

ORDINANCE NO. 5167

ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 7.92 OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE AND THEREAFTER ADDING NEW CHAPTER 7.92 TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE ADOPTING AND THEN AMENDING THE 2012 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE 0434

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz ordains as follows:

SECTION I

Chapter 7.92 of the Santa Cruz County Code as enacted by Ordinance No. 5076 is hereby repealed.

SECTION II

The Santa Cruz County Code is hereby amended by adding new Chapter 7.92 to read as follows:

**Chapter 7.92
FIRE CODE**

- 7.92.010 Section 010 is added - International Fire Code adopted.
- 7.92.101.1 Section 101.1 is amended - Title.
- 7.92.102.9 Section 102.9 is amended - Matters not provided for.
- 7.92.105.1 Section 105.1 is amended – General.
- 7.92.108.1 Section 108.1 is amended - Board of appeals established.
- 7.92.108.3 Section 108.3 is deleted - Qualifications.
- 7.92.108.4 Section 108.4 is added - Appeals process.
- 7.92.109.4 Section 109.4 is amended - Violation penalties.
- 7.92.109.4.1 Section 109.4.1 is amended – Abatement of violation.
- 7.92.109.4.2 Section 109.4.2 is added – Enforcement.
- 7.92.111.4 Section 111.4 is amended - Failure to comply.
- 7.92.202 Section 202 is amended - Definitions
- 7.92.304.1.2 Section 304.1.2 is amended - Vegetation.
- 7.92.307.2 Section 307.2 is amended – Open burning and recreational fires.
- 7.92.308.1.4 Section 308.1.4 is deleted – Open-flame cooking devices.
- 7.92.311.5 Section 311.5 is amended - Placards.
- 7.92.405.2 Table 405.2 Footnote 'a' is amended - Fire and evacuation drill frequency and participation.
- 7.92.501.3 Section 501.3 is amended - Construction documents.
- 7.92.503.2.1 Section 503.2.1 is amended - Dimensions.
- 7.92.503.2.6 Section 503.2.6 is amended - Bridges and elevated surfaces.
- 7.92.503.2.6.1 Section 503.2.6.1 is added - Width.
- 7.92.503.2.6.2 Section 503.2.6.2 is added - Certification.
- 7.92.503.2.6.3 Section 503.2.6.3 is added - Recertification.

7.92.102.9 Section 102.9 is amended - Matters not provided for.

Section 102.9 of Chapter 1 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

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102.9 - Matters not provided for. Requirements that are essential for the public safety of an existing or proposed activity, building or structure, or for the safety of the occupants thereof, which are not specifically provided for by this code shall be determined by the fire code official.

The fire chief is authorized to render interpretations of this code and to make and enforce rules, supplemental regulations and standards in order to carry out the application and intent of its provisions. Such interpretations, rules, regulations and standards shall be in conformance with the intent and purpose of this code and shall be available to the public during normal business hours. Those standards promulgated by the Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association shall be deemed as prima facie evidence of compliance with this code.

7.92.105.1 Section 105.1 is amended – General.

Section 105 of Chapter 1 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

105.1 - General. Permits shall be in accordance with Sections 105.1.1. through 105.7.16. or other provisions of this code as required by the jurisdiction having authority.

7.92.108.1 Section 108.1 is amended - Board of Appeals established.

Section 108.1 of Chapter 1 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

108.1 - Board of Appeals established. In order to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the fire code official relative to the application and interpretation of this code, there shall be and is hereby created a Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals shall be the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County or a sub-committee as appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County. The fire code official shall be an ex-officio member of said board but shall have no vote on any matter before the board. The board may adopt additional rules of procedure for conducting its business, and shall render all decisions and findings in writing to the appellant with a duplicate copy to the fire code official.

7.92.108.3 Section 108.3 is deleted – Qualifications.

Section 108.3 of Chapter 1 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is deleted.

