

(323) 881-2401

September 19, 2002

TO: LOUISA OLLAGUE, FIRST DISTRICT
RANDI TAHARA, SECOND DISTRICT
JOSEPH CHARNEY, THIRD DISTRICT
MATT KNABE, FOURTH DISTRICT
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FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

2002 LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE CODE

The proposed adoption of the 2002 Los Angeles County Fire Code is scheduled for public hearing on Tuesday, September 24, 2002. Attached for your review is a synopsis and briefing sheets of the proposed changes for the 2002 Los Angeles County Fire Code.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (323) 881-2401 or Assistant Fire Chief Johnny Jee, Fire Marshal, at (323) 890-4144.

PMF:JB:kj

Attachments

**Board Of Supervisors Briefing Sheet
September 24, 2002 Board Agenda**

PURPOSE:

- The ordinance, when adopted, will update and set forth provisions and regulations for enforcement of the Fire Code within the incorporated areas of the County and the Fire Protection District.
- The State Health and Safety Code requires that the County adopt and enforce building standards with the exception that the County may establish more restrictive building standards reasonably necessary due to local climatic, geological or topographic conditions.

BACKGROUND:

- Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5 requires that all County amendments, together with the State Building Standards Code, become effective 180 days after publication of the State Building Standards Code. The Building Standards Commission has established that date to be November 1, 2002.
- The proposed ordinance adopts by reference the 2001 California Fire Code, which incorporates by adoption the 2000 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code, and adds amendments to tailor this code to the needs of Los Angeles County.
- The ordinance adopts the 2002 Los Angeles County Fire Code as the Fire Code for the Consolidated Fire Protection District.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The provisions of this ordinance will have little or no impact on current County services.

RECOMMENDATION:

- It is recommended that the Board establish the operative date of the ordinance to November 1, 2002.

BRIEFING SHEET
ADOPTION OF THE 2002 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE CODE

When:

- Ordinance went before the Board of Supervisors on September 3, 2002. It was introduced, reading was waived, and the public hearing was scheduled for September 24, 2002 at 9:30 a.m.
- The effective date of the Los Angeles County Fire Code is November 1, 2002, which is approximately 180 days after the publication of the California Fire Code as established by the Building Standards Commission.

What:

- The 2002 version of the Los Angeles County Fire Code amends the 2001 California Fire Code, which incorporates the 2000 Uniform Fire Code.
- Most of the amendments are carried over from previous Fire Codes.

Why:

- The State Health and Safety Code requires that the County adopt and enforce building standards with the exception that the County may establish more restrictive building standards reasonably necessary due to local climatic, geological or topographic conditions.
- Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5 requires that all County amendments, together with the State Building Standards Code, become effective 180 days after publication of the State Building Standards Code. The Building Standards Commission has established that date to be November 1, 2002.

Who:

- The adoption of the 2002 Los Angeles County Fire Code will require all cities to review this ordinance for their action. Cities may adopt the code as is or they may add their own amendments.
- All field division chiefs were advised about the upcoming adoption and received a copy of the proposed ordinance. They were asked to provide a copy to each of their cities.

Where:

- When adopted, the Fire Code will update the requirements to be enforced within the cities and unincorporated areas served by the Fire Protection District.

