

# MARIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Committed to the preservation of life, property and environment.

November 15, 2016

Marin County Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903



Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION:** Hold a public hearing and adopt the 2016 California Fire Code, 2015 International Fire Code, and portions of the 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, and amendments as outlined in the attached ordinance per Section 13869.7 of the California Health and Safety Code.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed Ordinance adopts portions of the 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, the 2015 International Fire Code, and the 2016 California Fire Code with amendments, regarding fire prevention and fire safety regulations in structures and on property located within the jurisdiction of the Marin County Fire Department.

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FIRE CHIEF

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Marin City  
Point Reyes  
Hicks Valley  
Tomasles  
Ross Valley: Medic 18  
Tamalpais Fire Crew

This adoption process is required of the Marin County Fire Department 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. As such, over the last several months, all Fire Marshals in the county met several times at the Novato Fire District headquarters and cooperatively reviewed the proposed amendments so as to make as consistent as possible our respective amendments to each jurisdiction's adoptive local ordinances.

The primary significant changes to Marin County's amendments to the Fire Code this code cycle are as follows:

- *Adjusted Paramedic and Fire Prevention fee schedules.*
- *Added "Junior Second Units" to the exceptions to the requirement to install automatic fire sprinklers.*
- *Reduced the fire flow requirements for residential occupancies equipped with automatic fire sprinklers.*

The following is a summary of the specific provisions of each section of the ordinance:

16.10. Adopts the Fire Prevention Fee Schedule to reflect the actual cost of staff from the Marin County Fire Department to conduct reviews. Also, this section adopts fees for basic life support and advanced life support ambulance and paramedic services furnished by the Fire Department in CSA 28 reflecting the actual cost of providing these services. Additionally, this section allows for the



collection of specific fees for Fire Prevention review upon the submittal of plans to the Community Development Agency by an applicant where a discretionary review is necessary.

16.16.010. Adopts the 2016 California Fire Code, which consists of certain portions of the 2015 edition of the International Fire Code as amended by the Building Standards commission and Appendix A of the 2015 edition of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code.

16.16.020. Establishes a Fire Prevention Bureau and establishes duties and enforcement authority under the supervision of the Fire Chief.

16.16.030. Adds specific definitions and meanings ascribed to them including; Fire Code, jurisdiction, county counsel, Fire Code Official, and Chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

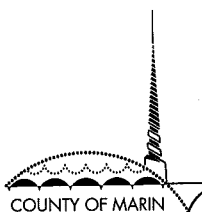
16.16.031-037. Establishes limits of Districts in which storage of flammable or combustible liquids in outside above ground tanks is prohibited; establishment of limits in which storage of liquefied petroleum gases is to be restricted; establishment of limits of Districts in which storage of explosives and blasting agents is to be prohibited; establishment of limits of Districts in which the storage of compressed natural gas is to be prohibited; establishment of limits of Districts in which the storage of stationary tanks of flammable cryogenic fluids is to be prohibited; and establishment of the limits of Districts in which the storage of hazardous materials is to be prohibited or limited.

16.16.040. Amends several specific sections of the 2013 California Fire Code and the 2012 edition of the International Fire Code: Permits; liability for incidents; enforcement authority; emergency access for Fire Department 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 and public nuisance relative to clearance of brush and vegetative growth.

16.16.050. Designates Chief Officers and other Fire Department, as well as law enforcement personnel specific authority to arrest and issue citations pursuant to violations of the International Fire Code and California Fire Code.

16.16.060-070. 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.

Included in this Ordinance adoption is a Resolution (attached) to adopt findings of fact (also attached). The governing body is required to adopt findings of fact pursuant to provisions of the California Health and Safety Code when building standards contained within the California Fire Code are more restrictive than minimum state standards. These adopted findings of fact are required to be filed with the California Building Standards Commission.





Finally, the Marin County Fire Department amends building standards for our fire sprinkler provisions and fire alarm monitoring requirements, making the Fire Department's ordinance consistent with that of the Building Department.

This Ordinance must be adopted and placed in effect prior to December 1, 2016. Failure to do so will result in losing the Fire Department's ability to enforce automatic fire sprinklers in new construction and of abatement procedures used to enforce vegetation management in the wild land-urban interface areas of our jurisdiction.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

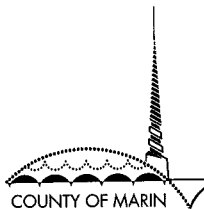
**REVIEWED BY:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Auditor-Controller	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott D. Alber, PE, EFO, CFO, FM, MIFireE  
Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal



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