7.92.108.4 Section 108.4 is added – Appeals process.

Section 108.4 of Chapter 1 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

108.4.1 - Initiating appeal. Any beneficially interested party has the right to appeal the order served by the fire code official by filing a written "NOTICE OF APPEAL" with the office of the fire code official within fourteen calendar days after service of such order. The filing fee established by resolution of the Board of Supervisors shall accompany the notice of appeal. The notice shall state the order appealed from, the identity and mailing address of the appellant, and the specific grounds upon which the appeal is made.

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108.4.2 - Stay of order. The filing of a properly completed notice of appeal shall have the effect of staying the implementation of the order appealed from, until the final decision of appeal.

Exception:

Orders affecting acts or conditions which in the opinion of the fire code official, pose an immediate threat to life, property, or the environment as a result of panic, fire, explosion, or release.

108.4.3 - Hearing of appeal. Following is the process for establishing and hearing appeals:

1. The Board of Appeals, or the secretary thereof, shall set the matter to be heard at a date within thirty days of receipt of such notice of appeal. Written notice of the time and place set for hearing shall be served on the appellant by first class mail to the mailing address given in the notice of appeal at least five days prior to the date set for the hearing. The fire code official shall transmit to the Board of Appeals all records related to the appeal.
2. At the hearing on the appeal, the appellant shall, in the first instance present evidence in support of the grounds enumerated in her/his notice of appeal. The fire code official shall next present evidence in support of her/his order. The appellant and the fire code official shall each have one opportunity to rebut the evidence presented by the other. The hearing shall be de novo in all respects.

108.4.4 - Decision of the Board of Appeals. Upon hearing the appeal, the Board of Appeals may issue a decision affirming, modifying or vacating the order of the fire code official. The decision shall be in writing and shall be served upon the appellant by first class mail to the mailing address given in the notice of appeal.

108.4.5 - Time of decision. The Board of Appeals shall have the power to continue any hearing and may, in its discretion, take the appeal under submission. The Board of Appeals shall render a decision not later than the seventh day following the date the matter was taken under submission, and forthwith notify the interested parties as previously set forth.

7.92.109.4 Section 109.4 is amended – Violation penalties.

Section 109.4 of Chapter 1 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

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109.4 – Violation penalties. Persons who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be guilty of an infraction, punishable as set forth in Section 1.12.040 of the Santa Cruz County Code, plus court assigned fees. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

7.92.109.4.1 Section 109.4.1 is amended – Abatement of violation.

Section 109.4.1 of Chapter 1 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

109.4.1 - Abatement of violation. In addition to the imposition of the penalties herein described, the fire code official is authorized to institute appropriate action to prevent unlawful construction or to restrain, correct or abate a violation; or to prevent illegal occupancy of a structure or premises; or to stop an illegal act, conduct of business or occupancy of a structure on or about any premises. Any violation of this code shall be deemed a public nuisance pursuant to Santa Cruz County Code Section 1.12.050 and/or the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County. In the event that a public nuisance is not abated in accordance with the fire code official's order or the order of the Board of Appeals, if any, the fire code official may, upon securing approval of the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County, proceed to abate the nuisance by force account, contract, or any other method deemed most expedient by the Board. The cost of such abatement may be charged to the owner of record, or assessed to the property in a manner provided in Sections 1.14.040 through 1.14.080 of the Santa Cruz County Code.

7.92.109.4.2 Section 109.4.2 is added – Enforcement.

Section 109.4.2 of Chapter 1 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

109.4.2 - Enforcement. The fire code official and her/his delegated subordinates, pursuant to the provisions of Section 836.5 of the Penal Code of the State of California, are hereby authorized to arrest a person without a warrant whenever they have reasonable cause to believe that the person has committed a violation of any of the provisions of this Code in their presence. Upon making such an arrest, the fire code official or her/his delegated subordinate shall prepare a citation and release the person arrested pursuant to Section 853.6 of the Penal Code of the State of California, the provisions of which are hereby adopted by reference as part of this Section.

7.92.111.4 Section 111.4 is amended – Failure to comply.

Section 111.4 of Chapter 1 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

111.4 - Failure to comply. It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to violate or fail to comply with any lawful order of the fire code official; fail to comply with an order by the Board of Appeals; or, fail to comply with an order of the court of competent jurisdiction within the time fixed therein. Every such violation shall be deemed a misdemeanor and shall be punishable as set forth in Section 1.12.030 of the Santa Cruz County Code.