**Synopsis of Amendments
to the Los Angeles County Fire Code – Title 32**

- SECTION 1 Repeals certain provisions that are no longer necessary or are being changed in the proposed ordinance.
- SECTION 2 Adoption by reference, the 2001 Edition of the California Fire Code and the 2000 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code.
- SECTION 3 Repeals previously enacted sections of Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code.
- SECTION 4 Changes the title of the Fire Code to Los Angeles County Fire Code.
- SECTION 5 Adds “Executive Office of the Board of Supervisor” to the location for filing of interpretations of supplemental rules and regulations.
- SECTION 6 Adds clarification to amendment that is in conflict.
- SECTION 7 References only those appendices adopted into the body of the code. Adds Appendix I-C, II-C, II-D, VI-A, VII and VIII.
- SECTION 8 Deletes the Fire Code Board of Appeals. Defers all appeals to the Fire Marshal for final interpretation and decision. Defines the method of appealing Fire Prevention decision or orders.
- SECTION 9 Adds clarification of the authority to enforce State law.
- SECTION 10 Allows only peace officers with P.C. 830.37 to enforce the entire Fire Code. Replaces “police” with “peace officer” and establishes law enforcement authority to issue citations and violations.
- SECTION 11 Establishes the position of Fire Marshal and Fire Prevention Engineer.
- SECTION 12 Authorizes enforcement of portions of Article 80 by the Health Hazardous Materials Division Staff.
- SECTION 13 Replaces “Fire Prevention Bureau” with “Chief or his designated representatives” as the authority to inspect.
- SECTION 14 Adds hazardous materials contamination to the scope of unsafe buildings and requires building official notification.

- SECTION 15 Adds “hazardous materials incident” to the scope of investigation authority.
- SECTION 16 Adds “may be potentially” to the text conditions that require a permit.
- SECTION 17 Adds additional conditions to when a permit is required and (h.2.) requires submission of material list and method of storage with floor plan.
- SECTION 18-25 Adds definitions to the code to clarify specific text used in the code.
- SECTION 26 Provides guidelines for identifying fire lane.
- SECTION 27 Provides guidelines for identifying fire hydrants.
- SECTION 28 Renumbers existing premise identification.
- SECTION 29 Provides additional guidelines for vehicular or pedestrian required access. Removes sprinkler exceptions and exceptions for additional fire protection.
- SECTION 30 Provides additional guidelines for clear overhead access roads. Removes vertical exception. Allows widths to be increased.
- SECTION 31 Adds text to identify State violation for obstructing access road or fire lane.
- SECTION 32 Removes Appendix III-A as a reference for fire flow requirements.
- SECTION 33 Removes Appendix III-B as a reference for hydrant requirements.
- SECTION 34 Removes Fire Zone 4 from code. Adds “Pool Draft System” exceptions.
- SECTION 35 Adds a reference to this section for the “Installation Acceptance Testing” of fire protection systems.
- SECTION 36 Adds additional text to this section to clarify the systems that require to be serviced, tested and maintained according to State regulations.
- SECTION 37 Requires notification for all fire protection systems that are out-of-service.

- SECTION 38 Replaces new model code text with existing County text. Requires fire sprinklers in all buildings over three (3) stories in height.
- SECTION 39 Removes Fire Zone 4 from code.
- SECTION 40 Requires a listed central station or allows the building official, with concurrence of the Chief, to approve monitoring station.
- SECTION 41 Requires visual as well as audible sprinkler flow alarm.
- SECTION 42 Deletes section in its entirety.
- SECTION 43 Adds new section for “Basement Pipe Inlets.”
- SECTION 44 Adds text that includes “automatic fire extinguishing system flow device” to Group A occupancies system activation requirements.
- SECTION 45 Requires fire alarm systems in Group R, Division 1 occupancies with three or more stories or containing 5 or more units; in hotels three or more stories or 6 or more guest rooms; and in congregate residences 3 or more stories or having an occupant load of 11 or more.
- SECTION 46 Adds “emergency alarm system or gas detection system” to list of systems requiring that design standards are used.
- SECTION 47 Replaces “authority having jurisdiction” with “chief” to text.
- SECTION 48 Adds specific reference to South Coast Air Quality Management District for constructed and maintained incinerators.
- SECTION 49 Requires Fire Department permit for open burning, and when required, a South Coast Air Quality Management District permit obtained.
- SECTION 50 Adds requirements to prevent rubbish accumulation.
- SECTION 51 Prohibits accumulation of combustible waste matter within any building.
- SECTION 52 Exception is altered to increase the need for spark arrester on chimneys from 200 to 500 feet.
- SECTION 53 Section 1114 through 1116 are reserved.
- SECTION 54 Adds “distribution” line to the text for line clearance.

