

# FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS

## TITLE III - LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT---DIVISION 11

### CHAPTER 1

#### ADMINISTRATION

#### 3111-1. TITLE.

These regulations shall be known as the "SRA Fire Safe Regulations" and shall constitute the basic wildland fire protection standards of the County for lands within State Responsibility Areas (SRA).

#### 3111-2. PURPOSE.

These regulations have been prepared and adopted for the purpose of establishing minimum wildfire protection standards in conjunction with building, construction and development in SRA. These regulations constitute local alternative standards as authorized by Section 4290 of the Public Resources Code. The future design and construction of structures, subdivisions and developments in SRA shall provide for basic emergency access and perimeter wildfire protection measures as specified in the following sections. These measures shall provide for emergency access; signing and building numbering; private water supply reserves for emergency fire use; and vegetation modification. The fire protection standards which follow shall specify the minimums for such measures.

#### 3111-3. SCOPE.

(a) These regulations shall apply as appropriate to all of the following activities which are approved in the SRA after January 1, 1992:

- (1) the creation of new parcels, excluding lot line adjustments as specified in Government Code (GC) Section 66412(d);
- (2) new construction, not relating to an existing structure, which requires a building permit;
- (3) land use or development which requires a use permit;
- (4) the siting of manufactured homes; and
- (5) new road construction, including construction of a road that does not currently exist, or an extension of an existing road.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, these regulations shall not apply to:

- (1) enlargement, alteration, repair or improvement of any building or structure existing on the effective date of these regulations;
- (2) new construction of accessory structures where the main building exists on the effective date of these regulations;
- (3) land use or development which requires a use permit where the Planning Director and CDF determines that no increase in fire risk would result from the use or activity;

- (4) roads required as a condition of tentative parcel or final maps prior to the effective date of these regulations; roads for agricultural or mining use solely on one ownership; and roads use solely for the management and harvesting of wood products; and
- (5) repair or maintenance of any road, street or private lane existing on the effective date of these regulations.

3111-4. PROVISIONS FOR APPLICATION OF THESE REGULATIONS.

These regulations shall be applied as follows:

- (a) The County shall provide the local California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Ranger Unit with notice of applications for building permits (where exceptions are requested), tentative parcel maps, tentative maps, and use permits for construction or development within SRA.  
  
The County need not provide CDF with notice of applications for building permits if the County determines that the permit complies with County ordinance and no exceptions from these regulations are required.
- (b) The County shall request CDF to review and make fire protection recommendations on applicable construction or development permits or maps provided by the County. CDF shall respond within thirty (30) days of the referral.
- (c) The County shall ensure that the applicable sections of this ordinance become a condition of approval of any applicable construction or development permit or map.
- (d) The application of these regulations shall be confined to the real property that is the subject of the building permit or other grant of land use or development approval by the County, unless otherwise stated.

Nothing contained in these regulations shall be considered as abrogating the provisions of any ordinance, rule or regulation of the state or county, including the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which may require the evaluation and mitigation of potential impacts of the project beyond the limits of the real property that is the subject of the building permit or other grant of land use or development approval before the County.

3111-5. INSPECTION AUTHORITY.

- (a) Inspection shall be made pursuant to Section 6 by:
  - (1) the Planning Director or his/her designee, or
  - (2) the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) of his/her designee.
- (b) The County shall report violations of these regulations to the CDF Ranger Unit headquarters with responsibility for SRA fire protection for the County.

3111-6. INSPECTIONS.

- (a) The inspection authority may inspect for compliance with these regulations. When conducted, inspections should occur prior to the following events:

- (1) issuance of a use permit;
  - (2) issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy under a building permit;
  - (3) recordation of a parcel or final map for a subdivision;
  - (4) filing of a notice of completion (other than for a building permit); or
  - (5) final inspection of any project or building permit.
- (b) It shall be the duty of the holder of the building permit or other permit or map approval issued by the County to notify the County, or CDF, as appropriate, that the construction and/or improvement required under these regulations is ready for inspection and to assure that the premises will be accessible at the time scheduled for inspection. Inspections shall be requested by the applicant at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the intended inspection.
- (c) The inspection authority shall notify or inform the permit holder of the day during which the inspection is to be conducted and shall attempt to notify the permit holder if the inspection cannot be made as scheduled.
- (d) Annual inspection conducted by CDF pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 4290 and 4291 shall to the extent practical include notification as provided in paragraph (c) of this section for inspections which focus on individual parcels and by public notice for area-wide inspections.

