



Fire Department

"Serving the community since 1926"

HEADQUARTERS

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JESUSITA FIRE RE-BUILD GUIDELINES

November 9, 2009

TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS AFFECTED BY THE JESUSITA FIRE

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department recognizes the adverse affects the Jesusita Fire has had on this significant area of Santa Barbara and is committed to working with the property owners in the recovery effort and rebuilding process.

Each property to be re-built will have conditions placed upon it following the requirements of the 2007 California Fire Code that was amended and adopted by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in January 2009. However, the Fire Department recognizes that when re-building communities after a disaster such as the Jesusita Fire, that there are practical difficulties in doing so. As a property owner affected by the fire, you may request a modification of the imposed conditions placed upon your project by written request to the Fire Marshal. Please include a description of the practical difficulties encountered and list the suggested modifications you feel will assist us in providing you the highest levels of fire and life safety.

The following guidelines are designed to assist the property owner and fire department with a thorough and expedient review process. These guidelines are exclusively for those whose property was directly affected by the Jesusita Fire whether legal owner of the property at the time of the fire or recent purchaser of an affected property.

The following general conditions apply:

1. Each property owner shall commence the legal re-building and / or construction process within two years of the date of the Jesusita Fire, May 5th, 2009. An approved Fire Protection Certificate (FPC) shall be completed prior to the start of construction. A one year extension may be evaluated and granted by the Fire Marshal upon written request with adequate cause.
2. A like-for-like square footage re-build plus an additional 10 percent increase in square footage with a maximum of 250 square feet will be allowed. Any additional square footage above the original legal dimensions will be charged a previously established fire mitigation fee.

Serving the cities of Buellton, Goleta and Solvang and the Communities of Casmalia, Cuyama, Gaviota, Hope Ranch, Los Alamos, Los Olivos, Mission Canyon, Mission Hills, Orcutt, Santa Maria, Sisquoc, Vandenberg Village

3. All structures shall be built to High Fire Hazard Standards including legally permitted garages and guesthouses.
4. Defensible space, established by the clearing and management of vegetation, shall be provided and maintained for a minimum of 100 feet (or to the property line, whichever is nearer) around the proposed structures and any existing structures on this property.
5. Improvements to driveways for the purpose of allowing fire equipment access may be required on a case-by-case basis. When adequate access is not feasible due to distance, grade, turn radius, obstructions, surface construction, or erosion concerns, re-built structures will be required to install fire sprinkler systems.
6. Hydrant upgrades may be required on a case-by-case basis.
7. A road name will be required for all driveways serving five or more residential parcels. The affected property owners may submit suggested road names to the Department of Planning and Development for review and approval.
8. Addresses will be posted as required by the fire department.
9. A Fire Protection Certificate (FPC) fee will be paid at the time of official building permit issuance. This fee is in addition to the Mitigation Fee that applies for any additional square footage added to the original legal square footage of the structures.

A site inspection by a Fire Department Inspector will be conducted at your request or upon receipt of a Fire Protection Certificate (FPC).

If you have any questions, please contact Merrie Blackmar of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department for assistance at (805) 681-5523.

Thank you,



Richard Todd
Fire Marshal/Division Chief
Santa Barbara County Fire Department