



Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Fire Code Adoption



Santa Barbara County Code

Specific Fire Code amendments

CHAPTER 3 – GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE

Language was added to this Chapter at the request of the AAC for the purpose of clarifying what constitutes ‘waste accumulation’.

CHAPTER 5 – FIRE SERVICE FEATURES

Changes made to this Chapter have been initiated by Fire so that it will conform to the department’s ‘Development Standards’.



Santa Barbara County Code

Specific Fire Code amendments

CHAPTER 9 – FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Several changes were made to this Chapter by Fire to clarify confusing language resulting from word processing errors at the time of the previous adoption. Requirements are substantially the same as when the sprinkler ordinance was first adopted, circa 1980.

903.7.4 Review board and **903.7.5 Appeals** were deleted by Fire. Appeals are covered in Appendix A – Board of Appeals.



Santa Barbara County Code

Specific Fire Code amendments

CHAPTER 33 – EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS

3301.2 Prohibition of Fireworks. This section was added by Fire to specifically address the prohibition of fireworks in Santa Barbara County.



Santa Barbara County Code

Specific Fire Code amendments

CHAPTER 47 – REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREAS

Section 4702.1 Additional definitions were included in this section by Fire and County Counsel to clarify language in the new Section 4714.

Section 4714 This section was added by Fire in order to combine “Weed Abatement” requirements currently found in the County Code with “Defensible Space” requirements found in the State’s Public Resources Code.



Santa Barbara County Code

Specific Fire Code amendments

CHAPTER 47 – REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREAS (cont.)

Section 4714.4 Clearance of Brush or Vegetative Growth from around Structures. In exception #1 the term “agricultural crops” was added to satisfy a concern by the AAC.

Section 4714.4 Clearance of Brush or Vegetative Growth from around Structures. Exception #2 was added at the direction of County Counsel to address CEQA concerns.



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CHAPTER 47 – REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREAS (cont.)

4714.7 Notice of order to abate fire hazard --Mailing. The phrase “send by certified mail” was inserted.

4714.8 Order to abate fire hazard--Posting Location. The phrase “in lieu of” was removed.



Santa Barbara County Code

Specific Fire Code amendments

APPENDIX CHAPTER 1 – ADMINISTRATION

Section 102.1 Construction and design provisions. The exception to this section was included to satisfy a concern expressed by the AAC.

SECTION 108 BOARD OF APPEALS was removed by Fire and will be covered in Appendix A.

Section 111.4 Failure to Comply was amended by Fire, with concurrence from County Counsel, by inserting a fine amount of \$500.



Santa Barbara County Code

Specific Fire Code amendments

APPENDIX A – BOARD OF APPEALS

The amendments to this appendix were originally included as a change in the format from that in Santa Barbara County ordinance #4639. The policy changes noted below were done later.

A101.6 Decisions. This section is being amended by removing the Board of Supervisors as an appeal body, per County Counsel's recommendation.



Santa Barbara County Code

Specific Fire Code amendments

APPENDIX A – BOARD OF APPEALS (cont.)

A101.7 Terms of office. This section is being amended to change the term of office from a two year term to a term coinciding with the appointing Supervisor.



Santa Barbara County Code

Other specific amendments to Chapter 15

Article V. Fees

Sec. 15-103. Petroleum facility response – Cost Recovery. Fire originally included this section to cover cost recovery for any violation of the Fire Code. At the suggestion of County Counsel and the County Executive Office, it has since been modified to only apply to onshore petroleum facilities.

ISSUE	POSITION OF THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND OTHERS FROM THE AG COMMUNITY	FIRE'S POSITION
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Fire Department Development Standards	That the Board of Supervisors, not just the Fire Chief, adopt the Fire Dept. Development Standards.	Fire has no objection to this concept.
Appeals	That the Board of Supervisors hears administrative appeals from Fire Dept. interpretation and application of the Fire Code and Development Standards.	Fire defers to County Counsel's position on this issue.
Appeals	That the Code explicitly provide that road design issues (size, grade, surface) may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors.	The appeal process currently covers Road design issues, since they are already a part of the Fire Code (Sec. 503).

