



AGENDA REPORT

Department: Fire Department
Prepared by: Eduardo Sanchez, Acting Deputy Fire Marshal
Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025
Approved by: Scott W. Huth, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT:

2025 Performance Report of Annual Fire Safety Inspections

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Acknowledging Receipt of a Report Made by the Fire Chief of the National City Fire Department Regarding the Annual Inspection of Certain Occupancies Pursuant to Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3 of the California Health and Safety Code."

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE PRIOR ACTION:

Not Applicable.

EXPLANATION:

California Senate Bill 1205 (SB 1205) was signed into law on September 27, 2018, after the tragic Ghost Ship Fire (December 2016) brought national attention to California and put a spotlight on fire safety laws as well as the performance of fire inspections. This law amends the preceding law to require an annual report on state-mandated inspections to be submitted to the governing body of each jurisdiction with authority for inspections. The law also requires the report to be given when the administering authority discusses its annual budget, and receipt of the report must be acknowledged in a resolution or similar formal document.

State-mandated inspections, as outlined in California Health & Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3, require all fire departments that provide fire protection services to conduct annual inspections in every building used as a public or private school, hotel, motel, lodging house, or apartment house, to ensure compliance with building standards. The California Health & Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3 did not require fire departments to report or demonstrate compliance as the new law (SB 1205) does.

Although there are no penalties identified in the law, adoption of the resolution will establish the City of National City's intent to fulfill the requirements of the California Health & Safety Code regarding acknowledgment of the National City Fire Department's compliance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3, which identifies the state mandated inspections above and further described below.

Public and private schools are generally classified as Educational Group E occupancies. They are schools used by more than six persons at any one time, for educational purposes through the 12th grade. Within the City of National City, there are currently 19 Group E occupancies, buildings, structures, and facilities.

During fiscal year 2024-25, the National City Fire Department completed the annual inspection of 19 Group E occupancies, buildings, structures, and facilities. This represents a 100% compliance rate. Two dedicated fire inspectors were assigned to these occupancy types for the fiscal year 2024-2025. This department will also continue to enhance coordination and cooperation with school administration and maintenance staff, resulting in a reduction in violations that require re-inspection.

Currently, the National City Fire Department is re-implementing its Public Education Program, providing education to schoolchildren and senior citizens. One item of interest will be to continue to promote its Fire Safe School of the Year Award, presented to the safest elementary school in the National School District during an annual assembly. The award, established in 2002, continues to promote friendly competition between schools while making our schools a safer place.

Hotels, motels, apartments (with three or more units), and other residential occupancies that contain sleeping units are generally classified as Residential Group R occupancies.

Within the City of National City, there are currently 473 Group R occupancies. During fiscal year 2024-2025, the National City Fire Department completed the annual inspection of 473 Group R occupancies, buildings, structures, and facilities. This represents a 100% compliance rate. The Community Risk Reduction Department conducted residential occupancy inspections with the assistance of two Fire Inspectors. Additionally, the department has seen an unprecedented upward surge in building construction in the City of National City, resulting in an increase in residential multi-family properties and general construction inspections.

The combined effort with two (2) Fire Inspectors is trending to maintain the Department's compliance rate for the mandated inspections in fiscal year 2025-2026.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

There is no fiscal impact resulting from acknowledging the National City Fire Department's compliance with certain state-mandated fire inspections. The report aims to inform the governing authority about the level of compliance with state-mandated safety inspections. This report should assist the National City Fire Department and its governing authority in planning and prioritizing available resources to appropriately staff and conduct state-mandated inspections.

RELATED CITY COUNCIL 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Public Safety

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

This is not a project under CEQA and is therefore not subject to environmental review. CCR15378; PRC 21065.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

The Agenda Report was posted at least 72 hours before the Regular Meeting date and time, and 24 hours before a Special Meeting in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

ORDINANCE:

Not Applicable

EXHIBIT:

Exhibit A - Resolution