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7.92.202 Section 202 is amended – Definition of All Weather Surface.

Definition of All Weather Surface in Section 202 of Chapter 2 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added after Alcohol-Blended Fuels to read as follows:

ALL WEATHER SURFACE. An all weather surface shall be a minimum of 6" of compacted Class II base rock for grades up to and including 5%, oil and screened for grades up to and including 15%, and asphaltic concrete for grades exceeding 15%. No grade shall be allowed to exceed 20%.

Section 202 is amended – Definition of Bridge.

Definition of Bridge in Section 202 of Chapter 2 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added after Bonfire to read as follows:

BRIDGE. A bridge shall be defined as a structure designed to carry a roadway over a depression or obstacle.

Section 202 is amended – Definition of De Novo.

Definition of De Novo in Section 202 of Chapter 2 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added after Deluge System to read as follows:

DE NOVO. adj. Latin for "anew," which means starting over, as in a trial de novo. For example, a decision in a small claims case may be appealed to a local trial court, which may try the case again, de novo.

Section 202 is amended – Definition of Fire Chief.

Definition of Fire Chief in Section 202 of Chapter 2 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

FIRE CHIEF. The Chief of the Santa Cruz County Fire Department.

Section 202 is amended – Definition of Stage.

Definition of Stage in Section 202 of Chapter 2 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added after Spraying Space to read as follows:

STAGE. A space within a building utilized for entertainment or presentations, which includes overhead hanging curtains, drops, scenery or stage effects other than lighting and sound. Stage area shall be measured to include the entire performance area and adjacent backstage and support areas not separated from the performance area by fire-

resistance rated construction. Stage height shall be measured from the lowest point on the stage floor to the highest point of the roof or floor deck above the stage.

Section 202 is amended – Definition of State Responsibility Area (SRA).

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Definition of State Responsibility Area (SRA) in Section 202 of Chapter 2 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added after Standpipe, Types Of to read as follows:

STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA (SRA) shall mean lands that are classified by the Board of Forestry pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4125 where the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing forest fires is primarily the responsibility of the State of California.

7.92.304.1.2 Section 304.1.2 is amended – Vegetation.

Section 304.1.2 of Chapter 3 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

304.1.2 – Vegetation. Weeds, grass, vines or other growth that is capable of being ignited and endangering property, shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant of the premises. Vegetation clearance requirements in urban-wildland interface areas shall be maintained around and adjacent to buildings and structures. A firebreak shall be made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side of the building or structure or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that is well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to any building or structure.

When required by state law, or local ordinance, rule or regulation, an additional fire protection zone or firebreak may be made by removing all brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth that is located within 100 feet from the building or structure or to the property line. This section does not prevent an insurance company that insures a building or structure from requiring the owner of the building or structure to maintain a firebreak of more than 100 feet around the building or structure. Grass and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from the building or structure and less than 18 inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. This does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that is well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a dwelling or structure.

7.92.307.2 Section 307.2 is amended - Open burning and recreational fires.

Section 307.2 of Chapter 3 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

307.2 - Permit required. When required by the fire chief, a permit shall be obtained prior to kindling a fire for recognized silvicultural or range or wildlife management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests, or a bonfire. Application for such

permit shall only be presented by and permits issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

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The open burn season for Santa Cruz County unless otherwise declared shall be December 1st through April 30th of the calendar year. The dates may only be changed by the Monterey Bay Area Unified Air Pollution Control District.

Exception:

During the “declared open burn season” (as declared by the Monterey Bay Area Unified Air Pollution Control District) pile burning is allowed, at the discretion of the fire chief, when the “Guidelines for Pile Burning” (published by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or Monterey Bay Area Unified Air Pollution Control District) are strictly adhered to.

7.92.308.1.4 Section 308.1.4 is deleted – Open-flame cooking devices.

Section 308.1.4 of Chapter 3 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is hereby deleted.

