What's in this Guide?

This information is provided to show the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations and Local Building Guidelines that each AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) uses. This is for Construction, the issuance of a Use Permit, or similar in the wildland. The illustrations throughout this guide are intended to show the requirements, best practices, and/or examples for reducing the vulnerability of a home to wildfire and meeting the standards in Title, Code, and Regulation.

§ ARTICLE 1 ADMINISTRATION 1270.01. DEFINITIONS

Agriculture: Land used for agricultural purposes as defined in a Local Jurisdiction's zoning ordinances.
Board: California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.
Building: Any Structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or Occupancy, except those classified as Utility and Miscellaneous Group U.
CAL FIRE: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
Dead-end Road: A Road that has only one point of vehicular ingress/egress, including cul-de-sacs and Roads that loop back on themselves
Defensible Space: The area within the perimeter of a parcel, Development, neighborhood or community where basic wildland fire protection practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching Wildfire or defense against encroaching Wildfires or escaping Structure fires. The perimeter as used in this regulation is the area encompassing the parcel or parcels proposed for construction and/or Development, excluding the physical Structure itself. The area is characterized by the establishment and maintenance of emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, Road names and Building identification, and fuel modification measures.
Development: As defined in section 66418.1 of the California Government Code.
Director: Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or their designee.
Driveway: A vehicular pathway that serves no more than four (4) Residential Units and any number of non-commercial or non-industrial Utility or Miscellaneous Group U Buildings on each parcel. A Driveway shall not serve commercial or industrial uses at any size or scale.
Exception: An alternative to the specified standard requested by the applicant that may be necessary due to health, safety, environmental conditions, physical site limitations or other limiting conditions, such as recorded historical sites, that provides mitigation of the problem.
Fire Apparatus: A vehicle designed to be used under emergency conditions to transport personnel and equipment or to support emergency response, including but not limited to the suppression of fires.
Fire Authority: A fire department, agency, division, district, or other governmental body responsible for regulating and/or enforcing minimum fire safety standards in the Local Jurisdiction.
Fire Hydrant: A valved connection on a water supply or storage system for the purpose of providing water for fire protection and suppression operations.
Fuel Break: A strategically located area where the volume and arrangement of vegetation has been managed to limit fire intensity, fire severity, rate of spread, crown fire potential, and/or ember production.
Greenbelts: open space, parks, wildlands, other areas, or a combination thereof, as designated by Local Jurisdictions, which are in, surround, or are adjacent to a city or urbanized area, that may function as Fuel Breaks and where Building construction is restricted or prohibited.
Greenways: Linear open spaces or corridors that link parks and neighborhoods within a community through natural or manmade trails and paths.
Hammerhead/T: A "T" shaped, three-point Turnaround space for Fire Apparatus on a Road or Driveway, being no narrower than the Road or Driveway that serves it.
Hazardous Land Use: A land use that presents a significantly elevated potential for the ignition, prolonged duration, or increased intensity of a Wildfire due to the presence of flammable material, liquids, or gasses, or other features that initiate or sustain combustion. Such uses are determined by the Local Jurisdiction and may include, but are not limited to, power-generation and distribution facilities; wood processing or storage sites; flammable gas or liquids processing or storage sites; or shooting ranges.
Local Jurisdiction: Any county, city/county agency or department, or any locally authorized district that approves or has the authority to regulate Development.
Municipal-Type Water System: A system having water pipes servicing Fire Hydrants and designed to furnish, over and above domestic consumption, a minimum of 250 gpm (950 L/min) at 20 psi (138 kPa) residual pressure for a two (2) hour duration.
Occupancy: The purpose for which a Building, or part thereof, is used or intended to be used.
One-way Road: A Road that provides a minimum of one Traffic Lane width designed for traffic flow in one direction only.
Residential Unit: Any Building or portion thereof which contains living facilities including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking and/or sanitation, for one or more persons. Manufactured homes, mobile homes, and factory-built housing are considered Residential Units.
Ridgeline: The line of intersection of two opposing slope aspects running parallel to the long axis of the highest elevation of land; or an area of higher ground separating two adjacent streams or watersheds.
Road: A public or private vehicular pathway to more than four (4) Residential Units, or to any industrial or commercial Occupancy.
Road or Driveway Structures: Bridges, culverts, and other appurtenant Structures which supplement the Traffic Lane or Shoulders.
Same Practical Effect: As used in this subchapter, means an Exception or alternative with the capability of applying accepted wildland fire suppression strategies and tactics, and provisions for fire fighter safety, including:
(1) access for emergency wildland fire equipment,
(2) safe civilian evacuation,
(3) signing that avoids delays in emergency equipment response,
(4) available and accessible water to effectively attack Wildfire or defend a Structure from Wildfire, and
(5) fuel modification sufficient for civilian and fire fighter safety.
Shoulder: A vehicular pathway adjacent to the Traffic Lane.
State Responsibility Area (SRA): As defined in Public Resources Code sections 4125-4127, and the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Article 1, sections 1220-1220.5.
Strategic Ridgeline: a Ridgeline identified pursuant to § 1276.02(a) that may support fire suppression activities or where the preservation of the Ridgeline as an Undeveloped Ridgeline would reduce fire risk and improve fire protection.
Structure: That which is built or constructed or any piece of work artifically built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner.
Traffic Lane: The portion of a Road or Driveway that provides a single line of vehicle travel.
Turnaround: An area which allows for a safe opposite change of direction for Fire Apparatus at the end of a Road or Driveway.
Turnout: A widening in a Road or Driveway to allow vehicles to pass.
Undeveloped Ridgeline: A Ridgeline with no Buildings.
Utility and Miscellaneous Group U: A Structure of an accessory character or a miscellaneous Structure not classified in any specific Occupancy permitted, constructed, equipped, and maintained to conform to the requirements of Title 24, California Building Standards Code.
Vertical Clearance: The minimum specified height of a bridge, overhead projection, or vegetation clearance above the Road or Driveway.
Vertical Curve: A curve at a high or low point of a Road that provides a gradual transition between two Road grades or slopes.
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ): As defined in Government Code section 51177(i).

