

## CHAPTER 91: HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Section

#### *General Provisions*

- 91.01 Health regulations
- 91.02 Enforcement official
- 91.03 County Board of Health

#### *Nuisances*

- 91.20 Definition
- 91.21 Abatement procedure
- 91.22 Adjoining land owners; intervention before trial
- 91.23 Dead or diseased trees
- 91.24 Weeds; litter; stagnant water
- 91.25 Garbage and refuse

#### *Fire Prevention*

- 91.30 Open burning ban; waiver

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **§ 91.01 HEALTH REGULATIONS.**

For the purpose of promoting the health and safety of the residents of the city, the Board of Health shall, from time to time, adopt such rules and regulations relative thereto and shall make such inspections, prescribe such penalties, and make such reports as may be necessary toward that purpose.

***Statutory reference:***

*Authority to regulate, see Neb. RS 17-121*

**§ 91.02 ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL.**

The Police Chief or other official designated by the City Council, as the quarantine officer, shall be the chief health officer of the city. It shall be his or her duty to notify the City Council and the Board of Health of health nuisances within the city and its zoning jurisdiction.

***Statutory reference:***

*Quarantine officer, see Neb. RS 17-121*

**§ 91.03 COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH.**

It shall be the duty of the Board of Health to work closely with the County Health Board in protecting the health and welfare of the residents of the city.

***NUISANCES*****§ 91.20 DEFINITION.**

(A) *General definition.* For the purpose of this subchapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

***NUISANCE.*** Consists in doing any unlawful act, or omitting to perform a duty, or suffering or permitting any condition or thing to be or exist, which act, omission, condition or thing either:

- (a) Injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, or safety of others;
- (b) Offends decency;
- (c) Is offensive to the senses;
- (d) Unlawfully interferes with, obstructs, tends to obstruct, or renders dangerous for passage any stream, public park, parkway, square, street, or highway in the city;
- (e) In any way renders other persons insecure in life or the use of property; or
- (f) Essentially interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property, or tends to depreciate the value of the property of others.

(B) *Specific definition.* The maintaining, using, placing, depositing, leaving, or permitting of any of the following specific acts, omissions, places, conditions, and things are hereby declared to be ***NUISANCES***:

- (1) Any odorous, putrid, unsound, or unwholesome grain, meat, hides, skins, feathers, vegetable matter, or the whole or any part of any dead animal, fish, or fowl;
- (2) Privies, vaults, cesspools, dumps, pits, or like places which are not securely protected from flies or rats, or which are foul or malodorous;
- (3) Filthy, littered, or trash-covered cellars, houseyards, barnyards, stableyards, factory yards, mill yards, vacant areas in rear of stores, granaries, vacant lots, houses, buildings, or premises;
- (4) Animal manure in any quantity which is not securely protected from flies and the elements, or which is kept or handled in violation of any ordinance of the city;
- (5) Liquid household waste, human excreta, garbage, butcher's trimmings and offal, parts of fish, or any waste vegetable or animal matter in any quantity; provided, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the temporary retention of waste in receptacles in a manner provided by the health officer of the city, nor the dumping of non-putrefying waste in a place and manner approved by the health officer;
- (6) Tin cans, bottles, glass, cans, ashes, small pieces of scrap iron, wire metal articles, bric-a-brac, broken stone or cement, broken crockery, broken glass, broken plaster, and all trash or abandoned material, unless the same be kept in covered bins or galvanized iron receptacles;
- (7) Trash, litter, rags, accumulations of barrels, boxes, crates, packing crates, mattresses, bedding, excelsior, packing hay, straw, or other packing material, lumber not neatly piled, scrap iron, tin, or other metal not neatly piled, old automobiles or parts thereof, or any other waste materials when any of the articles or materials create a condition in which flies or rats may breed or multiply, or which may be a fire danger, or which are so unsightly as to depreciate property values in the vicinity thereof;
- (8) Any unsightly building, billboard, or other structure, or any old, abandoned, or partially destroyed building or structure or any building or structure commenced and left unfinished, which buildings, billboards, or other structures are either a fire hazard, a menace to the public health or safety, or are so unsightly as to depreciate the value of property in the vicinity thereof;
- (9) All places used or maintained as junk yards, or dumping grounds, or for the wrecking and disassembling of automobiles, trucks, tractors, or machinery of any kind, or for the storing or leaving of worn-out, wrecked, or abandoned automobiles, trucks, tractors, or machinery of any kind, or of any of the parts thereof, or for the storing or leaving of any machinery or equipment used by contractors or builders or by other persons, which places are kept or maintained so as to essentially interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property by others, or which are so unsightly as to tend to depreciate property values in the vicinity thereof;
- (10) Stagnant water permitted or maintained on any lot or piece of ground;
- (11) Stockyards, granaries, mills, pig pens, cattle pens, chicken pens, or any other place, building, or enclosure, in which animals or fowl of any kind are confined or on which is stored tankage

or any other animal or vegetable matter, or on which any animal or vegetable matter including grain is being processed, when the places in which the animals are confined, or the premises on which the vegetable or animal matter is located, are maintained and kept in such a manner that foul and noxious odors are permitted to emanate therefrom to the annoyance of inhabitants of the city or are maintained and kept in such a manner as to be injurious to the public health; or

(12) All other things specifically designated as nuisances elsewhere in this code.