7.92.311.5 Section 311.5 is amended – Placards.

Section 311.5 of Chapter 3 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

311.5 – Placards. When required by the fire code official, any building or structure determined to be unsafe pursuant to Section 110 of this code shall be marked as required by Sections 311.5 through 311.5.5.

Table 405.2 Footnote ‘a’ is amended - Fire and evacuation drill frequency and participation.

Footnote ‘a’ to Table 405.2 of Chapter 4 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

a. The frequency in all school levels shall be allowed to be modified in accordance with Section 408.3.2. Secondary level schools need only conduct evacuation drills twice each school year.

7.92.501.3 Section 501.3 is amended – Construction documents.

Section 501.3 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

501.3 – Construction documents. Construction documents for proposed fire apparatus access, location of fire lanes and construction documents and hydraulic calculations for fire hydrant systems shall be submitted to the fire department for review and approval prior to construction. When grading work is needed for the access road(s) within the jurisdiction of Santa Cruz County, application for a grading permit shall be made with the Santa Cruz County Planning Department pursuant to the Santa Cruz County Grading Ordinance. Such Permits shall be reviewed by the Santa Cruz County Environmental Coordinator as required.

7.92.503.2.1 Section 503.2.1 is amended – Dimensions.

Section 503.2.1 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

503.2.1 – Dimensions. Fire Apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.7, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches (4115 mm). In addition, areas within 10 feet (3048 mm) on each side of portions of highways, public and private streets and roads which are ordinarily used for vehicular traffic shall be cleared of flammable vegetation and other combustible growth.

Exception:

Single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery or cultivated ground cover such as green grass, ivy, succulents or similar plants used as ground covers, are exempt provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire.

Exceptions:

1. Outside of the Urban Services Line as established by the County of Santa Cruz, access roads shall be a minimum of 18 feet wide for all access roads or driveways serving more than two habitable structures, and 12 feet for an access road or driveway serving two or fewer habitable structures. Where it is environmentally inadvisable to meet these criteria (due to excessive grading, tree removal or other environmental impacts), a 12-foot wide all-weather surface access road with 12-foot wide by 35-foot long turnouts located approximately every 500 feet may be provided with the approval of the fire code official.
2. Inside of the Urban Services Line, private access roads extending from a public road shall be a minimum of 18 feet wide for all access roads or driveways serving more than two habitable structures, and 12 feet for an access road or driveway serving two or fewer habitable structures. Where it is environmentally inadvisable to meet these criteria (due to excessive grading, tree removal or other environmental impacts), a 12-foot wide all-weather surface access road with 12-foot wide by 35-foot long turnouts located approximately every 500 feet may be provided with the approval of the fire code official.
3. Vertical clearance may be reduced, provided such reduction does not impair access by fire apparatus and approved signs are installed and maintained indicating the established vertical clearance when approved by the fire code official.

7.92.503.2.6 Section 503.2.6 is amended – Bridges and elevated surfaces.

Section 503.2.6 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

503.2.6 - Bridges and elevated surfaces. When a bridge or an elevated surface is part of a fire apparatus access road, the bridge shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with AASHTO HS-20 (25 ton). Bridges and elevated surfaces shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus. Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges when required by the fire code official. Where elevated surfaces designed for emergency vehicle use are adjacent to surfaces which are not designed for such use, approved barriers, approved signs or both shall be installed and maintained when required by the fire code official.

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7.92.503.2.6.1 Section 503.2.6.1 is added – Width.

Section 503.2.6.1 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

503.2.6.1 - Width. All bridges shall be a minimum of 20 feet of clear width. The fire code official may allow the width to be reduced for access to U-1, U-2 or R-3 occupancies in accordance with Objective 6.5 – Fire Hazards of the Santa Cruz County General Plan.

7.92.503.2.6.2 Section 503.2.6.2 is added – Certification.

Section 503.2.6.2 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

503.2.6.2 – Certification. Every private bridge hereafter constructed shall be engineered by a licensed civil or structural engineer and approved by the fire code official. Certification shall be provided by the licensed engineer in writing that the bridge complies with the design standard required by this section to the fire code official.

