homes are designed; the electrical grid cannot supply the power required, especially for older systems, and infrastructure is being damaged as a result. Further, during a fire or other emergency situation, local Fire Departments are unable to pull meter systems over 200 amps, and as such creates a life safety issue for the firefighters on the scene as well as those inhabitants of a residential home. Commercial meters installed in residential structures could delay firefighter activity and rescue operations.

Therefore, the Fire Marshal is requiring the following for the installation of electrical system upgrades to residential homes or dwelling within the Township.

- Residential homes and dwellings cannot exceed electrical services over 200 amps.
- Any residential requests for residential service over 200 amps must include an electric load information sheet supplied by a licensed electrician. Grow lights and associated equipment for the cultivation of marijuana shall not be included within the load calculations to justify service greater than 200 amps.
- The applicant must be the owner and provide proof of ownership of the home.
- All service requests must represent an actual need for a residential use; for example, an increase for service for installation of a swimming pool or hot tub must also have the required pool permit or hot tub permit request.
- All approved service installations over 200 amps must have a service disconnect by the meter to allow for power disconnect during a fire or hazardous conditions.
- All approved service installations over 200 amps must have signage place above the meter stating "Do not pull meter, use disconnect."
- Air conditioning units installed must comply with all requirements in the Township codes, including the mechanical code, and necessary permits and inspections must be obtained from the Township.

- All requests for permits and inspections must be submitted in writing to the building department for review by the Building Official, and the appropriate inspector licensed for the trade.
- If the home is proposing electrical service that exceeds the limitations in this Bulletin, the owner will be required to provide supporting documentation and explain why the increases are necessary for residential use. Requests will be denied if deemed to create unsafe conditions and/or if the proposed use poses danger of fire or nuisance conditions to the neighborhood.
- If the applicant is denied the request, he/she can apply for a variance to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Authority: Section 111 of the International Fire Code (IFC) 2018 governs unsafe buildings, structures, and building systems.

Violations of Section 111 of IFC 2018, are misdemeanors according to Section 110.4. This bulletin has been issued pursuant to Section 111 as a safety measure designed to prevent unsafe buildings, structures, and building systems. Therefore, violations of this Bulletin are misdemeanors, punishable as set forth in Ray Township Ordinance 2021-72A. In addition, violations of this Bulletin will subject the property to disconnection of utility service pursuant to section 113 of the IFC.

If you have any questions, please contact Ray Township Fire and Rescue at 586-749-3059.

Sincerely,



Harold DeMan Jr.
Fire Marshal