

1270.06. Inspections

The inspection entity listed in 14 CCR 1270.05 may inspect for compliance with these regulations. When inspections are conducted, they should occur prior to: the issuance of the use permit; certificate of occupancy; the recordation of the parcel map or final map; the filing of a notice of completion; or the final inspection of any project or building permit.

1270.07. Exceptions to Standards

Upon request by the applicant, exceptions to standards within this subchapter or local jurisdiction certified ordinances may be allowed by the inspection entity listed in 14 CCR 1270.05, where the exceptions provide the same overall practical effect as these regulations towards providing defensible space. Exceptions granted by the inspection entity listed in 14 CCR 1270.05 shall be made on a case-by-case basis only. Exceptions granted by the inspection entity listed in 14 CCR 1270.05 shall be forwarded to the appropriate CAL FIRE Unit Office that administers SRA fire protection in that county and shall be retained on file at the Unit Office.

1270.08. Request for Exceptions

Requests for an exception shall be made in writing to the inspection entity listed in 14 CCR 1270.05 by the applicant or the applicant's authorized representative. The request shall state the specific section(s) for which an exception is requested, material facts supporting the contention of the applicant, the details of the exception proposed, and a map showing the proposed location and siting of the exception.

1270.09. Appeals

Where an exception is not granted by the inspection authority, the applicant may appeal such denial to the local jurisdiction. The local jurisdiction may establish or utilize an appeal process consistent with existing local building or planning department appeal processes.

Before the local jurisdiction makes a determination on an appeal, the inspection authority shall be consulted and shall provide to that local jurisdiction documentation outlining the effects of the requested exception on wildland fire protection.

If an appeal is granted, the local jurisdiction shall make findings that the decision meets the intent of providing defensible space consistent with these regulations. Such findings shall include a statement of reasons for the decision. A written copy of these findings shall be provided to the CAL FIRE Unit headquarters that administers SRA fire protection in that local jurisdiction.

1271.00. Definitions

Accessory building: Any building used as an accessory to residential, commercial, recreational, industrial, or educational purposes as defined in the California Building Code, 1989 Amendments, Chapter 11, Group M, Division 1 Occupancy that requires a building permit.

Agriculture: Land used for agricultural purposes as defined in a local jurisdiction's zoning ordinances.

Building: Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use of occupancy that is defined in the California Building Code, 1989 Amendments, Chapter 11, except Group M, Division 1, Occupancy. For the purposes of this subchapter, building includes mobile homes and manufactured homes, churches, and day care facilities.

CDF: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Dead-end road: A road that has only one point of vehicular ingress/egress, including cul-de-sacs and looped roads.

Defensible space: The area within the perimeter of a parcel, development, neighborhood or community where basic wildland fire protection practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an

1273.06. Roadway Turnouts

Turnouts shall be a minimum of twelve (12) feet wide and thirty (30) feet long with a minimum twenty-five (25) foot taper on each end.

1273.07. Roadway Structures

(a) All driveway, road, street, and private lane roadway structures shall be constructed to carry at least the maximum load and provide the minimum vertical clearance as required by Vehicle Code Sections 35250, 35550, and 35750.

(b) Appropriate signing, including but not limited to weight or vertical clearance limitations, one-way road or single lane conditions, shall reflect the capability of each bridge.

(c) Where a bridge or an elevated surface is part of a fire apparatus access road, the bridge shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges, 17th Edition, published 2002 (known as AASHTO HB-17), hereby incorporated by reference. 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 local authority having jurisdiction. Where elevated surfaces designed for emergency vehicle use are adjacent to surfaces which are not designed for such use, barriers, or signs, or both, as approved by the local authority having jurisdiction, shall be installed and maintained. A bridge with only one traffic lane may be authorized by the local jurisdiction; however, it shall provide for unobstructed visibility from one end to the other and turnouts at both ends.

1273.08. One-Way Roads

All one-way roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum, not including shoulders, of one twelve (12) foot traffic lane. The local jurisdiction may approve one-way roads. All one-way roads shall connect to a two-lane roadway at both ends, and shall provide access to an area currently zoned for no more than ten (10) dwelling units. In no case shall it exceed 2,640 feet in length. A turnout shall be placed and constructed at approximately the midpoint of each one-way road.

1273.09. Dead-End Roads

(a) The maximum length of a dead-end road, including all dead-end roads accessed from the dead-end road, shall not exceed the following cumulative lengths, regardless of the numbers of parcels served:

- parcels zoned for less than one acre – 800 feet
- parcels zoned for 1 acre to 4.99 acres – 1320 feet
- parcels zoned for 5 acres to 19.99 acres – 2640 feet
- parcels zoned for 20 acres or larger – 5280 feet

All lengths shall be measured from the edge of the roadway surface at the intersection that begins the road to the end of the road surface at the intersection that begins the road to the end of the road surface at its farthest point. Where a dead-end road crosses areas of differing zoned parcel sizes, requiring different length limits, the shortest allowable length shall apply.

(b) Where parcels are zoned 5 acres or larger, turnarounds shall be provided at a maximum of 1320 foot intervals.

(c) Each dead-end road shall have a turnaround constructed at its terminus.

1273.10. Driveways

(a) All driveways shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one (1) ten (10) foot traffic lane and fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance and unobstructed vertical clearance of fifteen (15) feet.

(b) Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length, but less than 800 feet in length, shall provide a turnout near the