

Excerpt from VCFPD Ordinance 31, Effective January 1, 2020

**APPENDIX V
FIRE SAFETY PROVISIONS FOR HAZARDOUS FIRE AREAS**

Appendix V is added to read as follows:

V101 – GENERAL

V101.1 Scope. The provisions of this appendix establish general requirements applicable to new and existing properties located within Hazardous Fire Areas (HFA).

V101.2 Objective. The objective of this appendix is to provide necessary fire protection measures to reduce the threat of wildfire in a HFA and improve the capability of controlling such fires.

V102 – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

V102.1 General. Vegetation management shall comply with Appendix W.

V103 – ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

V103.1 Restricted entry to public lands. The Fire Code Official is authorized to determine and publicly announce when a HFA shall be closed to entry and when such areas shall again be opened to entry. Entry on and occupation of a HFA, except public roadways, inhabited areas or established trails and campsites that have not been closed during such time when the HFA is closed to entry, is prohibited.

Exceptions:

1. Residents and owners of private property within a HFA and their invitees and guests going to or being on their lands.
2. Entry, in the course of duty, by peace or police officers, and other duly authorized public officers, members of a fire department and members of the Wildland Firefighting Service.

V103.2 Trespassing on posted private property.

V103.2.1 General. When the Fire Code Official determines that a specific area within a HFA presents an exceptional and continuing fire danger because of the density of natural growth, difficulty of terrain, proximity to Structures or accessibility to the public, such areas shall be restricted or closed until changed conditions warrant termination of such restriction or closure. Such areas shall be posted in accordance with Section V103.2.2.

V103.2.2 Signs. Approved signs prohibiting entry by un-authorized Persons and referring to this Code shall be placed on every closed area.

V103.2.3 Trespassing. Entering and remaining within areas closed and posted is prohibited.

Exception: Owners and occupiers of private or public property within closed and posted areas; their guests or invitees; authorized Persons engaged in the operation and maintenance of necessary utilities such as electrical power, gas, telephone, water and sewer; and local, state and federal public officers and their authorized agents acting in the course of duty.

V103.3 Use of fire roads and Defensible Space. Motorcycles, motor scooters and motor vehicles shall not be driven or parked on, and trespassing is prohibited on, fire roads or Defensible Space beyond the point where travel is restricted by a cable, gate or sign, without the permission of the property owners. Vehicles shall not be parked in a manner that obstructs the entrance to a fire road or Defensible Space. Radio and television aerials, guy wires thereto, and other obstructions shall not be installed or maintained on fire roads or Defensible Spaces, unless located 16 feet (4,877 mm) or more above such fire road or Defensible Space.

Exception: This section does not apply to public officers acting within their scope of duty.

V103.4 Use of motorcycles, motor scooters, ultralight aircraft and motor vehicles.

Motorcycles, motor scooters, ultra-light aircraft and motor vehicles shall not be operated within a HFA WUI or FHSZ areas, without a permit by the Fire Code Official, except on clearly established public or private roads. Permission from the property owner shall be presented when requesting a permit.

V103.5 Use of equipment.

V103.5.1 General. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no Person shall use, operate or cause to be operated, in upon or adjoining any HFA, any internal combustion engine which uses hydrocarbon fuels, unless the engine is equipped with an approved spark arrestor maintained in effective working order, or the engine is constructed, equipped and maintained for the prevention of fire.

V103.5.2 Location. Spark arresters affixed to the exhaust system of engines or vehicles subject to this Section V103.5 shall not be placed or mounted in such a manner as to allow flames or heat from the exhaust system to ignite any flammable material.

V103.5.3 Construction. A spark arrester is a device constructed of nonflammable material specifically for the purpose of removing and retaining carbon and other

flammable particles over 0.0232 of an inch (0.58mm) in size from the exhaust flow of an internal combustion engine the uses hydrocarbon fuels or which is qualified and rated by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and bears said USFS approval stamp.

V103.5.4. Other vehicles. Engines used to provide motor power for trucks, truck tractors, buses, and passenger vehicles, except motorcycles, are not subject to Section V103.5 if the exhaust system is equipped with a muffler as defined in the California Vehicle Code and the muffler is maintained in proper working condition.

