

POLICE DEPARTMENT HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS



DIRECTIVE: 281-P

REFERENCE STANDARDS:

SUBJECT: Unsafe Structures

POLICY: It shall be the policy of the Hanover Park Police Department to protect the safety of persons and property by taking appropriate actions when encountering an unsafe structure.

PURPOSE: To establish a procedure to be followed for unsafe structures.

I. Procedures

A. The following procedure will be followed in all cases where the questionable safety of a structure becomes a concern:

1. The Fire Department will be contacted and requested to respond. It will be their decision to determine whether a structure is safe for occupancy under the following conditions. It will then be their responsibility to contact community development for additional follow up:
 - a. One or more structural, load-bearing building components is damaged or missing.
 - b. Two or more structural, non-load-bearing building components in the same area are damaged or missing.
 - c. Three or more structural components anywhere in the building are damaged or missing.
 - d. The structure is unsafe and/or unlawful; or, because of the degree to which the structure is in disrepair or lacks maintenance; is unsanitary, vermin or rat infested; contains filth and contamination; lacks ventilation, illumination, sanitary or heating facilities; lacks other essential equipment required by statute or ordinance; or the location of the structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants of the structure or to the public.

POLICE OPERATIONS MANUAL

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- e. Loss of heat when ambient temperatures are below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Space heaters are not to be recommended as a suitable replacement for loss of heat.
 - f. Loss of electricity not due to temporary outages by the electric company.
 - g. Loss of potable water.
 - h. Sewage from a sanitary sewer line has backed-up into the structure.
 - i. Visible infestation of rats, mice, or other non-domesticated animals.
 - j. Visible infestation of insects beyond the normal seasonal amount.
 - k. Visible human waste.
 - l. Excessive animal waste in or around the structure.
 - m. Excessive visible growth of mold or mildew.
2. The fire department may also declare a structure unfit for occupancy when these conditions exist:
- a. Lesser degrees of the conditions listed above are present.
 - b. The occupancy limit is exceeded.
 - c. The structure is in significant disrepair.
 - d. There are other building code violations that, in the judgment of the fire department, make the structure unsafe.
 - e. The structure is damaged due to fire and the cause and origin investigation is not yet completed.
 - f. The structure has received fire damage due to intentionally set fire(s) and the fire setter has not been identified and there is a reasonable belief that other fires may be set.
- B. Should a situation not mentioned above exist, the on-duty police supervisor should be contacted for clarification or further direction.