7.92.503.2.6.3 Section 503.2.6.3 is added – Recertification.

Section 503.2.6.3 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

503.2.6.3 – Recertification. Every private bridge shall be recertified every ten years or whenever deemed necessary by the fire code official. Such recertification shall be in accordance with the requirements of 503.2.6.2.

7.92.503.2.6.4 Section 503.2.6.4 is added – Existing private bridges.

Section 503.2.6.4 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

503.2.6.4 - Existing private bridges. An existing private bridge not conforming to these regulations may be required to conform when in the opinion of the fire code official, such repairs are necessary for public safety.

7.92.503.2.6.5 Section 503.2.6.5 is added – Fees.

Section 503.2.6.5 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

503.2.6.5 - Fees. All fees charged for the purpose of certification or recertification shall be at the owners expense.

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7.92.503.7 Section 503.7 is added – Gates.

Section 503.7 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

503.7 – Gates. All Gates providing access from a road to a driveway, or within any access road, shall be located at least 30 feet from the roadway and shall open to allow a vehicle to stop without obstructing traffic on the road. Gate entrances shall be at least 2 (two) feet wider than the access road being secured, but in no case shall the width be less than 14 (fourteen) feet. When gates are to be locked, the installation of a key box or other acceptable means for immediate access may be required as in Section 503.6.

7.92.505.2 Section 505.2 is amended – Street and road signs.

Section 505.2 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

505.2 - Street and road signs. Streets and roads shall be identified with approved signs. Temporary signs shall be installed at each street intersection when construction of new roadways allows passage by vehicles. Signs shall be of an approved size, weather resistant and be maintained until replaced by permanent signs. Posting of any road names and numbers not authorized by the Office of Street Naming and Numbering of the County of Santa Cruz, and the fire code official is prohibited.

7.92.507.1 Section 507.1 is amended – Required water supply.

Section 507.1 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is amended to read as follows:

507.1 - Required water supply. An approved water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to premises upon which facilities, buildings or portions of buildings are hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction.

The minimum water supply for all new dwellings within State Responsibility Areas (SRA) shall be capable of supplying a flow of 500 gallons per minute for 20 minutes (10,000 gallons) for each parcel. Privately owned water that is not supplied by a licensed water purveyor shall:

1. serve no more than two dwellings and no more than 10,000 square feet of habitable dwelling space, and
2. be provided pursuant to a recorded covenant that runs with the land if the water supply originates from another parcel.

If a water purveyor supplies the water, the applicant must submit with the building plan written verification from the licensed purveyor that the water supply meets the flow requirement.

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Exceptions:

1. A 2% reduction will be allowed for flow supplied by approved stationary water tanks, to account for the nominal standardized capacity of such tanks.
2. The fire chief may reduce the flow requirement to 250 gallons per minute for 20 minutes by substituting approved enhanced access, defensible space, and/or ignition-resistant material requirements.

7.92.507.5.7 Section 507.5.7 is added – Painting.

Section 507.5.7 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

507.5.7 – Painting. When required by the fire code official, fire hydrants shall be painted in accordance with NFPA 291.

7.92.605.12 Section 605.12 is added – Alternate power sources.

Section 605.12 of Chapter 6 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County is added to read as follows:

605.12 - Alternate Power Sources. All permanent installations of electrical generators, wind generators, solar photovoltaic cells, or other power sources shall be approved by the building code official. In addition to all applicable provisions of Title 24 CCR for any such installation, a sign reading:

**“WARNING – This premise is provided with an Alternate Power Source.
Disconnection of commercial power may not disable the electrical power
source”**

shall be permanently affixed. Sign shall be red in color with a minimum of ½” tall contrasting lettering and shall be permanently affixed on each electrical panel subject to back-feed from alternate power sources. Any and all power disabling switches shall be clearly labeled.

7.92.903.1 IFC Sections 903.1 through 903.2.10.1 are deleted and replaced – Automatic sprinkler systems.

Sections 903.1 through 903.2.10.1 of Chapter 9 of the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County are deleted and replaced to read as follows:

903.1 - General. Automatic sprinkler systems shall comply with this section.