- SECTION 55 Removes Fire Zone 4 from code. Adds guidelines for approved Fuel Modification Plan.
- SECTION 56 Appeals to Fuel Modification Plan requirements within the urban interface will be determined by the Chief of Forestry.
- SECTION 57 Requires stairway identification provisions apply to new and existing buildings.
- SECTION 58 Removes Building Code Appendix reference from Fire Code.
- SECTION 59 Renumbers Section 2403.7 to 2405.9.
- SECTION 60 Renumbers Section 2403.8 to 2405.10.
- SECTION 61 Adds requirements for helispots in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
- SECTION 62 Changes Section to Emergency Notification. Removes notification methods. Adds “approval by the Chief” for requirement options.
- SECTION 63 Changes “athletic events” to “public assembly” events when requiring loose chairs to be connected.
- SECTION 64 Changes “Standby Personnel” to “Fire Safety Officers” and requires qualified persons approved by the Chief.
- SECTION 65 Requires “aisles or passageways” to provide adequate Fire Department hose streams reach to all stored items and materials in automobile wrecking yards.
- SECTION 66 Adds flammable liquids to the text that restrictions Hazardous Materials in covered mall buildings.
- SECTION 67 Reorganizes Section 3506. Adds the reference to state regulations regarding “Exit Facilities” and “Temporary Displays and Events”.
- SECTION 68 Replaces text, “sprinkler system” with “fire extinguishing system”, related to where a spray-finishing operation can be located.
- SECTION 69 Adds “filters”, with baffle plates to the requirement for spray booth exhaust system.
- SECTION 70 Replaces text “sprinkler system” with “fire extinguishing system”, related to where a dip tank operation can be located.

- SECTION 71 Replaces text “approved sprinkler system” with “protected with an approved automatic fire extinguishing system”, for an organic peroxide coatings spray booths.
- SECTION 72 Removes the exception that allows unsupervised dispensing of flammable and combustible liquids, LP gas CNG.
- SECTION 73 Deleted 5201.6.3 Unsupervised Dispensing, in its entirety.
- SECTION 74 Supervision. The text is removed and now refers back to Section 5201.6.1. which does not allow unsupervised dispensing.
- SECTION 75 Requires individual lead-acid batteries exceeding 20 gallons to also comply with Article 80.
- SECTION 76 Separation of different igniters and powders
- SECTION 77 Renamed to read: Gunpowder for Retail Sales
- SECTION 78 Adds State of California license requirements for blasters.
- SECTION 79 Clarifies the requirements on controlling waste liquids, resulting from an unauthorized discharge.
- SECTION 80 Added to provide specific requirements for fire protection system design for tanks within below-grade vaults.
- SECTION 81 Clarifies requirements for spacing between tanks.
- SECTION 82 Requires all tanks exceeding 1500 square feet, used for storage of Class I or Class II flammable liquids to be provided with foam fire protection systems.
- SECTION 83 Adds requirement that walls of a diked area not be higher than 6 feet above the exterior grade.
- SECTION 84 Reduces allowed quantities of flammable and combustible liquids in glass containers.
- SECTION 85 Clarifies automatic sprinkler system requirements.
- SECTION 86 Clarifies automatic sprinkler system requirements.