STATE MINIMUM FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS & LOCAL BUILDING GUIDE

Public Resources Code - PRC
Subchapter 2 Mountain, Forest, Range and Forest Lands (4291 - 4299)
Part 2 Protection of Forest, Range and Forest Lands (4131 - 4528.7)
Chapter 2 Hazardous Fire Areas (4201 - 4290.1)

California Code of Regulations
Title 14 Natural Resources
Division 1.5 State Board of Forestry
Chapter 7 Fire Protection
Subchapter 2 State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations

QUESTIONS?

For questions and more information, please contact your local AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) permitting entity. That could be your City or County Building Department, Community Development Department, Fire Marshall, County Fire Department, City Fire Department, Fire District or similar. They apply all Title, Code, Regulation and will give direction on specific questions.

REVISION DATE: 01/10/2025

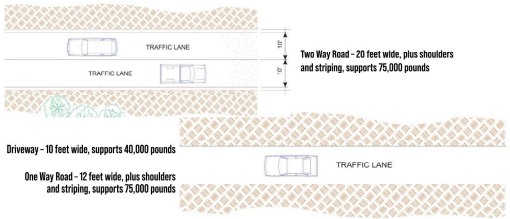
§ ARTICLE 2 INGRESS AND EGRESS

§ 1273.00. Intent

Roads, and Driveways, whether public or private, unless exempted under 14 CCR § 1270.03(d), shall provide for safe access for emergency Wildfire equipment and civilian evacuation concurrently, and shall provide unobstructed traffic circulation during a Wildfire emergency consistent with 14 CCR §§ 1273.00 through 1273.09.

§ 1273.01. Width

(a) All roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of two ten (10) foot traffic lanes, not including shoulder and striping. These traffic lanes shall provide for two-way traffic flow to support emergency vehicle and civilian egress, unless other standards are provided in this article or additional requirements are mandated by Local Jurisdictions or local subdivision requirements. Vertical clearances shall conform to the requirements in California Vehicle Code section 35250.
(b) All One-way Roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one twelve (12) foot traffic lane, not including Shoulders. The Local Jurisdiction may approve One-way Roads.
(1) All one-way roads shall, at both ends, connect to a road with two traffic lanes providing for travel in different directions, and shall provide access to an area currently zoned for no more than ten (10) Residential Units.
(2) In no case shall a One-way Road exceed 2,640 feet in length. A turnout shall be placed and constructed at approximately the midpoint of each One-way Road.
(c) All driveways shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one (1) ten (10) foot traffic lane, fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance, and unobstructed vertical clearance of thirteen feet, six inches (13' 6").



§ 1273.02. Road Surface

(a) Roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed load of fire Apparatus weighing at least 75,000 pounds, and provide an aggregate base.
(b) Road and Driveway Structures shall be designed and maintained to support at least 40,000 pounds.
(c) Project proposent shall provide engineering specifications to support design, if requested by the Local Jurisdiction.

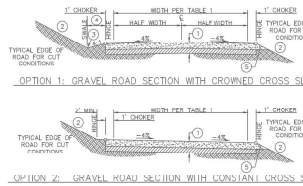
AGGREGATE ROAD EXAMPLE:

AGRREGATE

DIRT -- PROHIBITED

AGRREGATE

GRAVEL ROAD STANDARD EXAMPLE:



