

SMFD Summary of Ordinance 2019/2020-01

The Southern Marin Fire Protection District held a public hearing for the adoption of Fire Ordinance 2019/2020-01 on the 6th day of November 2019 at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors. This ordinance adopts by reference the 2019 California Fire Code, which consists of certain portions of the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code as amended by the California Building Standards Commission, and Appendix A of the 2018 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, with certain amendments regarding fire prevention and fire safety regulations in structures and on property located within the jurisdiction of the Southern Marin Fire Protection District. This adoption process is required of the Southern Marin Fire Protection District once every three years to stay current with the minimum requirements of the State of California Building and Fire standards as determined by the California Building Standards Commission.

Summary Text of Ordinance

Other than the new code references, there are only a few changes in the proposed Ordinance language as compared to the last Fire Ordinance 2016-17-22 adopted by the Southern Marin Fire District Board of Directors and Fire Ordinance 1240 adopted by the City of Sausalito in 2016. The Fire Code is arranged and organized to follow sequential steps that generally occur during plan review or inspection. The 2018 International Fire Code (IFC), which California adopts with amendments as the 2019 California Fire Code, has again been organized into 7 parts. Each part represents a broad subject matter and includes the chapters that logically fit under the subject matter of each part. The 2018 IFC was organized to allow for future chapters to be conveniently and logically expanded without requiring a major renumbering. Therefore, this code adoption, as in past adoptions, results in some renumbering.

Proposed changes to 2019/2020-01 Ordinance include, but are not limited to:

- Renumbering of some referenced sections to reflect where the sections are found in this current edition of the fire code.
- Adoption of Appendix A from the 2018 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code.
- Adoption of and amendments made to several appendices, in line with the State of California in relation to local conditions. Appendix B, C, F, H, I and O of the 2019 California Fire Code:
 - B: Fire Flow Requirements for Buildings
 - C: Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution
 - F: Hazard Ranking

- H: Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP) and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement (HMIS) Instructions
 - I: Fire Protection Systems- Noncompliant Conditions
 - O: Temporary Haunted Houses, Ghost Walks, and Similar Amusement Uses
- Correct the referenced sections for establishing limits for storage of various hazardous materials.
 - Removed additional operating permits already covered in the existing code adoption.
 - Addition of Construction and Operational permits for new processes, such as fire protection plan.
 - Added a section to address “Unwarranted Alarm Notification” in order to address the issue of continued unwarranted alarm responses.
 - Added definition of “Unwarranted Alarm” to support the addition of the term for continued unwarranted alarm responses.
 - Modified the requirements for sprinklers in all occupancies.
 - Modified and/or deleted sections of Chapter 11 Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings.
 - Modifications for vegetation management, defensible space and enforcement.
 - Modifications to the requirements for fire apparatus roads.
 - Modifications to Chapter 33 for Fire Safety During Construction.

The Sections of the Ordinance are summarized as follows:

Section 1 Adopts the 2019 California Fire Code, which consists of certain portions of the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code as amended by the Building Standards commission and appendix A of the of the 2018 edition of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code.

Section 2 Establishes a Risk Reduction Prevention and Mitigation Division of the District and establishes duties and enforcement authority under the supervision of the Chief of the Risk Reduction Prevention and Mitigation Division.

Section 3 Adds specific definitions and meanings ascribed to them including; Fire Code, Jurisdiction, District Counsel, Fire Code Official, and Fire Marshal of the Risk Reduction Prevention and Mitigation Division.

Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Establishes areas in which storage of flammable or combustible liquids in outside above ground tanks is prohibited; establishes areas in which storage of liquefied petroleum gases is to be restricted; establishes areas in which storage of explosives and blasting agents is to be prohibited; establishes areas in which the storage of compressed natural gas is to be prohibited; establishes areas in which the storage of stationary tanks of flammable cryogenic fluids is to be prohibited; and establishes areas in which the storage of hazardous materials is to be prohibited or limited.

Section 11 Specific Findings of Fact are located in this section. The District Board finds that local conditions have an adverse effect on the prevention of (1) major loss fires, (2) major earthquake damage, and (3) the potential for life and property loss, making necessary changes or modifications to the 2018 International Fire Code, 2019 California Fire Code and the 2019 California Building Standards Code in order to provide a reasonable degree of property security and fire and life safety in this Fire District.

Amends several specific sections of the 2019 California Fire Code and Appendix A of the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code: Permits; liability for incidents; enforcement authority; emergency access for Fire District personnel to buildings and properties; fire alarm and protection systems; fire hydrant upgrades; fire sprinkler systems; public storage facilities; fire apparatus access roads; smoke detector and fire extinguisher documentation; parking of tank trucks transporting hazardous and flammable materials; and corrective action requirements.

Section 12 Designates Chief Officers and other Fire District personnel specific authority to arrest and issue citations for violations of the International Fire Code and California Fire Code.

Sections 13 Describes the penalties and procedures for issuing citations; imposition of penalties; provisions which constitute public nuisance and entitlements and collections of abatement and administrative costs by means of nuisance abatement lien.

Section 14 Describes the appeals process for any person(s) receiving a citation(s) for a civil penalty or a bill for response costs and expenses.

Sections 15, 16, and 17 Describes administrative provisions; validating and Ordinance publication date.

Section 18 Describes compliance with California Environmental Quality Act.

This Ordinance will be in full force and effect on the 1st day of January 2020 after its passage by the Southern Marin Fire District Board of Directors and after ratification by
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the Sausalito City Council, Tiburon Town Council and the Marin County Board of Supervisors. A certified copy of the full text of the ordinance is available in the office of the Fire Chief, 308 Reed Blvd, Mill Valley, CA 94941 and the office of the Fire Marshal, 333 Johnson Street, Sausalito, CA 95965

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Southern Marin Fire District
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