## **Bill Johnson** *Fire Chief*

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## **Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services**

Nicholas Dawe Fire Marshal

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April 4, 2024

Dear Valued Customer of the Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office,

Subject: Important Notice Regarding Fire and Life Safety Compliance for Storage and Industrial Occupancies who report to the Tier II System.

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, Cobb County, we are reaching out to inform you of a process change in alignment with the minimum standards of Georgia State law and the county-adopted fire and life safety codes in relation to Storage and Industrial occupancies that report to the Tier II reporting system. Tier II reporting in Georgia is mandatory for facilities storing hazardous chemicals meeting or exceeding specified thresholds. It's governed by Section 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), which requires submission of a Tier II form known as the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Forms. This form notifies state and local officials as well as the public about potential hazards posed by stored chemicals.

First and foremost, we want to emphasize that, to date, the Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office (CCFMO) has not reviewed any of your documents or inspected your property. This is because Georgia state law does not mandate such reviews or inspections for Storage and Industrial occupancy properties. However, in accordance with HAZMAT regulations and our County Community Risk Assessment, we are now initiating a process to work with you to enhance fire and life safety measures. This change is focused on hazardous materials physically present on your property. Because this is a change in procedure for us and you, we are allowing ample time for businesses to prepare these documents responsibly. In synopsis, though not mandated as a state minimum requirement, said codes allow the CCFMO to require this information to be provided in the following format. Therefore, the requested information is not due until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. If you finish compiling this information sooner, we will be happy to review it earlier.

To facilitate this process effectively, we would like to draw your attention to the relevant code sections applicable in Cobb County, which have been attached for your reference:

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1, Chapter 60, Section 60.1.5: Hazardous Material Management Plan
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1, Chapter 60, Section 60.1.6: Hazardous Material Inventory Statement

- International Fire Code (IFC), Chapter 50, Section 5001.5.1: Hazardous Material Management Plan
- International Fire Code (IFC), Chapter 50, Section 5001.5.2: Hazardous Material Inventory Statement

These codes serve as principal guidelines for managing hazardous materials and ensuring the safety of your premises. In line with these requirements, we kindly request your cooperation in developing and submitting the following information in a single intergraded report:

- 1. Review of all hazardous materials on the property related to maximum allowable quantities (MAQs) in Georgia, including:
  - a. Hazardous Material Management Plan (HMMP)
  - b. Hazardous Material Inventory Statement (HMIS)
- 2. Review of all fire and life safety systems compatible with the related risk, including:
  - a. Fire suppression systems (sprinkler and clean agents)
  - b. Fire Alarm and notification system
  - c. Occupant Egress

Please note that the requested deliverables must be stamped by a Georgia-licensed professional engineer with a discipline related to this topic.

We believe that adherence to fire and life safety codes not only protects your business but also contributes to the well-being of our community and the safety of your employees. Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding this process, please feel free to contact Fire Inspector II Jeff Baxter at 678-229-7058 or via email at Thomas.baxter@cobbcounty.org.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this matter and thank you in advance for your prompt attention to these requirements. Together, we can ensure a safer environment for all.

Warm regards,

Nicholas A. Dawe

Cobb County Fire Marshal / Division Chief