

CITY OF VENTURA

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City of Ventura has adopted the 2019 California Fire Code with the following amendments.

33. CFC § 4905.3 is amended to read as follows:

Section 4905.3 Establishment of limits. Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area's required construction methods shall be required for all new structures built for human occupancy in the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the City of Ventura per maps established by the Office of State Fire Marshal pursuant to California Public Resources Code Sections 4201 - 4204.

34. CFC § 4906.2 is amended to read as follows:

Section 4906.2 Application. Buildings and structures located in the following areas shall maintain the required hazardous vegetation and fuel management:

1. All unincorporated lands designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as State Responsibility Area (SRA) including:
 - 1.1. Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zones
 - 1.2. High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
 - 1.3. Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
2. Land designated as Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and High or Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the Office of State Fire Marshal pursuant to California Public Resources Code Sections 4201 - 4204.

35. CFC § 4907.1 is amended to read as follows:

Section 4907.1 General. Defensible space will be maintained around all buildings and structures in State Responsibility Area (SRA) as required in Public Resources Code 4290 and "SRA Fire Safe Regulations" California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Section 1270.

Buildings and structures within the High and Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zones of a Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) shall maintain defensible space as outlined in Government Code 51175--51189 and Appendix Q.

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36. CFC § 4907.2 is added to read as follows:

Section 4907.2 When required. The Fire Department may require an applicant for - new residential custom homes, production tract homes, multi-family residential, and commercial buildings within High and Very- High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to submit a Fire Resistant Landscape Plan as part of the approval process.

Section 4907.2.1 Landscape Submittals. Fire Resistant Landscape Plans shall be submitted and approved by the Fire Department prior to the framing inspection. Landscape plan submittals shall include, at a minimum, a readable scale, the delineation of 100-foot fuel modification zone, the existing vegetation, and all irrigated areas, a plant legend with both botanical and common names and identification of all plant material symbols.

Section 4907.2.2 Landscaping Requirements. Plant materials used shall be approved by the Fire Department for plant palette. Landscape plans shall be in accordance with the following criteria.

1. All non-fire resistive trees, including conifers, palms, pepper trees, and eucalyptus species, shall be planted and maintained so that the tree's drip line at maturity is a minimum 30 feet from any combustible structure. All fire resistive tree species shall be planted and maintained at a minimum of 10 feet from the tree's drip line to any combustible structure.
2. For streetscape plantings, all non-fire resistive trees shall be planted so that the center of the tree trunk is at least 10 feet from edge of curb. Fire resistive trees can be planted 10 feet from edge of curb to center of tree trunk. Care should be given to the tree's form selected so that the tree canopy will not encroach into the roadway, nor produce a closed canopy effect.
3. Fuel Mosaic. Planting of large unbroken masses, especially trees and large shrubs, should be limited.
4. If shrubs are located underneath a tree's drip line, the lowest branch should be at least three times as high as the understory shrubs or 10 feet, whichever is greater.
5. Depending on the tree's physical or flammable characteristics and the building construction features, the Fire Department may require existing trees be pruned 10 feet away from roof, eave, or exterior siding.
6. All tree branches and palm fronds shall be removed within 10 feet of a fireplace chimney or outdoor barbecue.

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60. APPENDIX Q is added to read as follows:

APPENDIX Q - FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT

Q101.1 Scope. This appendix provides provisions intended to identify hazard areas and mitigate the risk to life and structures from intrusion of fire from wildland fire exposures and fire exposures from adjacent structures and to mitigate fires from spreading to wildland fuel that may threaten to destroy life, overwhelm fire suppression capabilities, or result in large property loss.

Q101.2 Purpose. The purpose of this appendix is to establish minimum requirements in wildland-urban interface areas that will increase the ability of buildings to resist the intrusion of flame or burning embers being projected by a vegetation fire including the identification of hazardous fire areas that require applicable defensible space provisions provided for in this code and enforced by the fire code official and applicable state and local fire resistive building standards that are required by the local building official.

Q102 Definitions.

Q102.1 Definitions. For the purpose of this Appendix, certain terms are defined as follows:

"Combustible Material" includes seasonal and recurrent weeds, stubble, brush, dry leaves, tumbleweeds, rubbish, litter or flammable materials of any kind.

"Defensible Space" is an area either natural or man-made, where material capable of allowing a fire to spread unchecked has been treated, cleared or modified to slow the rate and intensity of an advancing wildfire and to create an area for fire suppression operations to occur.

"Hazardous Fire Area" is land which is covered with grass, grain, brush, or forest, whether publicly or privately owned, which is so situated or is of such inaccessible location that a fire originating upon such land would present an abnormally difficult job of suppression or would potentially result in great and unusual damage through fire or resulting erosion. Such areas are designated by the fire code official. The fire code official is authorized to utilize as reference the definition of Hazardous Watershed Fire Area, Local Agency Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps designated pursuant to California Government Code Sections 51175 through 51189 and the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code.