903.1.1 - Alternative protection. Alternative automatic fire-extinguishing systems complying with Section 904 shall be permitted in lieu of automatic sprinkler protection where recognized by the applicable standard and approved by the fire code official.

903.2 - Where required. Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in the locations described in this section.

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903.2.1 - New structures. An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be provided in all new occupancies as defined in Chapter 3 of the California Building Code, regardless of type of construction and/or floor area, unless otherwise pre-empted by the California Health and Safety Code. Any occupancy not specifically mentioned shall be included in the group that it most nearly resembles based on the proposed life and fire hazard;

Exceptions:

1. Private garages, carports, sheds not more than 1,000 square feet (93 m²) of total floor area shall not require fire sprinklers where they are detached and separate from other structures and provided with exterior wall and opening protection as per the California Building Code.
2. Sheds exceeding 1,000 square feet, (93 m²) but not exceeding 3,000 square feet (278 m²) shall not require fire sprinklers at the discretion of the fire chief when the applicant demonstrates that the applicant's proposal does not increase the fire hazard or fire load.
3. Agricultural buildings as defined in Appendix Chapter C, of the California Building Code not exceeding 2,000 square feet (186 m²), not exceeding 25 feet (7620 mm) in height, having a clear unobstructed side yard exceeding 60 feet (18,280 mm) in all directions, and located within an Agricultural zoned district, as defined in the Santa Cruz County Planning Code, or as exempted by the fire chief, shall not require fire sprinklers.

Additionally, agricultural buildings exceeding 2,000 square feet (186 m²) but not exceeding 5,000 square feet, not exceeding 25 feet (7620 mm) in height, having a clear unobstructed side yard exceeding 60 feet (18,280 mm) in all directions; and located within an Agricultural zoned district, as defined in the Santa Cruz County Planning Code, shall not require fire sprinklers at the discretion of the fire chief when the applicant demonstrates the applicant's proposal does not increase the fire hazard or fire load.

4. Group B and Group M Occupancies not more than 500 square feet (46.5 m²) shall not require fire sprinklers where they are detached and separate from other structures and provided with exterior wall and opening protection as per the California Building Code, Section 508.
5. Greenhouses of non-combustible construction shall not require fire sprinklers.

903.2.1.1 - Ambulatory care facilities. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout the entire floor containing an ambulatory care facility where either of the following conditions exists at any time:

1. Four or more care recipients are incapable of self-preservation, whether rendered incapable by staff or staff has accepted responsibility for care recipients already incapable.
2. One or more care recipients that are incapable of self-preservation are located at other than the level of exit discharge serving such a facility.

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In buildings where ambulatory care is provided on levels other than the level of exit discharge an automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout the entire floor when such care is provided as well as all floors below, and all floors between the level of ambulatory care and the nearest level of exit discharge including the level of exit discharge.

903.2.1.2 - Group I. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings with a Group I fire area.

Exceptions:

1. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be permitted in Group I-1 facilities.
2. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be allowed in Group I-1 facilities when in compliance with all of the following:
 - 2.1.1 A hydraulic design information sign is located on the system riser;
 - 2.1.2 Exception 1 of Section 903.4 is not applied; and
 - 2.1.3 Systems shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Section 903.3.1.2.
3. An automatic sprinkler system is not required where day care facilities are at the level of exit discharge and where every room where care is provided has at least one exterior exit door.
4. In buildings where Group I-4 day care is provided on levels other than the level of exit discharge, an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.11 shall be installed on the entire floor where care is provided and all floors between the level of care and the level of exit discharge, all floors below the level of exit discharge, other than areas classified as an open parking garage.

Exception:

An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be permitted in Group I-1 facilities.

903.2.1.3 - Group I-2. In an existing, unsprinklered Group I-2, nurses' station open to fire-resistive exit access corridors shall be protected by an automatic sprinkler system located directly above the nurses' station; it shall be permitted to connect the automatic sprinkler system to the domestic water service.