#### 3111-7 EXCEPTIONS - INTENT.

The County seeks to protect the intent of the State Fire Safe Regulations while ensuring that no undue hardship occurs at the county level due to conditions peculiar to the County. The exceptions procedure is provided with the intent of ensuring that every individual who is negatively impacted will get a fair hearing before local authorities who are competent to judge the legitimacy of that individual's concerns. The local inspection authority together with the local representative of CDF is therefore directed to deal with requests for exceptions to the provisions of these regulations on a case by case basis, making a comprehensive review of the circumstances in each case, taking special note of such factors as:

- (a) community standards as expressed in the County' Alternative Owner Building Ordinance; and
- (b) economic factors which may affect the affordability of housing as described in the Housing Element of the County's General Plan.

#### 3111-8. EXCEPTIONS TO STANDARDS.

Upon request by the applicant, exceptions to standards within this ordinance and mitigated practices shall be allowed by the inspection authority, where the exception provides the same overall practical effect as these regulations towards providing defensible space. In evaluating requests for exceptions to standards, the inspection authority shall be guided by Section 3111-7 of these regulations (Intent).

#### 3111-9. REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS.

- (a) An applicant may apply to the Planning Director for an exception to the standards within this ordinance. The application for an exception shall be accompanied by such information as the Planning Department requires and by a fee established by the Board of Supervisors. At minimum, the application shall contain the following information:
  - (1) a description of the specific section(s) for which an exception is requested,

- (2) material facts supporting the contention of the applicant,
  - (3) details of the exception or mitigation measures proposed, and
  - (4) a map showing the proposed location and siting of the exception or mitigation measure(s).
- (b) The Planning Director shall request the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to review the exception request. CDF shall respond within thirty (30) days of the referral with documentation outlining the effects of the requested exception on wildland fire protection. If CDF does not respond within the time provided, the Planning Director shall assume that CDF supports the exception. The Planning Director shall not approve an exception request of the recommendation from CDF is for denial.
  - (c) The Planning Director shall give written notice of his/her decision to the applicant. Notice shall also be given to any parties requesting such notice and to CDF.

3111-10. APPEALS.

- (a) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Planning Director may appeal to the Board of Supervisors. The appeal shall be filed with the Planning Department within ten (10) days of the date of the notice and shall be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons why the decision was in error and by a fee established by the Board of Supervisors.
- (b) The Board of Supervisors shall consider the appeal at the earliest possible date. The decision of the Board of Supervisors is final and binding.
- (c) If an appeal is granted, the Board of Supervisors shall make findings that the decision meets the intent of providing defensible space consistent with these regulations. Such findings shall include reasons for the decision.
- (d) A written copy of the findings adopted under paragraph (c) above shall be provided to the CDF Ranger Unit headquarters that administers SRA fire protection in the County.

3111-11. DEFINITIONS.

Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions set out in this ordinance shall be used in the interpretation and construction of these regulations. Words used in the present tense shall include the future tense, and in the future tense shall include the present tense; the singular number shall include the plural number, and the plural shall include the singular.

Abatement: For the purpose of this ordinance means the restoration of the specific measure(s) or mitigation required as a condition of the permit, parcel or map approval pursuant to these regulations.

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 uses as defined in Humboldt County Code Section 312-6.

Board: The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

Building: Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy that is defined in the California Building Code, 1989 Amendments, Chapter 11, except Group M, Division 1, Occupancy.

For the purpose of the ordinance, building includes mobile homes and manufactured homes, churches, and day care facilities.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Means the California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.

