



STANDARD 14.4.2

GUARD POSTS

The information contained in this standard is provided solely for the convenience of the reader and was being enforced by the Ventura County Fire Protection District at the time of its publication. The District reserves the right to make changes and improvements to this standard as and when required by law, or otherwise, at any time. (The District's current standards will be posted and made available for downloading by the public at the following web site: <http://fire.countyofventura.org>.)

Please note that the District assumes no liability for any damages incurred directly or indirectly as a result of any errors, omissions, or discrepancies between this standard and any applicable law. It is the sole responsibility of the person or persons conducting any work pursuant to this standard to ensure their work complies with any and all applicable codes, ordinances, and regulations.

CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Scope. This standard applies to the design and installation of guard posts providing vehicular impact protection for above-ground tanks, hazardous materials containers, storage areas, piping, conduit, valves, fittings, dispensing areas, utility equipment and fire protection equipment; including fire hydrants, fire department connections (FDC's), etc.

1.2 Purpose. This standard is prepared for the use and guidance of those installing guard posts.

1.3 Responsibility. All individuals and companies who intend to install guard posts.

1.4 Permits. No additional permits or plans are required by the Fire District. Contact the local building and safety department regarding any permits and/or plans that may be required.

CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS

2.1 General. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this standard and permit requirements of the VCFC, have the meanings shown herein.

2.2 Guard Post. A tubular steel post filled with concrete design and installed to provide protection from vehicular damage.

2.3 Ventura County Fire Code (VCFC). The current adopted VCFPD Ordinance consisting of the current adopted edition of the California Fire Code; portions of the current adopted edition of the International Fire Code; and the VCFPD amendments thereto.

CHAPTER 3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 General. Guard posts shall be installed per Ventura County Fire Protection District Standards (See Exhibit A).

3.2 Material. Guard posts shall be constructed of schedule 40 steel a minimum of 4-inches in diameter and concrete filled. Where heavy equipment is present, the minimum diameter shall be 6-inches.

3.3 Depth of Bury. Guard posts shall be set a minimum of 3 feet deep in a concrete footing. When using a 4-inch diameter post, the footing shall be a minimum of 15 inches in diameter. The footing shall have a minimum diameter of 20 inches when using a 6-inch diameter post.

3.4 Height. Guard posts shall be set with the top of the posts a minimum of 3-feet above the finished grade level. Where implements can over swing the guard post, the minimum height shall be to the top of the tank or equipment being protected or as approved by the fire code official.

3.5 Spacing. Guard posts shall be spaced a maximum of 4-feet between posts on center.

3.6 Location. Guard posts shall be located a minimum of 3-feet from the item being protected.

3.7 Color. Guard posts shall be painted a high-visibility color that contrasts to the surrounding environment.

3.8 Obstructions. Guard posts shall not cause an obstruction to the use, service or maintenance of any fire protection equipment.

CHAPTER 4 INSPECTIONS

4.1 General. The inspection of guard posts will be conducted as part of the overall site inspection for the associated permit.

4.2 Responsibility. It is the responsibility of the installing contractor to be on the job site during the inspection with approved plans. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of the inspection. Cancelled inspections will be counted as one inspection.

4.3 Inspection requests. Inspections shall be requested Monday through Friday prior to 3:00 p.m., one business day prior to inspection.

4.4 Inspection Schedule. It is the intent of the Ventura County Fire Prevention Bureau to perform inspections one business day after the inspection has been requested. However due to training requirements, meetings, emergency services and other scheduled and non-scheduled events it cannot be guaranteed that all inspections will be conducted the next business day.

4.5 Schedule by phone. Call (805) 389-9744 one business day prior to inspection for scheduling an inspection. The inspection request line is open Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

4.6 Schedule by fax. Inspections can be scheduled via fax at (805) 388-4356. Ventura County Fire Prevention Bureau form FP13.1.3, found at <http://fire.countyofventura.org>, must be used to request inspections. Faxed inspection requests must be received prior to 3:00 p.m.

4.7 Contact Information. Be sure to leave your phone number, when you schedule an inspection by phone or fax, where the inspector can call you back, after 7:30 a.m. the day of the inspection, to notify you of your inspection time.

4.8 Inspection times. Inspection times are approximate and may vary because of delays at previous inspections or emergency response by Fire Department personnel. Please allow time on either side of the inspection time for the inspector to arrive.

EXHIBIT A

