

Chapter 8
FIRE PREVENTION¹

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SECTION 8.1 ADOPTION OF CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE

The 2007 California Fire Code, Part 9 of Title 24, , and Appendices 1,B,C,D,E,F,G,& H, prepared by the California Building Standards Commission, is hereby adopted by reference, subject to any changes set forth in this chapter. The Council, by resolution, may from time to time designate which edition of the California Fire Code is currently revised, and the edition so designated by Council resolution shall be the one referred to throughout this Code. One copy of Chapter 8 of the Piedmont Municipal Code and the California Fire Code shall be kept on file at the Department of Public Works. (Ord. No. 315 N.S., Ord. 634 N.S. 12/02, Ord. 675 N.S. 12/07)

SECTION 8.2 ESTABLISHMENT AND DUTIES OF BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

(a) The California Fire Code shall be enforced by the Bureau of Fire Prevention in the Fire Department of the City of Piedmont, which is hereby established, and which shall be operated under the supervision of the Chief of the Fire Department. (Ord. No. 315 N.S.; Ord. 634 N.S. 12/02)

(b) The person in charge of the Bureau of Fire Prevention shall be the Fire Marshal and shall be appointed by the Fire Chief. (Ord. 315 N.S., 592 N.S. 10/97)

For charter provisions as to the chief of the fire department, see Char. §3.09. For state law generally as to fires and fire protection, see H. & S.C. §13000 et seq.

As to burning garbage, see §9.3 of this Code.

Prior ordinance history for Chapter 8: Ord. No. 134 N.S., §§1-6, 40; Ord. No. 198 N.S., §§1-6, 45; Ord No. 202 N.S., §1.

SECTION 8.3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this chapter, certain words and phrases are defined and certain provisions shall be construed as herein set out unless it shall be apparent from their context that a different meaning is intended:

- (a) Abatement Authority. The Chief of the Piedmont Fire Department or his designee.
- (b) Corporation Counsel. Wherever used in the California Fire Code it shall be held to mean the City Attorney for the City of Piedmont. (Ord. 634 N.S. 12/02)
- (c) Defensible Space. The area between a house or unimproved property and an oncoming fire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and which provides an opportunity for firefighters to safely defend the house.
- (d) Fire Prevention Engineer or Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention. Whenever used in the California Fire Code these terms shall be held to mean the Fire Marshal of the City of Piedmont. (Ord. 634 N.S. 12/02)
- (e) Flammable Vegetation. Vegetation which is dry, dead, or dying; pyrofites which have a high resin or sap content including but not limited to Arborvitae, California Bay, Cedar, Cypress, Douglas Fir, Eucalyptus, Fir, Juniper, Palm, Pine, Spruce, Yew, California buckwheat, California sagebrush, Chamise or greasewood, Laurel sumac, Manzanita, Pampas grass, Rosemary, Scotch broom, Spanish Broom, Sugar bush, and Toyon; and which is over six (6) inches in height.
- (f) Hazardous Fire Areas. Areas of the city identified by the Fire Marshal in which the combination of aspect, slope and/or density of naturally occurring flammable vegetation create an additional fire hazard. These areas shall be established by the Fire Marshall and maps indicating the properties subject to this definition shall be made available to the public.
- (g) Jurisdiction. Whenever used in the California Fire Code, it shall be held to mean the Piedmont Fire Department. (Ord. 634 N.S. 12/02)
- (h) Vegetative Growth. Plant material including but not limited to grasses, weeds, vines, shrubs and trees which occur naturally or are part of a landscaped area. (Ord. No. 315 N.S., Ord. 592 N.S. 10/97)

SECTION 8.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITS OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH STORAGE OF FLAMMABLE OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS IN OUTSIDE ABOVE GROUND TANKS IS TO BE PROHIBITED