CDF: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

County: The County of Humboldt.

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 approaching wildfire or defense against encroaching wildfires or escaping structure fires. The perimeter used in this regulation is the area encompassing the parcel or parcels proposed for construction and/or development, excluding the physical structure itself. The area is characterized by the establishment and maintenance of emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, street names and building identification, and fuel modification measures.

Development: As defined in Section 66418.1 of the California Government Code.

Director of Public Works: The Director of the Department of Public Works or his/her designee.

Driveway: A vehicular access that serves no more than two buildings, with no more than three dwelling units on a single parcel, and any number of accessory buildings.

Dwelling unit: Any building or portion thereof which contains living facilities, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking and/or sanitation for not more than one family.

Exception: An alternative to the specified standard requested by the applicant that may be necessary due to health, safety, environmental conditions, physical site limitations or other limiting conditions such as recorded historical sites, that provides mitigation of the problem.

Fire valve: See hydrant.

Fuel modification area: An area where the volume of flammable vegetation has been reduced, providing reduced fire intensity and duration.

Greenbelts: A facility or land-use, designed for a use other than fire protection, which will slow or resist the spread of a wildfire. Includes parking lots, irrigated or landscaped areas, golf courses, parks, playgrounds, maintained vineyards, orchards or 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, being no narrower than the road that serves it.

Hydrant: A valved connection on a water supply/storage system, having at least one 2-1/2 inch outlet, with male American National Fire Hose Screw Threads (NH) used to supply fire apparatus and hose with water.

Local fire agency: A local fire organization recognized by the County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) which has shared responsibility on SRA lands.

Manufactured home: As defined in California Health and Safety Code Sections 18007, 18008, and 199791.

Occupancy: The purpose for which a building, or part thereof, is used or intended to be used.

One-way road: A minimum of one traffic lane width designed for traffic flow in one direction only.

Planning Director: Director of the Planning and Building Department or his/her designee.

Roads, streets, private lanes: Vehicular access to more than one parcel; access to any industrial or commercial occupancy; or vehicular access to a single parcel with more than two buildings or four or more dwellings units.

Roadway: Any surface designed, improved, or ordinarily used for vehicle travel.

Roadway structures: Bridges, culverts, and other appurtenant structures which supplement the roadway bed or shoulders.

Same practical effect: As used in this ordinance, means an exception or alternative with the capability of applying accepted wildland fire suppression strategies and tactics, and provisions for firefighter safety, including:

- (a) access for emergency wildland fire equipment,
- (b) safe civilian evacuation,
- (c) signing that avoids delays in emergency equipment response,
- (d) available and accessible water to effectively attack wildfire or defend a structure from wildfire, and
- (e) fuel modification sufficient for civilian and firefighter safety.

Shoulder: Roadbed or surface adjacent to the traffic lane.

State Board of Forestry (SBOF): A nine member board, appointed by the Governor, which is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the state, for determining the guidance policies of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and for representing the state's interest in federal land in California.

State Responsibility Area (SRA): As defined in Public Resources Code Sections 4126-4127; and the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Article 1, Sections 1220-1220.5.

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

Subdivision: As defined in Section 66424 of the California Government Code.

Traffic lane: The portion of the 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. Design of such area may be a hammerhead/T or terminus bulb.

Turnouts: A widening in a roadway to allow vehicles to pass.

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

Wildfire: As defined in California Public Resources Code Sections 4103 and 4104.

3111-12. DISTANCE MEASUREMENTS.

All specified or referenced distances are measured along the ground surface, unless otherwise stated.

3111-13. MAINTENANCE OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE MEASURES.

