

SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Article II. Definitions.

Sec. 13-6. Definitions.

Unless the provision or context requires otherwise, the definitions contained in this section shall govern the construction of this chapter. The definition of a word applies to any of that word's variants.

“Accessory building”: any building containing solely a Group U Occupancy as defined in the county building code.

“Agricultural building”: any structure designed and constructed to house farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, livestock or other horticultural products. This structure shall not be a place of human habitation or a place of employment where agricultural products are processed, treated or packaged; nor shall it be a place used by the public.

“Agricultural operation”: and includes the cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural commodity, including timber, viticulture, apiculture or horticulture, and the raising of livestock, fur bearing animals, fish or poultry.

“All-weather driving surface”: any surface that provides unobstructed access to conventional drive vehicles, including sedans and fire engines, and is capable of supporting a forty thousand (40,000) pound axle load during wet weather conditions.

“Board of building appeals”: the board of building appeals created in Chapter 7 of this code.

“Building”: any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

“California Fire Code”: the regulations in California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, 2001 California Fire Code, which incorporate by adoption the 2000 edition of the Uniform Fire Code of the Western Fire Chiefs Association with necessary California amendments.

“Commercial building”: any building containing an occupancy other than a Group R or Group U Occupancy as defined in the county building code.

“County Building Code”: the building regulations adopted by reference and amended in Chapter 7 of this code.

“County Fire Chief”: Director of the Department of Emergency Services of the county or his/her authorized representative.

“County fire prevention officers association”: the Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officers Association.

“Dangerous fireworks”: dangerous fireworks as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 12505.

“Dead-end road”: any road that has only one point of vehicular ingress/egress. Dead-end roads shall include cul-de-sacs and looped roads.

“Department of Emergency Services”: the county's Department of Emergency Services.

“Development approval”: means and includes all of the following:

(i) any discretionary approval granted pursuant to Chapter 25, 26, or 26C of this code to allow residential, commercial, or industrial development of land, including, without limitation, any approval of a zone change, tentative map, lot line adjustment, use permit, or design review; (ii) any building permit issued pursuant to Chapter 7 of this code to erect, construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, improve, or convert any building, or to install a manufactured home; or (iii) any grading permit issued

SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

pursuant to Chapter 7 of this code to construct a new road or driveway, or to extend, reconstruct, or improve an existing road or driveway.

“Director of forestry and fire protection”: the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or his or her authorized representative.

“Director of permit and resource management”: the Director of Permit and Resource Management Department of the county or his or her authorized representative.

“Driveway”: any way or place in private ownership that provides vehicular access to no more than two (2) residential buildings, containing no more than three (3) dwelling units, and any number of accessory buildings on a single parcel.

“Driveway structure”: any bridge, culvert or other appurtenant structure which supplements the driveway bed or shoulder.

“Dwelling unit”: any building or portion thereof which contains living facilities, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation, as required by the county building code, for not more than one (1) family.

“Exception”: an alternative to a standard specified in Article V of this chapter which is requested by an applicant for development due to health, safety, environmental conditions, physical site limitations or other limiting conditions, and provides mitigation of the problem.

“Exterior wall”: any wall or element of a wall, or any member or group of members, which defines the exterior boundaries or courts of a building and which has a slope of sixty (60) degrees or greater with the horizontal plane.

“Fire protection district”: any fire protection district organized and operating under the provisions of the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Part 3 (commencing with Section 13800) of Division 12 of the Health and Safety Code, or any other special district lawfully exercising any of the powers, functions or duties vested in or imposed upon a fire protection district pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987. Notwithstanding the preceding, fire protection district shall not include any county service area organized and operating under the provisions of the County Service Area Law, Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 25210.1) of Part 2 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code.

“Fireworks”: any fireworks as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 12511.

“Floor area”: the area included within the outside surface of the surrounding exterior walls of a building or portion thereof, exclusive of vent shafts and courts. The floor area of a building or portion thereof, not provided with surrounding exterior walls, shall be the useable area under the horizontal projection of the roof or floor above.

“General plan”: the Sonoma County general plan.

“Greenbelt”: a facility or land use, designed for a use other than fire protection which will slow or resist the spread of a wildfire. Greenbelts include parking lots, irrigated or landscaped areas, golf courses, parks, playgrounds, maintained vineyards, orchards and annual crops that do not cure in the field.

“Hammerhead/T”: a roadway that provides a “T” shaped, three-point turnaround space for emergency equipment. The turnaround space shall be no narrower than the road it serves.

