



Santa Barbara County Fire Department

2025 Fire Code Adoption



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Background

- The 2022 California Fire Code will be superseded by the 2025 version and will become State law on January 1, 2026.
- The Fire Department adopts the 2025 California Fire Code with amendments under Chapter 15 of the Santa Barbara County Code, thereby creating the Santa Barbara County Fire Code.
- The Fire Department amended Chapter 6 of the new 2025 California Wildland Urban Interface Code. This code is adopted into Chapter 10 of the Santa Barbara County Code by the Planning Director and the Building Official.



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Modifications

- 2025 California Fire Code modifications include:
 - Relocating code language for increased efficiency and relevance
 - Updates from the International and California Code Committees
 - Consideration of current industry practices
 - Consistency with revised state and federal laws
 - Adjusted fee number changed in the 2025 Fire Code
 - Deleting Chapter 49 from the Fire Code and inserting it as Chapter 6 into the new 2025 California Wildland Urban Interface Code as Chapter 6
- There are no fee increases associated with the adoption of this code.



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Actions To Date

- County Counsel provided input, along with the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- Chapter 15 amendments were made available for review at the County Clerk's office, on our website, and were sent to over 80 stakeholders on or before October 28, 2025.



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Actions To Date (Continued)

- Fire has met with business and government leaders to discuss specific changes and to address concerns.
- As of now, there has been no opposition by stakeholders.



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Recommended Actions

- Consider the introduction of an ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the Santa Barbara County Code to adopt the 2025 California Fire Code with local amendments as the enforcement Code in all areas within the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District and all other unincorporated areas of the County where the Santa Barbara County Fire Department is the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ), unless otherwise specified by this ordinance;
- As of now, there has been no opposition by stakeholders.



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Recommended Actions (continued)

- On November 18th, 2025, consider the adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the Santa Barbara County Code as set forth above
- Consider and approve adoption of a Resolution of Legislative Findings Supporting Amendments to the California Fire Code
- Determine that the adoption of this ordinance is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act in compliance with Section 15061 (b), (3), (No possibility of impact on the environment)