



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief

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County Board of Supervisors Adopts Fire Code Changes

SAN BERNARDINO - The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors voted today to adopt the 2010 edition of the California Fire Code and California Residential Code, as amended from the International Fire Code (IFC) effective January 14, 2011. The amended code is subject to a 30-day public comment period before it takes effect.

Previously, the County used the statewide-accepted 2007 edition California Fire Code as amended from the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) in order to promote standardization in fire protection planning, construction and enforcement for new construction and existing facilities. The IFC and the UFC model codes are similar, with the IFC containing enhancements based on building use and occupancy type. The California Building Code was also amended by the State of California from the model International Building Code, as well as locally by the County of San Bernardino Building Official. According to county analysts, the County is able to amend the code to accommodate local needs, based on an analysis of facts and findings relating to climatic, geological and topographical conditions.

Among the significant code changes is the requirement that all R3, one and two family residential dwellings built after January 1, 2011 must have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed.

The County Fire Department recommended the local amendments be incorporated into the San Bernardino County Fire Department's new fire code ordinance. "Enacting these amendments will improve the Fire Department's ability to regulate new and current occupancies and their activities to improve fire safety for everyone," County Fire Chief Dan Wurl said.

Other significant changes/amendments to the California Fire Code by County Fire include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Prohibits unpermitted open burning with limited exceptions and enhanced safety precautions.
- Enables the fire code official and his representatives to issue administrative citations for Code violations.
- Repeated false or nuisance fire alarms may be subject to an administrative citation.
- A one-time operational permit and registration is required for any commercial automatic or manual fire alarm system.
- An operational permit is required for any commercial automatic fire sprinkler system.
- Storage, possession, handling, sale, use, transportation, of illegal and dangerous fireworks anywhere in the County are subject to the imposition and payment of an increased administrative penalty in a minimum amount of \$1,250. Permitted public displays will not be affected.
- Storage, possession, handling, sale, use, transportation, of Safe and Sane fireworks within the unincorporated and restricted areas of the county are subject to the imposition and payment of an increased administrative penalty in the amount of \$150 for first violation, \$250 for the second and \$350 for the third. This will not affect the cities that currently allow use of Safe and Sane fireworks.

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