

City of Vista Fire Department

Prevention Bureau

200 Civic Center Drive, Vista CA 92084

Guideline:

Construction Standards Guideline



Date: May 2012

Construction Standards

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to identify the minimum Fire Department standards to be followed during construction, alterations, or demolition of any project within the City of Vista and the Vista Fire Protection District. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 14 of the 2010 edition of the California Fire Code (CFC) and the City Development Code.

SCOPE

All new developments and construction sites shall comply with this standard, unless specific alternate methods of compliance have been approved by the Fire Marshal. The Fire Code Official may determine the need for additional requirements. Failure to comply may result in the issuance of a “STOP WORK ORDER” for the project.

REQUIREMENTS

1. All new developments shall have access roadways to the project site as specified during the Development Plan Review or Building Plan Check.
2. Site access shall meet the City of Vista construction standards for public or private streets.
3. All emergency vehicle access roadways shall be approved prior to combustible construction.
4. Emergency access roadways shall be of an approved all-weather paved surface and shall be certified as capable of supporting 75,000 pounds gross vehicle weight. As a minimum, the first lift of paving shall be provided prior to delivery of combustible construction materials to the site.
5. Turns in access roadways shall be constructed with a minimum of 28-foot inside turning radius.
6. All Fire Department emergency access roadways shall be maintained free from obstruction at all times. Gates or other obstructions shall be approved by the Fire Department prior to installation.
7. All required fire hydrants shall be tested, accepted and placed in service prior to the delivery of any combustible construction materials.
8. At no time shall fire hydrants be blocked by building materials or equipment.
9. Should the water supply for the project be reduced or compromised, the Vista Fire Department shall be notified immediately at (760) 643-2801.
10. Building materials shall be stored on site in a manner and location approved by both the Fire and Building Departments.
11. Combustible scrap materials and scrap lumber shall be picked up on a daily basis, or more frequently, as required by the Fire Department.

12. The inspection request phone number is (760) 643-2801. Inspection requests must be made at least two working days in advance. Inspection requests must include the site address, the type of inspection, the permit number(s) and an on-site contact phone number.
13. All welding, including arc welding, shall only be approved when there is a fire extinguisher or hose equipped with a suitable nozzle, able to reach all portions of the building or site and connected to a reliable water supply on the premises.
14. Asphalt kettles shall only be permitted when accompanied by at least one 20 B:C rated fire extinguisher within 30 feet of each kettle and one additional 20 B:C extinguisher on the roof being covered.
15. Open burning or salamanders are prohibited anywhere on the site during construction, alteration or demolition projects.
16. Production welding shall require a Fire Department permit and shall comply with 2010 CFC Chapter 26 and the Hot Works guideline.
17. Grading operations on or near wildland areas shall require a fire protection plan which addresses fire safety in wildland areas. Spark arrestors and fire extinguishers shall be required. Additional site specific requirements may be made based on topography, distance, or other concerns, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).