

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 46 - Inspections

181.

(a) The members of the board of fire commissioners and the chief of the fire department and his assistants, and any other officer or officers or member or members of the fire department acting under the direction of such board or chief of each of the cities of this State, and the chief, chief engineer, captain or lieutenant of any volunteer fire company, fire district or any other organization created for the purpose of and engaged in the work of extinguishing fires in any town or county of this State, whether incorporated or not, exclusive of Baltimore County are hereby severally authorized and empowered to inspect all buildings, structures or other places in their respective city, town or county, excepting, however, the interior of a private dwelling, where any combustible material, including waste paper, rags, shavings, waste, leather, rubber, crates, boxes, barrels, rubbish or other combustible material that is or may become dangerous as a fire menace to such building or buildings, structure or other places has been allowed to accumulate, or where such board or members thereof, chief assistants, or other officer aforesaid, has reason to believe that such material of a combustible nature has accumulated or is liable to be accumulated. In all jurisdictions the officials shall have the authority without liability for trespass at any time of the day or night:

(1) To enter at their own risk any building, including private dwellings, or upon any premises where a fire is in progress, or where there is reasonable cause to believe a fire is in progress, for the purpose of extinguishing the fire; and

(2) To enter at their own risk any building, including private dwellings, or premises near the scene of the fire for the purpose of protecting the building or premises or for the purpose of extinguishing the fire which is in progress in another building or premises; and

(3) To maintain order [at the fire or its vicinity] IN THE VICINITY OF A FIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY, direct the actions of the firemen at the fire OR OTHER EMERGENCY, keep bystanders or other persons at a safe distance from the fire [and] OR OTHER EMERGENCY AND FROM fire DEPARTMENT equipment, facilitate the speedy movement and operation of fire-fighting equipment and firemen, and until the arrival of sufficient police officers direct and control traffic in person or by any subordinate and facilitate the movement of traffic. THE AUTHORITY GRANTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE EXERCISED