“HS 20”: the HS 20 class of highway loading as defined by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

“Hydrant”: a valved connection on a supply/storage system having at least one (1) - two and one-half inch (2½”) outlet with male American National Fire Hose Screw Threads (NH) to supply fire apparatus and hoses with water.

“Jurisdictional area”: the territory within a local fire protection district.

“Local fire chief”: the Fire Chief of a local fire protection district or his or her authorized representative.

“Local fire protection district”: Local fire protection district” means any fire protection district organized and operating under the provisions of the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Part 3 (commencing with Section 13800) of Division 12 of the Health and Safety Code, or any other special district lawfully exercising any of the powers, functions, or duties vested in or imposed upon a fire protection district pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, all or part of whose territory is within the unincorporated area of the county. Notwithstanding the preceding, local fire protection district shall not include any county service area organized and operating under the provisions of the County Service Area Law, Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 25210.1) of Part 2 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code.

“Local responsibility area”: that portion of the unincorporated area of the county not classified by the State Board of Forestry as a state responsibility area.

“Manufactured home”: any manufactured home as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 18007, 18008 and 19971.

“National Fire Codes”: the most current edition of the National Fire Codes published by the National Fire Protection.

“Non-urban residential parcel”: any parcel served by a water system other than a public water system.

“Occupancy”: the purpose for which a building or part thereof is used or intended to be used.

“One-way road”: a road designed for traffic flow in one (1) direction only.

“Open burning”: any combustion of combustible material of any type outdoors in the open, not in any enclosure, where the productions of combustion are not directed through a flue, except a fire in a barbecue pit, either permanent or portable, when the barbecue pit is operated on a patio or other appropriate dooryard area adjacent to and in conjunction with the dwelling of the person operating the barbecue pit.

“Private road”: any way or place in private ownership that provides vehicular access to more than one (1) parcel, to a commercial building or agricultural operation on a single parcel, or to more than two (2) residential buildings or two (2) residential buildings, containing more than three (3) dwelling units, on a single parcel.

“Public display of fireworks”: any public display of fireworks as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 12524.

“Public road”: any county highway or state highway.

“Public water system”: a system, regardless of type of ownership, for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that has fifteen (15) or more service connections.

“Residential building”: any building containing a Group R or Group U Occupancy as defined in the county building code.

SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

“Road”: any public or private road.

“Roadway”: that portion of any road improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

“Roadway structure”: any bridge, culvert or other appurtenant structure which supplements the roadway bed or shoulder.

“Same practical effect”: an exception or alternative with the capability of applying accepted fire suppression strategies and tactics, and provisions for fire fighter safety, including: (1) access for emergency fire equipment; (2) safe civilian evacuation; (3) signing that avoids delays in emergency equipment response; (4) available and accessible water to effectively attack a fire or defend a structure from a wildfire; and (5) fuel modification sufficient for civilian and fire fighter safety.

“Shoulder”: the roadbed or surface of a roadway adjacent to the traffic lane.

“Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges”: the Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges 16th edition, 1996, published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

“State responsibility area”: that portion of the unincorporated area of the county classified by the State Board of Forestry as a state responsibility area.

“Structure”: that which is built or constructed, an edifice or building of any kind, or any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner.

“Subdivision”: any subdivision as defined in Government Code Section 66424 and Section 25-2 of this code.

“Traffic lane”: that portion of a roadway that provides a single line of vehicle travel.

“Turnaround”: a roadway, unobstructed by parking, which allows for a safe opposite change of direction for emergency equipment. The design of a turnaround may be either a hammerhead/T or terminus bulb. All turnarounds shall have a minimum turning radius of forty feet (40') from the center line of the roadway. If a hammerhead/T is used, the top-of the “T” shall be a minimum of sixty feet (60') in length.

“Turnout”: a widening on a roadway or driveway to allow vehicles to pass. All turnouts shall be a minimum of twenty feet (20') wide, including the roadway and the turnout and thirty feet (30') long with a minimum taper of twenty-five feet (25') on each end.

“Two-way road”: a road designed for traffic flow in opposing directions.

“Uniform Fire Code Standards”: means the 2000 edition of the Uniform Fire Code Standards of the International Fire Code Institute.

“Urban residential parcel”: any parcel served by a public water system or mutual water system.

“Vertical clearance”: the minimum specified height of a bridge or overhead projection above a roadway.

“Wildfire”: a wildfire as defined in Public Resources Code Sections 4103 and 4104. (Ord. No. 4905 § 1 (part), 1995.)