NOTES:
1. TYPICAL SECTION MUST BE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT FIRE TRUCK APPARATUS, BUT SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN:
A. 4" MINIMUM CLASS II AGGREGATE TO 95% RELATIVE COMPACTION FOR 8>>40 OVER
B. 6" MINIMUM CLASS II AGGREGATE TO 95% RELATIVE COMPACTION FOR 8>40 OVER
C. 12" MINIMUM SUBGRADE COMPACTED TO 95% RELATIVE COMPACTION.
2. CUT AND FILL SLOPES MUST NOT EXCEED 2 HORIZONTAL:1 VERTICAL (50 %-%.48 NATURE CANN).
3. ROADSIDE DRAINAGE MUST BE ACCOMMODATED FOR SUCH THAT IT DOES NOT ERODE THE AGGREGATE SHOULDER. THE SIDE SLOPE OF ANY DRAINAGE SWALE DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE EDGE OF ROADWAY MUST NOT EXCEED 4h:1v.
4. ADDITIONAL WIDTHWIDT BE PROVIDED AS NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE FOR ROADSIDE DRAINAGE. DRAINAGE MUST NOT ENCROACH WITHIN THE TRAVEL LANE.
5. THE AGGREGATE BASE MATERIAL MUST EXTEND TO THE EDGE OF THE FILL SLOPE (CHOKER) TO ALLOW FOR STRUCTURE ROAD SECTION DRAINAGE.

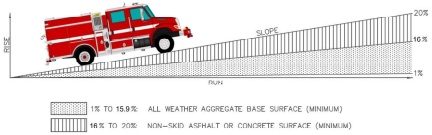
AGGREGATE ROAD EXAMPLES:

PROHIBITED WATER CROSSINGS/SURFACE

APPROVED WATER CROSSINGS/SURFACE

§ 1273.03. Grades

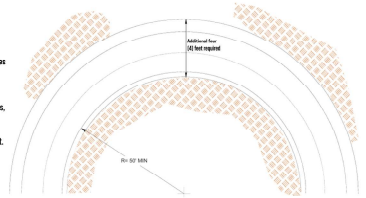
(a) At no point shall the grade for all Roads and Driveways exceed 16 percent.
(b) The grade may exceed 16%, not to exceed 20%, with approval from the Local Jurisdiction and with mitigations to provide for Same Practical Effect.



§ 1273.04. Radius

(a) No Road or Road Structure shal have a horizontal inside radius of curvature of less than fifty (50) feet. An additional surface width of four (4) feet shall be added to curves of 50-100 feet radius; two (2) feet a those from 100-200 feet.

(b) The length of vertical curves inRoadways, exclusive of gutters, ditches, and rainage structures designed to hold or divert water, shall be not less than one hundred(100) feet.



§ 1273.05. Turnarounds

(a) Turnarounds are required on Driveways and Dead-end Roads.
(b) The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be forty (40) feet, not including parking, in accordance with the figures in 14 CCR §§ 1273.05(e) and 1273.05(f). If a hammerhead/T is used instead, the top of the "T" shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet in length.
(c) Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length, but less than 800 feet in length, shall provide a turnout near the midpoint of the Driveway. Where the driveway exceeds 800 feet, turnouts shall be provided no more than 400 feet apart.
(d) A turnaround shall be provided on Driveways over 300 feet in length and shall be within fifty (50) feet of the building.
(e) Each Dead-end Road shall have a turnaround constructed at its terminus. Where parcels are zoned fire (5) acres orlarger, turnarounds shall be provided at a maximum of 1,320 foot intervals.
(e) Figure A. Turnarounds on roads with two ten-foot traffic lanes. Figure A / Image 1 on the left is a visual representation of paragraph (b).
(f) Figure B. Turnarounds on driveways with one ten-foot traffic lane. Figure B / Image 2 on the right is a visual representation of paragraph (b).

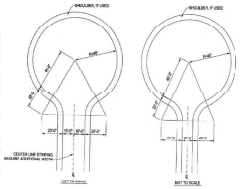
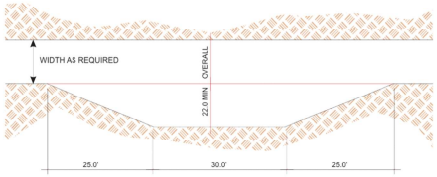


Figure A.
Turnarounds with two ten-foot traffic lanes.

Figure B.
Turnarounds with one ten-foot traffic lane.

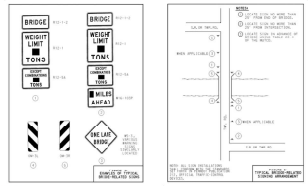
§ 1273.06. Turnouts

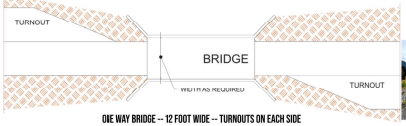
Turnouts shall be a minimum of twelve (12) feet wide and thirty (30) feet long with a minimum twenty-five (25) foot taper on each end.



§ 1273.07. Road and Driveway Structures

(a) Appropriate signing, including but not limited to weight or vertical clearance limitations, One-way Road or single traffic lane conditions, shall reflect the capability of each bridge.
(b) Where a bridge or an elevated surface is part of a Fire Apparatus access road, the bridge shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges, 17th Edition, published 2002 (known as AASHTO HB 17), hereby incorporated by reference. Bridges and elevated surfaces shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus. Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges when required by the local authority having jurisdiction.
(c) Where elevated surfaces designed for emergency vehicle use are adjacent to surfaces which are not designed for such use, barriers, or signs, or both, as approved by the local authority having jurisdiction, shall be installed and maintained.
(d) A bridge with only one traffic lane may be authorized by the Local Jurisdiction; however, it shall provide for unobstructed visibility from one end to the other and turnouts at both ends.