903.2.1.4 - Group R. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R fire area.

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Exceptions:

1. Existing Group R-3 occupancies converted to Group R-3.1 occupancies not housing bedridden clients, not housing nonambulatory clients above the first floor, and not housing clients above the second floor.
2. Existing Group R-3 occupancies converted to Group R-3.1 occupancies housing only one bedridden client and complying with section 425.8.3.3 of the California Building Code.
3. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13113 occupancies housing ambulatory children only, none of whom are mentally ill or mentally retarded, and the buildings or portions thereof in which such children are housed are not more than two stories in height, and buildings or portions thereof housing such children have a automatic fire alarm system activated by approved smoke detectors.
4. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13143.6 occupancies licensed for protective social care which house ambulatory clients only, none of whom is a child (under the age of 18 years), or who is elderly (65 years of age or over).
When not used in accordance with Section 504.2 or 506.3 of the California Building Code an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be allowed in Group R-2.1 occupancies.

903.2.1.5 - Group R-3 congregate residences. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be permitted in Group R-3 congregate living facilities with 16 or fewer residents.

903.2.1.6 - Care facilities. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be permitted in care facilities with 5 or fewer individuals in a single-family dwelling.

903.2.2 - Existing buildings and structures except for one and two family dwellings. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in existing buildings and structures, except One and Two Family Dwellings, after the effective date of this code, when a building permit is issued to allow additions to be made, as follows:

1. For existing buildings less than 6,000 square feet in gross floor area when an addition to the building causes the structure to exceed 6,000 square feet, the entire structure shall be provided with an automatic sprinkler system.
2. For existing buildings larger than 6,000 square feet in gross floor area when an addition is equal to or greater than 10% of the existing square footage or when extensive renovation or remodeling is done to more than 50% of the gross floor area, the entire structure shall be provided with an automatic sprinkler system.

For the purposes of this section, extensive renovation or remodeling shall be defined as any change, addition or modification in construction or occupancy or structural repair or change in primary function to an existing structure made by, on behalf of or for the use of

a public accommodation or commercial facility that affects or could affect the usability of the building or facility or part thereof. Alterations include, but are not limited to, remodeling, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, historic restoration, changes or rearrangement of the structural parts or elements, and changes or rearrangement in the plan configuration of walls and full-height partitions.

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Exceptions to Section 903.2.2 (1 and 2)

- (a) Group A-2 occupancies exceeding 5,000 square feet shall have an automatic sprinkler system installed.
- (b) Group A-5 occupancies exceeding 1,000 square feet in the following areas: concession stands, retail areas, press boxes and other accessory use areas shall have an automatic sprinkler system installed.
- (c) Group F-1 occupancies exceeding 2,500 square feet used for the manufacture of upholstered furniture or mattresses shall have an automatic sprinkler system installed.
- (d) Group H occupancies shall be provided with an automatic sprinkler system.
- (e) Group I fire areas shall be provided with an automatic sprinkler system.

Exceptions:

- (1) An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be permitted in Group I-1 facilities.
- (2) An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be allowed in Group I-1 facilities when in compliance with all of the following:
 - 2.1 A hydraulic design information sign is located on the system riser;
 - 2.2 Exception 1 of Section 903.4 is not applied; and
 - 2.3 Systems shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Section 903.3.1.2.
- (3) An automatic sprinkler system is not required where day care facilities are at the level of exit discharge and where every room where care is provided has at least one exterior exit door.
- (4) In buildings where Group I-4 day care is provided on levels other than the level of exit discharge, an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.11 shall be installed on the entire floor where care is provided and all floors between the level of care and the level of exit discharge, all floors below the level of exit discharge, other than areas classified as an open parking garage.
- (f) Group S-1 occupancies exceeding 2,500 square feet used for the storage of upholstered furniture or mattresses shall have an automatic sprinkler system installed.
- (g) Group S-1 fire areas exceeding 5,000 square feet used for the repair of commercial trucks or buses and commercial parking garages used for the storage of commercial trucks and buses shall have an automatic sprinkler system installed.