

SUMMARY OF FIRE CODE AMENDMENTS

This is a brief summary of Fire Code Amendments to be ratified by Board of Supervisors and is nearly the same for each of the proposed Fire Agency Amendments. The 2010 Fire Code is available on-line at: <http://publicecodes.citation.com/st/ca/st/index.htm>

The 2010 Fire Code has 49 Chapters and a number of lettered Appendices. The proposed Fire Code Amendments affect the following sections:

1. **Appendix J:** The local Fire Agencies recommend adding Appendix J of the 2010 Fire Code. Appendix J is an optional standard regarding radio coverage within commercial buildings and is important to ensure radio communication will not be impaired during emergencies inside large buildings.
2. **Chapter 1 Scope and Administration, Section 105.6.26 and 105.6.27:** The Fire Agencies recommend amendments to ensure proper venting, shutoff, and placement of smaller LP tanks, which are often combined in a series and located adjacent to residential buildings. Section 105.6.26 and 105.6.27 requires a building permit for installation of LP-gas in containers of 100 gallons or more, instead of the Fire Code standard of 500 gallons.
3. **Chapter 5 Fire Service Features, Section 507.5.1:** The Fire Agencies recommend locating fire hydrants closer to new commercial buildings than the 400 foot standard in the Fire Code because 400 feet is too far from a building to adequately fight a fire. Fire hydrants in El Dorado County may not have adequate fire flow for fire fighting. Topography, vegetation, dead end roads, and lack of fire hydrants in El Dorado County all contribute to the necessity to have new commercial development install adequate fire hydrants. Amended Section 507.5.1 requires a fire hydrant to be installed with new commercial buildings when they are located beyond 150 feet from a fire hydrant.
4. **Chapter 6 Building Services and Systems, Section 604.1:** Fire Agencies recommend that Section 604.1 be added which will require a power disconnect device for structures that have stand-by power sources installed (such as back up generators). This will improve safety by ensuring that the stand-by power sources do not automatically engage when the power is shut down by the Fire Agency in response to a fire.
5. **Chapter 9 Fire Protection Systems, Section 903.2:** Fire Agencies recommend amendments to Section 903.2 (a, b, 8, 8.1) which primarily require installation of automatic sprinklers for commercial buildings. The sprinkler requirement is mandated by the 2010 Fire Code. The amendments recommended by the Fire Districts is to establish consistent standards for all the Fire Districts on the size of commercial buildings (new and expansions) that require installation of sprinklers. Amendments reduce the minimum size of buildings requirements for sprinklers to 3,600 square feet, whereas Fire Code provisions range from 5,000 to 12,000 square feet. This section also is amended to require fire alarm systems to be connected to sprinkler systems for single family residential. (Note: DSD recommends a clarification to this section which simply references the 2010 California Residential Code requirement that requires new dwellings to have NFPA 13D sprinklers.)
6. **Chapter 9 Fire Protection Systems, Section 907.2:** Fire Agencies recommend amendments to Section 907.2 (a, b, and c) which describe Fire alarm and detection system

requirements. (Note: DSD recommends a clarification to this section which exempts “U” classifications from the alarm systems.)

7. **Chapter 38 Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Sections 3804.3, 3812, 3812.1, 3812.2, 3812.3, 3812.4, 3813:** Fire Agencies are making a series of amendments to the Liquefied Petroleum Gas section regarding LP tanks. (Note: DSD recommended two clarifications in this Chapter to clarify that the Fire Agencies have responsibility to review and approve.)

8. **Appendix B Fire-Flow Requirements for Buildings, Section B105.1 and B105.2:** Fire Agencies recommend clarifications and limitations for reductions of fire flow standards in the Code.