



**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION**

620 South 'E' Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0179
(909) 386-8400

Standard Number

G-3

Revision Date:
3-22-16

FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD

PALLET REFURBISHING AND STORAGE YARDS

AUTHORITY

Sections 102.9, 103 and 104.1 of the 2013 California Fire Code provides that the fire code official of the San Bernardino County Fire Department shall have the authority to adopt policies, procedures, rules, and regulations in order to clarify the application of the Fire Code and to specify requirements not specifically provided for by the Fire Code. For further requirements on this subject, see section 508 of the 2013 California Fire Code. This standard may be modified with the approval of the Fire Code Official.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to provide minimum requirements for fire access, water supply and other general safety requirements for the outside storage of combustible pallets.

SCOPE

This standard applies to the outdoor storage of combustible idle pallets at pallet manufacturing, refurbishing, or storage facilities, and to the incidental storage of combustible pallets at commercial and industrial facilities.

DISCLAIMER

These standards may change without notice. Whenever applicable statutes, regulations and standards are updated and adopted, the latest shall apply. Please contact the Community Safety Division at (909) 386-8400 to determine if these standards have changed.

These requirements do not exempt any individual from complying with other applicable state, county, or city codes and standards.

DEFINITIONS

Pallet - a portable platform for handling, storing, or moving materials and packages (as in warehouses, factories, or vehicles)



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Stack -: single pallets placed horizontally on top of one another in an orderly and stable manner.

Pile - A group of single pallet stacks clustered closely together within 6 inches of each other.

Fire Department Access Road - A road that provides fire apparatus access from a fire station to a facility, building or portion thereof. This is a general term inclusive of all other terms such as fire lane, private street, parking lot lane and access roadway. Access roads shall be a minimum of 26' in width with an unobstructed clear height of 14'6".

Fire Flow - The flow rate of a water supply, measured at 20 psi residual pressure that is available for firefighting.

Permit - An official document or certificate issued by the authority having jurisdiction which authorizes performance of a specific activity.

SUBMITTALS

For new facilities, the owner shall provide a plot plan, to scale, containing the following information:

- 1) Fire apparatus access roads
- 2) The locations of permanent structures, pallet stacks, and any other combustibles
- 3) Location of all fire hydrants
- 4) Location(s) of all other hazards (i.e., flammable liquids, welding, or LPG tanks)

Any other information pertinent to the use or the nature of the site

GENERAL

1. Pallets stored outside shall be in accordance with the requirements of this Standard. Pallets stored inside of a building shall be in accordance with the provisions of NFPA 13 and the San Bernardino County Fire Code.
2. Pallets shall be stored in stacks in an orderly, stable manner and shall not exceed sixteen (16) feet in height. In areas of the county or in cities where zoning regulations require lower storage heights or screening, these shall be complied with.



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3. Individual stacks of pallets may be clustered into piles not to exceed twenty (20) feet in width and twenty five (25) feet in length. **(See DIAGRAM G-3.1)** Piles shall not exceed 8,000 cubic feet in volume.
4. Pallet piles shall be separated a minimum of twenty (20) feet from other piles, property lines, structures, or other exposures. In areas of the County or in Cities where zoning regulations require greater setbacks or screen walls, these shall be complied with.
5. Pallet manufacturing, refurbishing or other processing areas shall meet the fire protection requirements in the Fire Code and adopted standards. A minimum of one (1) fire extinguisher shall be mounted in such processing areas, in locations acceptable to the fire code official.
6. Welding or cutting operations shall not be conducted without first obtaining a "hot works" permit from the SBCoFD. Clearance to ignition sources shall be maintained from all combustibles at a minimum of twenty five (25) feet, and an approved fire watch shall be in place during hot work activity and for thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of such work; or as specified by the Fire Code.
7. A minimum of one "No Smoking" sign shall be posted at the facility, and additional signs in processing areas and other areas may be required where deemed appropriate by the fire code official. "Designated Smoking Area" signs shall be posted if necessary, in an area a minimum of twenty five (25) feet away from combustibles.
8. Any exceptions to stack and /or pile configuration or pile volume shall be approved by the authority having jurisdiction after findings have been made to support any changes.

FIRE ACCESS

- 1) Fire Department vehicle access roads that comply with the San Bernardino County Fire Code and SBCFD Standard A-2 shall be provided. Additional fire access lanes shall be provided as required by the Fire District.
- 2) Fire access lanes of a minimum twenty-six feet (26') in width shall be required along the interior perimeter of the yard adjacent to the property line.

WATER SUPPLY

- 4) In areas served by a water purveyor, an approved water supply with a minimum fire flow as indicated in the San Bernardino County Fire Code Appendix B for type VB construction based on the gross square footage of all proposed pallet stacks for a two (2) hour duration



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shall be provided from fire hydrant(s), and shall be installed in accordance with SBCFD Standard W-2.

- 2) In areas without a water purveyor capable of supplying the required fire flow, an approved fire protection water system providing the required fire flow shall be installed in accordance with the fire code, SBCFD Standard W-1 and other applicable standards.
- 3) Fire hydrants shall be spaced in accordance with the San Bernardino County Fire Code and SBCFD Standard W-2, at the entrance to property, and where required along fire access roads, and in locations acceptable to the Fire Department.

DIAGRAM G-3.1: STORAGE ARRANGEMENT WITHIN PALLET YARDS