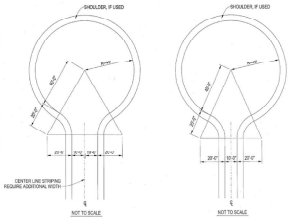


ONE WAY BRIDGE -- 12 FOOT WIDE -- TURNOUTS ON EACH SIDE

§ 1273.08. Dead-end Roads

(a) The maximum length of a Dead-end Road, including all Dead-end Roads accessed from that Dead-end Road, shall not exceed the following cumulative lengths, regardless of the number of parcels served:
-->parcels zoned for less than one acre - 800 feet
-->parcels zoned for 1 acre to 4.99 acres - 1,320 feet
-->parcels zoned for 5 acres to 19.99 acres - 2,640 feet
-->parcels zoned for 20 acres or larger - 5,280 feet
All lengths shall be measured from the edge of the Road surface at the intersection that begins the Road to the end of the Road surface at its farthest point. Where a dead-end road crosses areas of differing zoned parcel sizes requiring different length limits, the shortest allowable length shall apply.

(b) See 14 CCR § 1273.05 for dead-end road turnaround requirements.



§ 1273.09. Gate Entrances

(a) Gate entrances shall be at least two (2) feet wider than the width of the traffic lane(s) serving that gate and a minimum width of fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance and unobstructed vertical clearance of thirteen feet, six inches (13' 6").
(b) All gates providing access from a Road to a Driveway shall be located at least thirty (30) feet from the roadway and shal open to allow a vehicle to stop without obstructing traffic on that Road.
(c) Where a One way Road with a single traffic lane provides access to a gated entrance, a forty (40) foot turning radius shallbe used.
(d) Security gates shall not be installed without approval. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation. Approval shall be by the local authority having jurisdiction. The security gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times.

§ ARTICLE 3 SIGNING AND BUILDING NUMBERING

§ 1274.00. Intent

To facilitate locating a fire and to avoid delays in response, all newly constructed or approved Roads and Buildings shall be designated by names or numbers posted on signs clearly visible and legible from the Road. This section shall not restrict the size of letters or numbers appearing on road signs for other purposes.

§ 1274.01. Road Signs.

(a) Newly constructed or approved Roads must be identified by a name or number through a consistent system that provides for sequenced or patterned numbering and/or non-duplicative naming within each Local Jurisdiction. This section does not require any entity to rename or renumber existing roads, nor shall a Road providing access only to a single commercial or industrial Occupancy require naming or numbering.
(b) The size of letters, numbers, and symbols for Road signs shall be a minimum four (4) inch letter height, half inch (.5) inch stroke, reflectorized, contrasting with the background color of the sign.

EXAMPLE

EXAMPLE

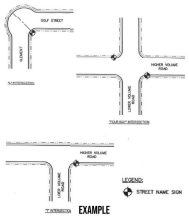
§ 1274.02. Road Sign Installation, Location, and Visibility.

(a) Road signs shall be visible and legible from both directions of vehicle travel for a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet.

(b) Signs required by this article identifying intersecting Roads shall be placed at the intersection of those Roads.

(c) A sign identifying traffic access or flow limitations, including but not limited to weight or vertical clearance limitations, dead-end roads, one-way roads, or single lane conditions, shall be placed:
(1) at the intersection preceding the traffic access limitation, and
(2) no more than one hundred (100) feet before such traffic access limitation.

(d) Road signs required by this article shall be posted at the beginning of construction and shall be maintained thereafter.



EXAMPLE

§ 1274.03. Addresses for Buildings.

(a) All Buildings shall be issued an address by the Local Jurisdiction which conforms to that jurisdiction's overall address system, utility and miscellaneous group U buildings are not required to have a separate address; however, each Residential Unit within a Building shall be separately identified.
(b) The size of letters, numbers, and symbols for addresses shall conform to the standards in the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations title 24, part 9.
(c) Addresses for residential Buildings shall be reflectorized.

	MINIMUM LETTER HEIGHT	MINIMUM STROKE WIDTH
RESIDENTIAL	4"	1/2"
COMMERCIAL	6"	3/4"
INDUSTRIAL	12"	1 1/2"

§ 1274.04. Address Installation, Location, and Visibility.