Penalty, see § 10.99

### § 91.21 ABATEMENT PROCEDURE.

(A) The owner or occupant of any real estate within the corporate limits or zoning jurisdiction of the city shall keep such real estate free of nuisances. Except to the extent that conflicting procedures are otherwise provided, the procedures in this section shall apply to abatement of nuisances.

(B) Upon determination by the Board of Health or designated official that the owner or occupant of any such real estate has failed to keep the real estate free of nuisances, notice to abate and remove such nuisance and notice of the right to a hearing before the City Council and the manner in which it may be requested shall be given to each owner or owner's duly authorized agent and to the occupant, if any, by personal service or by certified mail. If notice by personal service or certified mail is unsuccessful, notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or by conspicuously posting the notice on the real estate upon which the nuisance is to be abated and removed. The notice shall describe the condition as found by the Board of Health or designated official and state that the condition has been declared a nuisance and must be remedied at once.

(C) If within 5 days after receipt of such notice or publication or posting, whichever is applicable, the owner or occupant of the real estate does not request a hearing with the city or fails to comply with the order to abate and remove the nuisance, the city may have such work done.

(D) If within 5 days after receipt of such notice or publication or posting, whichever is applicable, the owner or occupant requests in writing a hearing with the City Council, the Council shall fix a time and place at which a hearing will be held. Notice of the hearing shall be given by personal service or certified mail and require the owner or occupant to appear before the Council to show cause why such condition should not be found to be a nuisance and remedied. The notice shall be given not less than 7 nor more than 14 days before the time of the hearing. Upon the date fixed for the hearing and pursuant to the notice, the Council shall hear all objections made by the owner or occupant and shall hear evidence submitted by the Board of Health or designated official. If after consideration of all the evidence, the City Council finds that the condition is a nuisance, it shall, by resolution, order and direct the owner or occupant to remedy the nuisance at once. If the owner or occupant refuses or neglects to promptly comply with the order to abate and remove the nuisance, the Council may have such work done.

(E) The costs and expenses of any such work shall be paid by the owner. If unpaid for 2 months after such work is done, the city may either:

(1) Levy and assess the costs and expenses of the work upon the real estate so benefitted in the same manner as other special taxes for improvements are levied and assessed; or

(2) Recover in a civil action the costs and expenses of the work upon the real estate and the adjoining streets and alleys.

**Statutory reference:**

*Authority to regulate and abate nuisances, see Neb. RS 18-1720*

*Nuisances prohibited, see Neb. RS 28-1321*

*Similar provisions, see Neb. RS 17-563*

*Zoning jurisdiction, Neb. RS 17-1001*

**Cross reference:**

*Authority to obtain injunction against nuisance, see § 10.99*

**§ 91.22 ADJOINING LAND OWNERS; INTERVENTION BEFORE TRIAL.**

In cases of appeal from an action of the City Council condemning real property as a nuisance or as dangerous under the police powers of the city, the owners of the adjoining property may intervene in the action at any time before trial.

(Neb. RS 19-710)

**§ 91.23 DEAD OR DISEASED TREES.**

(A) (1) It is hereby declared a nuisance for a property owner to permit, allow, or maintain any dead or diseased trees within the right-of-way of streets within the corporate limits of the city.

(2) Notice to abate and remove such nuisance and notice of the right to a hearing and the manner in which it may be requested shall be given to each owner or owner's duly authorized agent and to the occupant, if any, by personal service or certified mail. Within 30 days after the receipt of such notice, if the owner or occupant of the lot or piece of ground does not request a hearing or fails to comply with the order to abate and remove the nuisance, the city may have such work done and may levy and assess all or any portion of the costs and expenses of the work upon the lot or piece of ground so benefitted in the same manner as other special taxes for improvements are levied or assessed.

(Neb. RS 17-555)

(B) It is hereby declared a nuisance for a property owner to permit, allow, or maintain any dead or diseased trees on private property within the corporate limits of the city. The provisions in division (A)(2) shall apply to such nuisances. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section, the city police shall have the authority to enter upon private property to inspect the trees thereon.

**§ 91.24 WEEDS; LITTER; STAGNANT WATER.**

(A) Lots or pieces of ground within the city shall be drained or filled so as to prevent stagnant water or any other nuisance accumulating thereon.

(B) The owner or occupant of any lot or piece of ground within the city shall keep the lot or piece of ground and the adjoining streets and alleys free of any growth of 12 inches or more in height of weeds, grasses, or worthless vegetation.

(C) The throwing, depositing, or accumulation of litter on any lot or piece of ground within the city is prohibited.

(D) It is hereby declared to be a nuisance to permit or maintain any growth of 12 inches or more in height of weeds, grasses, or worthless vegetation on any lot or piece of ground within the city or on the adjoining streets or alleys or to litter or cause litter to be deposited or remain thereon except in proper receptacles.