- SECTION 87 Deletes requirements allowing tanks with top opening to be elevated for gravity discharge of flammable and combustible liquids on farms and construction sites.
- SECTION 88 Deletes requirements allowing tanks with bottom connection for gravity discharge of flammable and combustible liquids on farms and construction sites.
- SECTION 89 Adds that flammable and combustible liquids transferred, in addition to stored or blended, must be in accordance with the Fire Code.
- SECTION 90 Increases distance requirements between tank vehicle and tank car transfer facilities and buildings, aboveground tanks, combustible materials, property lines, streets, alleys, or public ways from 25 to 100 feet for Class I liquids, and from 15 to 25 feet for Class II and III liquids.
- SECTION 91 Adds requirements for transfer of Class I, II or III liquids from a tank vehicle and tank car.
- SECTION 92 Added to specify requirements regarding tank vehicles and railroad tank car unloading and permits.
- SECTION 93 Deletes hazardous materials management plan (local amendment for hazardous materials business plan is in place).
- SECTION 94 Clarifies that a hazardous materials inventory statement is required with an application for a permit.
- SECTION 95 Clarifies allowed usage of tank vehicles and railroad tank cars.
- SECTION 96 Adds that secondary containment be provided for existing underground tanks with a breach in integrity, in addition to new installations.
- SECTION 97 Adds requirements regarding treatment of empty hazardous material containers and tanks.
- SECTION 98 Adds that the HHMD, in addition to the Chief, be notified when an unauthorized discharge becomes reportable.
- SECTION 99 Clarifies requirements regarding consolidated contingency plan.

- SECTION 100 Adds that any waste generated from an unauthorized discharge, must be disposed of according to applicable regulations, and that an EPA ID number be obtained prior to disposal.
- SECTION 101 Adds that after cleanup of an unauthorized discharge of hazardous materials, the HHMD Emergency Operations Section must be contacted to clear the site for re-occupancy.
- SECTION 102 Clarifies requirements for NFPA 704-placard system.
- SECTION 103 Clarifies requirements for hazard identification labels.
- SECTION 104 Adds requirements that a hazardous materials handler shall identify their Fire Department liaison in the business plan.
- SECTION 105 Clarifies requirements for guard posts, protecting hazardous materials storage containers from vehicles.
- SECTION 106 Adds that floors shall be level and impervious in mercantile or storage occupancies containing hazardous materials.
- SECTION 107 Clarifies requirements regarding unloading and transfer operations of tank vehicles and railroad tank cars.
- SECTION 108 Adds that approved alternate automatic fire-extinguishing systems are allowed, if acceptable to the Chief.
- SECTION 109 Adds that Article 77 be adhered to, in addition to the Building Code, regarding storage of unstable detonable materials.
- SECTION 110 Clarifies requirements for storage of radioactive materials.
- SECTION 111 Clarifies requirements for indoor dispensing or use of toxic or highly toxic gases.
- SECTION 112 Clarifies requirements for outdoor dispensing or use of toxic or highly toxic gases.
- SECTION 113 Clarifies permit requirements for rack storage.
- SECTION 114 Adds requirements regarding fire sprinkler systems operated in conjunction with smoke and heat vents.
- SECTION 115 Reflects editorial change.
- SECTION 116 Clarifies requirements for structural supports and catwalks.

- SECTION 117 Adds an exception regarding rack storage requirements.
- SECTION 118 Reduces high piled storage from a 100 x 100 pile to a 100 x 50 pile in Table 81-A. Clarifies limitations on size of piles of materials stored.
- SECTION 119 Increases high piled storage aisle to 96 inches. Clarifies requirement regarding high piled storage.
- SECTION 120 Clarifies that aggregate capacity of containers shall be used to determine distances to buildings or property lines.
- SECTION 121 Adds verbiage to prohibit self-service at LP-Gas dispensing sites.
- SECTION 122 Clarifies the requirements for protecting containers from vehicles.
- SECTION 123 Reflects editorial change (“fire watch” changed to “standby personnel”).
- SECTION 124 Reflects changes in infractions.
- SECTION 125 Reflects changes in the recognized standards
- SECTION 126 Adopts Title 32 (Fire Code) of the Los Angeles County Code as the Consolidated Fire Protection District Code of Los Angeles County.
- SECTION 127 Reflects the adoption of Appendix II-C (Marinas)
- SECTION 128 Reflects the adoption of Appendix II-D (Rifle Ranges)

Note: The term Fire Zone 4 has been stricken from the body of the code because of the introduction of The Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.