(a) All buildings shall have a permanently posted address which shall be plainly legible and visible from the Road fronting the property.
(b) Where access is by means of a private Road and the address identification cannot be viewed from the public way, an unobstructed sign or other means shall be used so that the address is visible from the public way.
(c) Address signs along one-way Roads shall be visible from both directions.
(d) Where multiple addresses are required at a single driveway, they shall be mounted on a single sign or post.
(e) Where a Road provides access solely to a single commercial or industrial business, the address sign shall be placed at the nearest Road intersection providing access to that site, or otherwise posted to provide for unobstructed visibility from that intersection.
(f) In all cases, the address shall be posted at the beginning of construction and shall be maintained thereafter.

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   --> Air Quality Management District
3. Apply For Your Permit
   --> Residential Burn Permit
   --> General and Broadcast Burn Permit
   --> Campfire Permit

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
CAL FIRE
SINCE 1885
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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§ ARTICLE 4 EMERGENCY WATER STANDARDS

§ 1275.00. Intent

Emergency water for Wildfire protection shall be available, accessible, and maintained in quantities and locations specified in the statute and these regulations in order to attack a Wildfire or defend property from a Wildfire.

§ 1275.01. Application

The provisions of this article shall apply in the tentative and parcel map process when new parcels are approved by the Local Jurisdiction.

§ 1275.02. Water Supply.

(a) When a water supply for structure defense is required to be installed, such protection shall be installed and made serviceable prior to and during the time of construction except when alternative methods of protection are provided and approved by the Local Jurisdiction.

(b) Water systems equaling or exceeding the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations title 24, part 9, or, where a municipal-type water supply is unavailable, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1142, "Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting," 2017 Edition, hereby incorporated by reference, shall be accepted as meeting the requirements of this article.

(c) Such emergency water may be provided in a fire agency mobile water tender, or naturally occurring or manmade containment structure, as long as the specified quantity is immediately available.

(d) Nothing in this article prohibits the combined storage of emergency Wildfire and structural firefighting water supplies unless so prohibited by local ordinance or specified by the local fire agency.

(e) Where freeze or crash protection is required by Local Jurisdictions, such protection measures shall be provided.

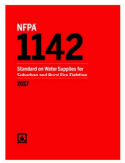
WATER TANK: EXAMPLES

CONCRETE WATER TANK

STEEL WATER TANK

FIBERGLASS WATER TANK

FIBERGLASS REINFORCED PLASTIC WATER TANK



PLASTIC WATER TANK--NOT ALLOWED PER NFPA 1142

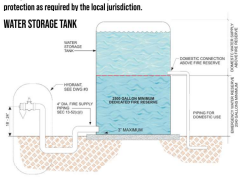
§ 1275.03. Hydrants and Fire Valves.

(a) The hydrant or fire valve shall be eighteen (18) inches above the finished surface. Its location in relation to the road or driveway and to the building(s) or structure(s) it serves shall comply with California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations title 24, part 9, Chapter 5, and Appendix C.

(b) The hydrant head shall be a two and half (2 1/2) inch National Hose male thread with cap for pressure and gravity flow systems and four and a half (4 1/2) inch for draft systems.

(c) Hydrants shall be wet or dry barrel and have suitable freeze or crash protection as required by the local jurisdiction.

WATER STORAGE TANK



CAM-LOCK FITTINGS NOT ALLOWED

§ 1275.04. Signing of Water Sources.

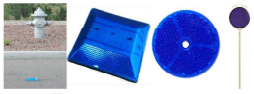
(a) Each hydrant, fire valve, or access to water shall be identified as follows:

(1) If located along a driveway, a reflectorized blue marker, with a minimum dimension of three (3) inches shall be located on the driveway address sign and mounted on a fire retardant post, or

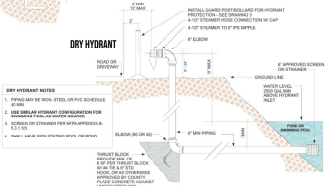
(2) If located along a road,

(i) a reflectorized blue marker, with a minimum dimension of three (3) inches, shall be mounted on a fire retadant post. The sign post shall be within three (3) feet of said hydrant or fire valve, with the sign no less than three (3) feet nor greater than five (5) feet above ground, in a horizontal position and visible from the driveway, or

(ii) as specified in the State Fire Marshal's Guidelines for Fire Hydrant Markings Along State Highways and Freeways, May 1988.



DRY HYDRANT



§ ARTICLE 5 BUILDING SITING, SETBACKS, AND FUEL MODIFICATION

§ 1276.00 Intent

To reduce the intensity of a Wildfire, reducing the volume and density of flammable vegetation around Development through strategic fuel modification, parcel siting and Building setbacks, and the protection of Undeveloped Ridgelines shall provide for increased safety for emergency fire equipment, including evacuating civilians, and a point of attack or defense from a Wildfire.