(E) Any owner or occupant of a lot or piece of ground shall, upon conviction of violating this section, be guilty of an offense.

(F) (1) Notice to abate and remove such nuisance shall be given to each owner or owner's duly authorized agent and to the occupant, if any. The city shall establish the method of notice by ordinance. If notice is given by first-class mail, such mail shall be conspicuously marked as to its importance. Within five days after receipt of such notice, the owner or occupant of the lot or piece of ground may request a hearing with the city to appeal the decision to abate or remove a nuisance by filing a written appeal with the office of the City Clerk. A hearing on the appeal shall be held within 14 days after the filing of the appeal and shall be conducted by an elected or appointed officer as designated in the ordinance. The hearing officer shall render a decision on the appeal within five business days after the conclusion of the hearing. If the appeal fails, the city may have such work done. Within five days after receipt of such notice, if the owner or occupant of the lot or piece of ground does not request a hearing with the city or fails to comply with the order to abate and remove the nuisance, the city may have such work done.

(2) The costs and expenses of any such work shall be paid by the owner. If unpaid for two months after such work is done, the city may either:

(a) Levy and assess the costs and expenses of the work upon the lot or piece of ground so benefitted in the same manner as other special taxes for improvements are levied and assessed; or

(b) Recover in a civil action the costs and expenses of the work upon the lot or piece of ground and the adjoining streets and alleys.

(G) For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**LITTER.** Includes but is not limited to:

- (a) Trash, rubbish, refuse, garbage, paper, rags, and ashes;
- (b) Wood, plaster, cement, brick, or stone building rubble;
- (c) Grass, leaves, and worthless vegetation except when used as ground mulch or in a compost pile;
- (d) Offal and dead animals; and
- (e) Any machine or machines, vehicle or vehicles, or parts of a machine or vehicle which have lost their identity, character, utility, or serviceability as such through deterioration, dismantling, or the ravages of time, are inoperative or unable to perform their intended functions, or are cast off, discarded, or thrown away or left as waste, wreckage, or junk.

**WEEDS.** Include, but are not limited to: bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), perennial peppergrass (*Lepidium draba*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea picris*), Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), nodding or musk thistle, quack grass (*Agropyron repens*), perennial sow thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*), horse nettle (*Solanum carolinense*), bull thistle (*Cirsium lanceolatum*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus* sp.) (toun), hemp plant (*Cannabis sativa*), and ragweed (*Ambrosiaceae*).  
(Neb. RS 17-563) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### § 91.25 GARBAGE AND REFUSE.

(A) The owner, duly authorized agent, or tenant of any lot or land within the corporate limits or zoning jurisdiction of the city shall remove garbage or refuse found upon the lot or land or upon the streets, roads, or alleys abutting the lot or land which constitutes a public nuisance.

(B) Notice that removal of garbage or refuse is necessary shall be given to each owner or owner's duly authorized agent and to the tenant if any. The notice shall be provided by personal service or by certified mail. After providing the notice, the city through its proper offices shall, in addition to other proper remedies, remove the garbage or refuse, or cause it to be removed, from the lot or land and streets, roads, or alleys.

(C) If the Mayor declares that the accumulation of garbage or refuse upon any lot or land constitutes an immediate nuisance and hazard to public health and safety, the city shall remove the garbage or refuse, or cause it to be removed, from the lot or land within 48 hours after notice by personal service or following receipt of a certified letter in accordance with division (B) of this section if the garbage or refuse has not been removed.

(D) Whenever the city removes any garbage or refuse, or causes it to be removed, from any lot or land pursuant to this section, it shall, after a hearing conducted by the City Council, assess the cost of the removal against the lot or land.

(Neb. RS 18-1752)

### ***FIRE PREVENTION***

#### **§ 91.30 OPEN BURNING BAN; WAIVER.**

(A) There shall be an open burning ban on all bonfires, outdoor rubbish fires, and fires for the purpose of clearing land.

(B) The Fire Chief may waive an open burning ban under division (A) of this section for an area under the city Fire Department's jurisdiction by issuing an open burning permit to a person requesting permission to conduct open burning. The permit issued by the Fire Chief to a person desiring to conduct open burning shall be in writing, signed by the Fire Chief, and on a form provided by the State Fire Marshal.

(C) The Fire Chief may waive the open burning ban in the city Fire Department's jurisdiction when conditions are acceptable to the Chief. Anyone intending to burn in that jurisdiction when the open burning ban has been waived shall notify the Fire Chief of his or her intention to burn prior to starting the burn.

(D) The Fire Chief may adopt standards listing the conditions acceptable for issuing a permit to conduct open burning under division (B) of this section.

(E) The Fire Department may charge a fee not to exceed \$10 for each such permit issued. This fee shall be remitted to the City Council for inclusion in the general funds allocated to the Fire Department. These funds shall not reduce the tax requirements for the Fire Department. No such fee shall be collected from any state or political subdivision to which such a permit is issued to conduct open burning under division (B) of this section in the course of that state's or political subdivision's official duties.

(Neb. RS 81-520.01)

Penalty, see § 10.99