V103.5.5 Turbocharged engines. Turbocharged engines are not subject to Section V103.5 if all exhaust gases pass through the rotating turbine wheel, there is no exhaust bypass to the atmosphere and the turbocharger is in effective mechanical condition.

V103.5.6 Private closed courses. Section V103.5 shall not apply to an organized closed course facility if measures to prevent, control and extinguish any fire resulting from use of internal combustion engines are approved by the Fire Code Official. A Fire Protection Plan may be required. Also see Appendix W.

V103.6 Tampering with locks, barricades, signs and address markers. Locks, barricades, seals, cables, signs and address markers installed within a HFA, by or under the control of the Fire Code Official, shall not be tampered with, mutilated, destroyed or removed. Gates, doors, barriers and locks installed by or under the control of the Fire Code Official shall not be unlocked.

V104 – IGNITION SOURCE CONTROL

V104.1 General. Ignition sources shall be in accordance with Section V104 and Appendix W.

V104.2 Objective. Regulations in this section are intended to provide the minimum requirements to prevent the occurrence of wildfires.

V104.3 Smoking. When required by the Fire Code Official, signs shall be posted stating NO SMOKING. No Person shall smoke within 15 feet (4,572 mm) of Combustible Materials or non fire-resistive vegetation.

Exception: Places of habitation or in the boundaries of established smoking areas or campsites as designated by the Fire Code Official.

V104.4 Equipment and devices generating heat, sparks or open flames. Equipment and devices generating heat, sparks or open flames capable of igniting nearby combustibles shall not be used in Wildland-Urban Interface Areas without a permit from the Fire Code Official.

Exception: Use of approved equipment within places of habitation or designated campsites that are a minimum of 30 feet (9,144 mm) from grass-, grain-, brush- or forest-covered areas.

V104.5 Outdoor fires.

V104.5.1 Permits. No Person shall ignite, kindle or maintain Open Burning or a portable outdoor fireplace in a wildland fire area except by the authority of a written permit from the Fire Code Official or when by an approved California Campfire Permit issued by the California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group. For the purpose of this section a wildland fire area is land which is covered by grass, grain, brush or forest whether privately or publicly owned.

Exceptions:

1. Recreational Fires and portable outdoor fireplaces on properties of one and two-family dwellings when the fire is within 75 feet of the dwelling and there is a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space for the Structure.
2. Designated campsites where such fires are in a permanent barbeque, portable barbeque, outdoor fireplace, incinerator or grill.

V104.5.2 Additional requirements. In addition to the requirements of this Code for Open Burning and portable outdoor fireplaces, the following requirements shall apply:

1. Fire shall be extinguished when winds of 15 miles per hour or higher are present
2. The Fire Code Official may incorporate such terms and conditions that will reasonably safeguard public safety and property.
3. A responsible Person of at least 17 years old is present to attend to the fire

V104.6 Incinerators, outdoor fireplaces, permanent barbecues and grills.

Incinerators, outdoor fireplaces, permanent barbecues and grills shall not be built, installed or maintained in a HFA without approval of the Fire Code Official.

Incinerators, outdoor fireplaces, permanent barbecue and grills shall be maintained in good repair and in a safe condition at all times. Openings in such appliances shall be provided with an approved spark arrestor, screen or door.

Exception: When approved by the Fire Code Official, unprotected openings in barbecues and grills necessary for proper functioning.

V104.7 Reckless behavior. The Fire Code Official is authorized to stop any actions of a Person or Persons if the official determines that the action is reckless and could result in an ignition of fire or spread of fire.

V104.8 Tracer bullets, tracer charges, rockets and model aircraft. Tracer bullets and tracer charges shall not be processed, fired or caused to be fired into or across any HFA. Rockets, model aircraft, balloons, or similar devices, powered with an engine, propellant or other feature liable to start or cause a fire shall not be fired or projected into or across any HFA.

V104.9 Outdoor gun ranges and target shooting. Outdoor gun ranges and target shooting shall be situated to prevent fires spreading into a HFA. Any gun range located within a HFA shall be provided with a 30-foot (9 144 mm) wide area clear of combustible vegetation around the entire range and a 10-foot (3 048 mm) wide area clear of combustible vegetation around individual targets.