§ 1276.01. Building and Parcel Siting and Setbacks

(a) All parcels shall provide a minimum thirty (30) foot setback for all Buildings from all property lines and/or the center of a Road, except as provided for in subsection (b)

(b) A reduction in the minimum setback shall be based upon practical reasons, which may include but are not limited to, parcel dimensions or size, topographic limitations, Development density requirements or other Development patterns that promote low-carbon emission outcomes, sensitive habitat; or other site constraints , and shall provide for an alternative method to reduce Structure-to-Structure ignition by incorporating features such as, but not limited to:

(1) non-combustible block walls or fences; or

(2) non-combustible material extending five (5) feet horizontally from the furthest extent of the Building; or

(3) hardscape landscaping; or

(4) a reduction of exposed windows on the side of the Structure with a less than thirty (30) foot setback; or

(5) the most protective requirements in the California Building Code, California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 2, Chapter 7A, as required by the Local Jurisdiction.

§ 1276.02. Ridgelines

(a) The Local Jurisdiction shall identify Strategic Ridgelines, if any, to reduce fire risk and improve fire protection through an assessment of the following factors:

(1) Topography;

(2) Vegetation;

(3) Proximity to any existing or proposed residential, commercial, or industrial land uses;

(4) Construction where mass grading may significantly alter the topography resulting in the elimination of Ridgeline fire risks.

(5) Ability to support effective fire suppression; and

(6) Other factors, if any, deemed relevant by the Local Jurisdiction.

(b) Preservation of Undeveloped Ridgelines identified as strategically important shall be required pursuant to this section.

(c) New Buildings on Undeveloped Ridgelines identified as strategically important are prohibited, as described in subsections (c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(3).

(1) New Residential Units are prohibited within or at the top of drainages or other topographic features common to Ridgelines that act as chimneys to funnel convective heat from Wildfires.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to alter the extent to which utility infrastructure, including but not limited to wireless telecommunications facilities, as defined in Government Code section 65850.6, subdivision (d)(2), or Storage Groups 5 or Utility and Miscellaneous Group U Structures, may be constructed on Undeveloped Ridgelines.

(3) Local Jurisdictions may approve Buildings on Strategic Ridgelines where Development activities such as mass grading will significantly alter the topography that results in the elimination of Ridgeline fire risks.

(d) The Local Jurisdiction may implement further specific requirements to serve Undeveloped Ridgelines.

(e) Fuel Breaks shall have at a minimum, one point of entry for fire fighters and any Fire Apparatus. The specific number of entry points and entry requirements shall be determined by the Local Jurisdiction, in consultation with the Fire Authority.

(f) Fuel Breaks may be required at locations such as, but not limited to:

(1) Directly adjacent to defensible space as defined by 14 CCR § 1299.02 to reduce radiant and convective heat exposure, ember impacts, or support fire suppression tactics;

(2) Directly adjacent to Roads to manage radiant and convective heat exposure or ember impacts, increase evacuation safety, or support fire suppression tactics;

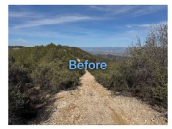
(3) Directly adjacent to a Hazardous Land Use to limit the spread of fire from such uses, reduce radiant and convective heat exposure, or support fire suppression tactics;

(4) Strategically located along Ridgelines, in Greenbelts, or other locations to reduce radiant and convective heat exposure, ember impacts, or support community level fire suppression tactics.

(g) Fuel Breaks shall be constructed using the most ecologically and site appropriate treatment option, such as, but not limited to, prescribed burning, manual treatment, mechanical treatment, prescribed herbivory, and targeted ground application of herbicides.

(h) Where a Local Jurisdiction requires Fuel Breaks, maintenance mechanisms shall be established to ensure the fire behavior objectives and thresholds are maintained over time.

(i) The mechanisms required shall be binding upon the property for which the Fuel Break is established, shall ensure adequate maintenance levels, and may include written legal agreements; permanent fees, taxes, or assessments; assessments through a homeowners' association; or other funding mechanisms.



§ 1276.03. Fuel Breaks

When Building construction meets the following criteria, the Local Jurisdiction shall determine the need and location for Fuel Breaks in consultation with the Fire Authority:

- the permitting or approval of three (3) or more new parcels, excluding lot adjustments as specified in Government Code (GC) section 66412(d); or
- an application for a change of zoning increasing zoning intensity or density; or
- an application for a change in use permit increasing use intensity or density.

Fuel Breaks required by the Local Jurisdiction, in consultation with the Fire Authority, shall be located, designed, and maintained in a condition that reduces the potential of damaging radiant and convective heat or ember exposure to Access routes, Buildings, or infrastructure within the Development.

§ 1276.04 Greenbelts, Greenways, Open Spaces and Parks

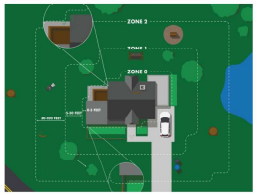
(a) Where a Greenbelt, Greenway, open space, park, landscaped or natural area, or portions thereof, is intended to serve as a Fuel Break, the space or relevant portion thereof shall conform with the requirements in § 1276.03 (Fuel Breaks).