"Hazardous Watershed Fire Area" is a location within 500 feet of a forest or brush-, grass-, or grain-covered land, exclusive of small individual lots or parcels of land located outside of a forest or brush-, grass-, or grain-covered area.

"Parcel" is a portion of land of any size, the area of which is determined by the assessor's maps and records and may be identified by an assessor's parcel number whether or not any buildings are present.

"Public Nuisance" is a declaration by the fire code official that the presence of combustible material on a parcel creates a fire hazard.

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"Wildland-Urban Interface Area" is that geographical area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with wildland r vegetative fuels.

Q103 Unlawful Disposal. Every person who places, deposits or dumps combustible material on a parcel whether or not he owns such parcel, or whether or not he so places, deposits or dumps on such parcel with the consent of the owner thereof, is subject to civil penalties as set forth in Chapter 1.050 of the San Buenaventura Municipal Code and to criminal penalties as set forth in the California Health and Safety Code Section 13871.

Q104 Clearance of Brush, Vegetative Growth and Combustible Material from Parcels. All parcels declared a public nuisance shall be cleared entirely of combustible material. If the fire code official determines this impractical due to hazards posed by the resulting clearance, the provisions of Section 0105 may be used.

Q105 Clearance of Brush and Vegetative Growth Away from Structures. Any person owning, leasing, controlling, operating or maintaining any building in, upon, or adjoining any hazardous fire area, and any person owning, leasing or controlling any land adjacent to such building, shall at all times maintain around and adjacent to such building an effective firebreak made by removing and clearing away all combustible material for a distance of not less than 100 feet from all portions of the building, as per the Fire Hazard Reduction Program zone requirements and as listed in sections Q105.1 and Q105.2.

Exception: Single specimens or stands of protected species of trees, ornamental shrubbery or similar plants used as ground cover, provided they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting a fire from the native growth to any building.

Q105.1 Zone 1: This is a limited planting area within 30 feet of structures.

1. **0-5 Feet from Structure.** Very low growing (3 inches high maximum), high water content ground cover and few small shrubs (2 feet high maximum). No landscape mulch or wood chips. Use clear soil, rocks, gravel or concrete. No Trees. This is a recommended no planting zone.
2. **Chimney & Roof.** Remove portions of any tree that extends within 10 feet of a chimney and remove any combustible material on or within 3 feet above any roof of a building.
3. **Leaves & Clutter.** Remove leaves, needle or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.

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4. **Dead Vegetation & Grass.** Remove all dead and dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds and needles and maintain annual grasses to a maximum of 4 inches in height.
5. **Ground Cover & Shrubs.** Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs so that groupings are limited to a 10-foot diameter and spaced 5 feet from any other groupings.
6. **Combustible vegetation below decks.** Remove flammable vegetation and items that could catch fire which are adjacent to or below combustible decks, balconies; and stairs
7. **Wood piles.** Relocate exposed wood piles exceeding 55 cubic feet (approximately 2 feet deep by 5 feet wide and 5 feet high) outside of Zone 1.

Q105.2 Zone 2: This is the area from outer edge of Zone 1 to 100 feet of structures.

1. **Cut Grass 4 inches.** Cut annual grasses and forbs to a maximum of 4 inches in height.
2. **Trees.** Maintain trees exceeding 6 feet in height so limbs are not within 5 feet of the ground or 1/3 the height of the tree (whichever is less). Highly flammable trees are not allowed unless approved by the fire code official. The horizontal distance between crown of trees and crowns of adjacent trees or unmodified fuel must be at least 10 feet.
3. **Wood piles 10 feet.** All exposed woodpiles must have a minimum of 10 feet clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.
4. **Surface & aerial fuels.** Dead and dying woody surface fuels and aerial fuels shall be removed. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a maximum depth of 3 inches.

Q105.3 Other Requirements.

1. **Logs/Stumps.** Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from other vegetation.
2. **Out Buildings/ LPG.** Outbuildings and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have 10 feet of clearance to bare mineral soil and- no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior, pursuant to 14 CCR§ 1299.03(c)(1).
3. **Address numbers.** Address numbers shall be displayed in contrasting colors and readable from the street or access road as per Section 505.

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4. **Chimney screens.** Equip chimney or stovepipe openings with a metal screen having openings between 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch or spark arresters as per Section 603.6.6.
5. **Hydrant.** Clear vegetation and obstruction within 3 feet of any fire hydrant.

Q106 Prosecution. The fire code official shall serve a written order upon the owner or possessor of a parcel, when in the opinion of the fire code official, a public nuisance exists thereon. The order shall direct such owner or possessor to remove or abate the public nuisance per the procedures and timeframes outlined in Chapter 8.010 of the San Buenaventura Municipal Code."

SECTION 3 & 4: Administrative Clauses