- (a) As defined in Section 3402.1 of the California Fire Code, the storage of flammable or combustible liquids in outside above ground tanks is prohibited in the City of Piedmont.
- (b) As defined in Section 3404.4 of the California Fire Code, the storage of new bulk plants for flammable or combustible liquids are prohibited in the City of Piedmont. (Ord. 315 N.S., Ord. 592 N.S. 10/97; Ord. 634 N.S. 12/02, Ord. 675 N.S. 12/07)

SECTION 8.5 REVOKED: (Ord. 675 N.S., 12/07, See 2007 California Fire Code)

SECTION 8.6 ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITS OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH STORAGE OF EXPLOSIVES AND BLASTING AGENTS IS TO BE PROHIBITED

As defined by Section 3301.1 of the California Fire Code, the storage of explosives or blasting agents is prohibited in the City of Piedmont. (Ord. 315 N.S.; Ord. 592 N.S. 10/97; Ord. 634 N.S. 12/02)

SECTION 8.7 FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT

Fire hazard abatement in the City of Piedmont may be enforced pursuant to the California Fire Code or its successor codes. (Ord. 634 N.S. 12/02, Ord. 675 N.S. 12/07)

8.7.1 Authority to Abate. The Abatement Authority may abate any fire hazard within the City of Piedmont and make the expense of abatement (1) a personal obligation of the property owner, and (2) a lien against the property on which the fire hazard exists or is maintained which may be assessed and collected with ordinary municipal taxes, pursuant to the provisions of the California Fire Code or its successor codes. (Ord. 675 N.S. 12/07)

8.7.2 Abatement Procedure. The abatement procedure for fire hazards shall be in accordance with procedures set forth in Sections 6.5 through 6.16 of the Piedmont Municipal Code. (Ord. 592 N.S. 10/97, Ord. 675 N.S. 12/07)

SEC. 8.8 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE – AMENDMENTS

The following sections of the California Fire Code adopted in Section 8.1 of this Code are amended to read as follows:

8.8.1 Section 504.1 - Required Access: Add this sentence to the end of Section 504.1: "No driveway or access road to a single-family dwelling, the closest portion of the structure of which is located in excess of seventy-five feet (75') from the closest street, shall be less than twelve feet (12') in width, and no driveway or access road serving more than one single-family dwelling or serving a multiple-family, commercial or business structure shall be less than twelve feet (12') in width. No parking shall be allowed along

driveways or access roads to any residences covered by this section unless there is only one single-family residence involved, and "no parking" signs according to the standards and specifications set by the City building department shall be posted at least one such sign for every hundred feet (100') of driveway to which this "no parking" regulation applies. At the end of any driveway or access road serving more than one single-family dwelling or serving one or more multiple-family dwellings, where the closest portion of the dwelling farthest from the closest street is located in excess of seventy-five feet (75') from that street, there shall be at least a sixty-foot (60') turnaround provided. Alternate methods of providing the fire protection and safety required by this section and Chapter 5 may be approved by the Building Official in consultation with the Fire Chief, so long as the level of protection and safety is at least equivalent."

8.8.2 Section 506.1.1 – Locks: Add this sentence and subsections to the end of Section 506.1.1 to read as follows: “The requirements of this Section apply to any and all structures which impede access to real property and which in the determination of the fire chief and/or police chief impede emergency personnel in responding to a fire or a need for medical or other emergency services. Additional requirements also include the following:

- (a) A list of approved locking devices which includes padlocks, lock boxes, and electronic locks shall be maintained by the Fire Department. These approved locking devices shall be of a type which is available for purchase from private businesses in the local area. The property owner or possessor shall not have possession of the key which unlocks the approved locking devices, but shall provide alternate locking devices for private use.
- (b) Additional locking devices may be separately installed or maintained by a property owner or possessor on the locked structure so long as the devices are positioned in such a way that they do not preclude entry upon or access to the property by city emergency personnel, who shall remain able to gain access to the property upon unlocking the approved locking device.
- (c) Periodic inspection by the Fire Department may be performed in order to determine compliance with this Section.

(Ord. 675 N.S. 12/07)

Rev. 12/3/07