



August 1, 2024

Dear Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia, Premises Owners,

Re: Fire Safety Act

I am pleased to share that on August 1, 2024, the Fire Safety Act (FSA) was brought into force, replacing the Fire Services Act.

The FSA, and the associated regulations, will be essential to protecting people and communities through regular fire safety inspections and effective enforcement that will help prevent fire-related tragedies, preserve human life, and reduce property and economic loss due to fires.

The FSA addresses significant advancements in fire protection technology and a deeper understanding of fire behavior since 1979. It was developed and implemented in response to recommendations from BC Coroner's reports and stakeholder feedback to enhance fire safety standards and enforcement.

With the implementation of the FSA, there is a requirement for building owners to conduct a fire safety self-assessment that will be implemented by your local municipal government. As a result, premises owners may receive a request from the monitoring entity (the municipality) to complete a fire safety self-assessment report for their property.

To assist owners with this new requirement, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) is developing a Fire Safety Act Self-Assessment Manual. This manual is primarily intended to support the building owner or the building owner's authorized agent in completing a fire safety self-assessment and declaration. The OFC expects these documents to be shared with fire services, local authorities and building owners in early fall 2024.

The FSA establishes the authority for the fire commissioner to issue an administrative monetary penalty (AMP) in specific circumstances of non-compliance, such as non-compliance with a fire inspector order or a preventive evacuation order. AMPs will only be considered for serious, repeated and deliberate cases of non-compliance with the FSA.

During fall 2024 and winter 2025, the OFC will work closely with all partners to ensure a measured implementation of the FSA requirements. In the meantime, please visit [here](#) to review the Q&A that has a section specific to owners. If you have any questions to add to the Q&A, or any other inquiries, please contact Lori Cascaden, director, strategic initiatives at lori.cascaden@gov.bc.ca.

To view more information about the FSA or the OFC, please visit [here](#).

Respectfully,

Brian Godlonton
Fire Commissioner
Office of the Fire Commissioner