SECTION – V105 CONTROL OF STORAGE

V105.1 General. In addition to the requirements of other sections of this Code, storage and use of the materials shall be in accordance with Section V105.

V105.2 Hazardous materials. Hazardous materials in excess of 10 gallons (37.8 L) of liquid, 200 cubic feet (5.66 m³) of gas, or 10 pounds (4.54 kg) of solids require a permit and shall comply with nationally recognized standards for storage and use.

V105.3 Explosives. Explosives shall not be possessed, kept, stored, sold, offered for sale, given away, used, discharged, transported or disposed of within a HFA, except by permit from the Fire Code Official.

V105.4 Combustible Materials.

V105.4.1 General. Outside storage of Combustible Materials such as, but not limited to, wood, rubber tires, building materials or paper products when located within a HFA shall comply with the other applicable sections of this Code and this section.

V105.4.2 Individual piles. Individual piles shall not exceed 5,000 square feet (465 m²) of contiguous area. Piles shall not exceed 50,000 cubic feet (1 416 m³) in volume or 10 feet (3 048 mm) in height.

V105.4.3 Separation. A clear space of at least 40 feet (12 192 mm) shall be provided between piles and any Building. A minimum 10-foot (3 048 mm) clear space shall be provided for piles less than 1,000 cubic feet. The clear space shall not contain Combustible Material or non fire-resistive vegetation. See Section W105.1.6 for firewood piles under 1,000 cubic feet when located in a Hazardous Fire Area.

SECTION V106 – DUMPING

V106.1 Waste material. Waste material shall not be placed, deposited or dumped within a HFA, or in, on or along trails, roadways or highways or against Structures in Wildland-Urban Interface Areas.

Exception: Approved public and approved private dumping areas.

V106.2 Ashes and coals. Ashes and coals shall not be placed, deposited or dumped in or on a HFA.

Exceptions:

1. In the hearth of an established fire pit, camp stove or fireplace.
2. In a non-combustible container with a tight-fitting lid, which is kept or maintained in a safe location not less than 10 feet (3 048 mm) from non fire-resistive vegetation or Structures.
3. Where such ashes or coals are buried and covered with 1 foot (305 mm) of mineral earth not less than 25 feet (7 620 mm) from non fire-resistive vegetation or Structures.

SECTION V107 – LAND USE LIMITATIONS

V107.1 General. Festivals, animal shows, concerts, weddings, religious revival meetings, public exhibitions and similar uses located within a HFA must comply with all other provisions of this Code and this section.

V107.2 Objective. The increased public use of land or Structures within a HFA also increases the potential threat to life safety. The provisions of this section, including enhanced access for ingress and egress, are intended to reduce that threat.

V107.3 Permits. Festivals, animal shows, concerts, weddings, religious revival meetings, public exhibitions or similar uses shall not be allowed within a designated HFA, except by permit from the Fire Code Official. Permits shall incorporate such terms and conditions that will reasonably safeguard public and emergency responder safety and property protection. Items to consider included, but are not limited to: type of event, attendance, time of year, site location, terrain, surrounding fuels (brush), access roadways, water supplies and distance to fire stations.

V107.4 Access roadways. In addition to the requirements in Fire District Ordinance Number 29, increased access roadway widths and additional access may be required by the Fire Code Official. When required by the Fire Code Official to facilitate

emergency operations, approved emergency vehicle operating areas shall be provided.

V108 BUILDING SETBACKS

V108.1 Restricted development setbacks. New Structures and additions to existing Structures shall not be constructed less than 100 feet (30 480 mm) from any protected habitat, whether on the same or adjacent Parcels, where the 100 foot (30 480 mm) Defensible Space required under Appendix W cannot be provided, unless an alternate method of construction and protection is provided that can ensure the safety of the Structure and emergency responders as approved by the Fire Code Official. Protected habitat includes lands restricted from brush clearance or modification due to Federal or State listed endangered species.

V108.2 Setback for Structure Defensible Space in the State Responsibility Areas (SRA). New Structures in the SRA shall be setback in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1, §1276.01 as amended from time to time.