<p>Appeals</p>	<p>That the Fire Sprinkler Review Board and the Fire Appeals Board include a representative of the agricultural community.</p>	<p>There is only one appeals body for Fire Code issues and that is the Fire Appeals Board. The Fire Sprinkler Review Board is being deleted. With regard to including a representative of the agricultural community, the selection of the members is at the sole discretion of the Board of Supervisors.</p>
<p>CFC sec. 502.1 Fire Apparatus Access Road</p>	<p>That the definition of “Fire Apparatus Access Road” does not apply to driveways serving five (5) or fewer parcels. The design of these driveways should be governed by the Fire Department’s Development Standards.</p>	<p>The definition in Fire Code Sec. 502.1 is sufficient, as it is intended to be a general description of all access ways used by fire dept. vehicles. The Fire Department’s Development Standards already cover the design of these driveways.</p>
<p>CFC sec. 503 Fire Apparatus Access Road</p>	<p>Language listing “Exceptions” be added to the amendment of Sec. 503.2.1, which refers to the fire dept. Development Standards for the dimensions of fire apparatus access roads</p>	<p>The language proposed by Fire is sufficient. The Fire Chief currently has the ability to grant variances or make exceptions to the development standards when appropriate.</p>

<p>CFC sec. 503 Fire Apparatus Access Road</p>	<p>Amend Section 503.2.7 to add the following language at the end of the sentence: “except that the chief is authorized to allow increased steepness of grade, depending on the apparatus requirements of the Fire Department equipment, when every building served by the fire apparatus access road is provided with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system or other approved fire protection measures are provided.”</p>	<p>Grade requirements are imposed to facilitate access to a structure for any and all emergencies. Fire sprinklers are not a substitute for suitable access.</p> <p>The Fire Chief currently has the ability to grant variances or make exceptions to the development standards when appropriate. (Appendix Chapter 1, Sec. 104.8)</p>
<p>CFC Chapter 10 Means of Egress</p>	<p>That CFC Chapter 10 (“Means of Egress”) does not apply to agricultural accessory buildings such as barns, stables, animal shelters, feed storage buildings, and similar buildings.</p>	<p>CFC Chapter 10 has been adopted by the State of California and as such is state law. SBC Fire cannot make it less restrictive even if so inclined.</p>

<p>Brush Clearance</p>	<p>Remove the requirement that the owner of a parcel allow an adjacent property owner to clear brush (Reduced Fuel Zone) within 100 feet of any building, where the building is located on a neighbor's property.</p>	<p>Fire concurs and has removed this requirement from the current proposal.</p>
<p>Cooler Facilities</p>	<p>That the Fire Department work with the vegetable growers and other agricultural producers who use coolers to develop standards that would allow Cold Rooms without sprinklers.</p>	<p>Fire's position is that sprinklers are and will continue to be required in Cooler facilities until such time that a suitable alternative method of protection is presented.</p>
<p>Fire Chief Exemption of Residential Sprinklers</p>	<p>Fire Chief's discretion to exempt certain residential structures from residential sprinkler requirements, on a case-by-case basis where circumstances justify the exemption.</p>	<p>Fire believes that discretion should be used only for how a code or law is implemented not whether or not it should be applied. This just opens the department up to external pressure.</p>

<p>Fire Flow and Water Storage Requirements</p>	<p>Water flow/water storage requirements for uses and activities in rural areas and suburban areas should be based upon the alternatives as provided for in Appendix B of the 2007 Fire Code.</p>	<p>Fire concurs. This appendix has been adopted by the State and is already included in Fire's proposed ordinance. We have already applied it in the county.</p>
<p>Practical Difficulties on a Case by Case Basis</p>	<p>That language addressing the Fire Chief's authority to grant modifications to the code due to practical difficulties, and found in sec. 104.8 of the International Fire Code, be included in the County's adoption of the CFC.</p>	<p>This language is found in Appendix Chapter 1 of the 2007 CFC and is already included in Fire's proposed ordinance.</p>