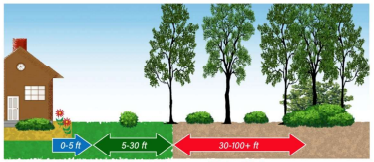
§ 1276.05 Disposal of Flammable Vegetation and Fuels

The disposal, including burning or removal to a site approved by the Local Jurisdiction, in consultation with the Fire Authority, of flammable vegetation and fuels caused by site construction, Road, and Driveway construction shall be in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

CCR, Title 14, Subchapter 3. Fire Hazard, Article 3. Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures

§1299.03. Requirement. Defensible space is required to be maintained at all times, whenever flammable vegetative conditions exist. One hundred feet (100 feet) of defensible space clearance shall be maintained in two distinct "Zones" as follows: "Zone 1" extends thirty feet (30 feet) out from each "Building or Structure," or to the property line, whichever comes first; "Zone 2" extends from thirty feet (30 feet) to one hundred feet (100 feet) from each "Building or Structure," but not beyond the property line. The vegetation treatment requirements for Zone 1 are more restrictive than for Zone 2, as provided in example images to the right and below.





Zone 0 extends 5 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

While not legally required yet, Zone 0 is key for wildfire defense and preventing fires from spreading to your home. Here are the current guidelines:

- Use gravel, pavers, or concrete instead of combustible mulch
- Clear dead weeds, grass, and debris; check roofs, gutters, and outdoor areas
- Keep branches trimmed 10 feet away from chimneys and stovepipes
- Minimize combustible items like furniture and planters on decks
- Move firewood and lumber to zone 2 for safety
- Replace combustible fencing and gates with fire-resistant materials
- Shift garbage and recycling containers to a safer area outside this zone
- Relocate boats, RVs, and vehicles away from this zone to reduce fire risks

Zone 1 extends 30 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc. or to your property line, whichever is closer.

- Clear all dead plants, grass, and weeds
- Remove dead leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof, and gutters
- Trim overhanging branches and keep them 10 feet from your chimney
- Regularly trim trees to maintain a 10-foot gap from others
- Move wood piles to Zone 2
- Prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows
- Clear flammable vegetation and items from under decks, balconies, and stairs
- Maintain space between trees shrubs, and flammable items like patio furniture and wood piles
- Ensure outbuildings and LPG tanks have 10 feet of clear space to bare soil and no flammable vegetation within an additional 10 feet around them

Zone 2 extends from 30 feet to 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc. or to your property line, whichever is closer

- Trim annual grass to a maximum height of 4 inches
- Space out shrubs and trees horizontally (See diagram)
- Ensure vertical spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees (See diagram)
- Remove fallen leaves, needles and small branches, but can leave up to 3 inches
- Keep exposed wood piles at least 10 feet clear from surroundings, down to the soil
- Ensure outbuildings and LPG tanks have 10 feet of clear space to bare soil and no flammable vegetation within an additional 10 feet around them

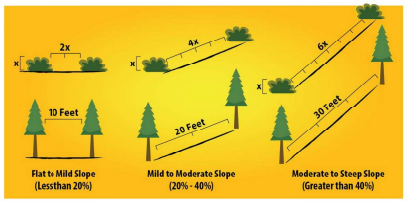
RETROFIT EXAMPLE: ZONE 0

BEFORE

AFTER

Vegetation Spacing.

- Trim tree branches up to at least 6 feet from the ground.
- Increase vertical spacing between shrubs and tress to prevent fire from climbing.
- Use a formula for vertical spacing. Multiply shrub height by 3 for clearance.



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4290.

The board shall adopt regulations implementing minimum fire safety standards related to defensible space that are applicable to state responsibility area lands under the authority of the department, and to lands classified and designated as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 51177 of the Government Code. These regulations apply to the perimeters and access to all residential, commercial, and industrial building construction within state responsibility areas approved after January 1, 1991, and within lands classified and designated as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 51177 of the Government Code after July 1, 2021. The board may not adopt building standards, as defined in Section 18909 of the Health and Safety Code, under the authority of this section. As an integral part of fire safety standards, the State Fire Marshal has the authority to adopt regulations for roof coverings and openings into the attic areas of buildings specified in Section 13108.5 of the Health and Safety Code. The regulations apply to the placement of mobile homes as defined by National Fire Protection Association standards. These regulations do not apply where an application for a building permit was filed prior to January 1, 1991, or to parcel or tentative maps or other developments approved prior to January 1, 1991, if the final map for the tentative map is approved within the time prescribed by the local ordinance. The regulations shall include all of the following:

(1) Road standards for fire equipment access.

(2) Standards for signs identifying streets, roads, and buildings.

(3) Minimum private water supply reserves for emergency fire use.

(4) Fuel breaks and greenbelts.

4291.

A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, shrub-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

(1) (A) Maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line, except as provided in subparagraph (B). The amount of fuel modification necessary shall consider the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. Fuels shall be maintained and spaced in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. This subparagraph does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that are well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a structure or from a structure to other nearby vegetation or to interrupt the advance of embers toward a structure. The intensity of fuels management may vary within the 100-foot perimeter of the structure, with more intense fuel reductions being utilized between 5 and 30 feet around the structure, and an ember-resistant zone being required within 5 feet of the structure, based on regulations promulgated by the board, in consultation with the department, to consider the elimination of materials in the ember-resistant zone that would likely be ignited by embers. Consistent with fuels management objectives, steps should be taken to minimize erosion, soil disturbance, and the spread of flammable nonnative grasses and weeds. For purposes of this subparagraph, "fuel" means any combustible material, including petroleum-based products, cultivated landscape plants, grasses, and weeds, and wildland vegetation.

(B) A greater distance than that required under subparagraph (A) may be required by state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation. Fuel modification beyond the property line may only be required by state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation in order to maintain 100 feet of defensible space from a structure. Fuel modification on adjacent property shall only be conducted following written consent by the adjacent landowner. Any local ordinance related to fuel modification shall be in compliance with all applicable state laws, regulations, and policies. Any local ordinance may include provisions to allocate costs for any fuel modification beyond the property line.

(C) An insurance company that insures an occupied dwelling or occupied structure may require a greater distance than that required under subparagraph (A) if a fire expert, designated by the director, provides findings that the fuel modification is necessary to significantly reduce the risk of transmission of flame or heat sufficient to ignite the structure, and there is no other feasible mitigation measure possible to reduce the risk of ignition or spread of wildfire to the structure. The greater distance may not be beyond the property line unless allowed by state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation.

(2) Remove that portion of a tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.

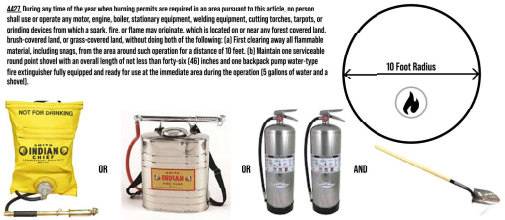
(3) Maintain a tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead or dying wood.

(4) Maintain the roof of a structure free of leaves, needles, or other vegetative materials.

(5) Before constructing a new building or structure or rebuilding a building or structure damaged by a fire in an area subject to this section, the construction or rebuilding of which requires a building permit, the owner shall obtain a certification from the local building official that the dwelling or structure, as proposed to be built, complies with all applicable state and local building standards, including those described in subdivision (b) of Section 51189 of the Government Code, and shall provide a copy of the certification, upon request, to the insurer providing coverage of construction insurance coverage for the building or structure. Upon completion of the construction or rebuilding, the owner shall obtain from the local building official, a copy of the final inspection report that demonstrates that the dwelling or structure was constructed in compliance with all applicable state and local building standards, including those described in subdivision (b) of Section 51189 of the Government Code, and shall provide a copy of the report, upon request, to the property insurance carrier that insures the dwelling or structure.

4291.1. (a) Subject to any other applicable law, a state or local fire official, at their discretion, may authorize an owner of property, or the owner's agent, to construct a firebreak, or implement appropriate vegetation management techniques, to ensure that defensible space is adequate for the protection of a hospital, adult residential care facility, school, aboveground storage tank, hazardous materials facility, or similar facility on the property. The firebreak may be for a radius of up to 300 feet from the facility, or to the property line, whichever distance is shorter. (b) The director may authorize an owner of a property not listed in subdivision (a) to construct a firebreak, or implement appropriate vegetation management techniques, within a radius of up to 300 feet from a structure, or to the property line, whichever distance is shorter, if it is determined by the director as necessary to protect life, property, and natural resources from unreasonable risks associated with wildland fires.

4292. During any time of the year when burning permits are required in an area pursuant to this article, no person shall use or operate any motor, engine, boiler, stationary equipment, welding equipment, cutting torches, tarpots, or ordnance devices from which a spark, fire, or flame may originate, which is located on or near any forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land, without doing both of the following: (a) First clearing away all flammable material, including snags, from the area around such operation for a distance of 10 feet. (b) Maintain one serviceable round point shovel with an overall length of not less than forty-six (46) inches and one backpack pump water-type fire extinguisher fully equipped and ready for use at the immediate area during the operation (5 gallons of water and a shovel).



4293. During any time of the year when burning permits are required in an area pursuant to this article, no person shall use or operate or cause to be operated in the area any portable saw, auger, drill, tamper, or other portable tool powered by a gasoline- internal combustion engine on or near any forest-covered land, brush covered land or grass-covered land, within 25 feet of any flammable material, without providing and maintaining at the immediate locations of use or operation of the saw or tool, for firefighting purposes, one serviceable round point shovel, with an overall length of not less than 46 inches, or one serviceable fire extinguisher. The Director of Forestry and Fire Protection shall by administrative regulation specify the type and size of fire extinguisher necessary to provide at least minimum assurance of suppressing fire caused by use of portable power tools under various climatic and fuel conditions. The required fire tools shall at no time be farther from the point of operation of the power saw or tool than 25 feet with unrestricted access for the operator from the point of operation (5 gallons of water, 2A-10B/C extinguisher, and a shovel).