- (a) To ensure continued maintenance of properties in conformance with these standards and measures and to assure continued availability, access, and utilization of the defensible space provided for in these standards during a wildfire, provisions for annual maintenance shall be included in the development plans and/or shall be provided as a condition of approving any activity subject to these regulations. Provisions deemed to satisfy this requirement include but are not limited to:
  - (1) establishment of a County Service Area (CSA) for the subdivision prior to map recordation;
  - (2) development of a binding maintenance association or similar agreement between affected property owners formed for the subdivision prior to map recordation;
  - (3) recordation of binding Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R) for maintenance of individual measures which are enforceable against the property; or
  - (4) recordation of a Notice of Requirement for Maintenance against the real property by the County prior to issuance of a building permit or as a condition of a initiating a use authorized under a use permit.
- (b) The inspection authority may conduct inspections to ensure compliance with the standards as set forth in the development plans and/or conditions of permit, parcel or map approval. Inspections should be conducted in accordance with Section 3111-6, paragraph (d) of these regulations. Violation of these regulations shall be subject to the penalties as set forth in Section 3116-1 of this ordinance.

CHAPTER 2

EMERGENCY ACCESS

3112-1. ROAD AND DRIVEWAY ACCESS - INTENT.

Road and street networks, whether public or private, unless exempted under Section 3111-3(b), shall provide for safe access for emergency wildland fire equipment and civilian evacuation concurrently, and shall provide unobstructed traffic circulation during a wildfire emergency consistent with Section 3112-2 through 3112-13.

3112-2. APPLICATION OF DESIGN STANDARDS.

The design and improvement standards as referenced in these regulations shall be those as set forth in the Appendix to Title III, Division 2, of the Humboldt County Code, and in the County Roadway Design Manual. Application of these design and improvement standards shall be consistent with the intent as prescribed in Section 3112-1, and shall be based upon:

- (a) legal requirements,

- (b) sound engineering principles and practices and engineering geological evaluation of necessary,
- (c) traffic safety considerations,
- (d) economy of design and maintenance, and
- (e) allowance for the special nature of Humboldt County roads and traffic problems.

Interpretation of these standards shall be provided by the Director of Public Works.

### 3112-3.ROAD WIDTH.

All roads shall be constructed to a minimum Road Category 4 road standard for traveled way (18-20 feet), except as provided herein.

- (a) A traveled way meeting the standard for Road Category 2 (12 feet) shall be considered as meeting the requirements of this section for a single lot division into two (2) parcels, where all the following conditions are met:
  - (1) The subdivision is conditioned so as to limit site development as follows:
    - For a parcel or parcels having a minimum parcel size of less than 20 acres, not more than one (1) dwelling unit shall be permitted for each parcel.
    - For a parcel or parcels having a minimum parcel size of 20 acres or more, not more than two (2) dwelling units shall be permitted for each parcel.
  - (2) Rights to further subdivide the parcels created by the land division would be conveyed to the county until such time as the full road segment was improved to a minimum of Road Category 3 or 4 for traveled way, as appropriate.
  - (3) Inter-visible turnouts are installed in conformance Section 3112-8 of these regulations.
- (b) A traveled way meeting the standard for Road Category 3 (16 feet) shall be considered as meeting the requirements of this section for subdivisions of three (3) to eight (8) parcels, where all the following conditions are met:
  - (1) The subdivision is conditioned so as to limit site development as follows:
    - For a parcel or parcels having a minimum parcel size of less than 20 acres, not more than one (1) dwelling unit shall be permitted for each parcel.
    - For a parcel or parcels having minimum parcel size of 20 acres, not more than two (2) dwelling units shall be permitted for each parcel.
  - (2) Rights to further subdivide the parcels created by the subdivision would be conveyed to the County until such time as the full road segment was improved to a minimum of Road Category 4 for traveled way.
  - (3) The roadbed width shall include a minimum of two-foot (2') wide bladed shoulders on each side of the traveled way.

(c) A traveled way meeting the standard for Road Category 3 (16 feet) shall be considered as meeting the requirements of this section for subdivisions of not more than nineteen (19) parcels, where all the following conditions are met:

- (1) The requirements of Section 3112-3(b) are satisfied.
- (2) The minimum parcel size for the subdivision is forty (40) acres or larger.

#### 3112-4. ROADWAY SURFACE.

The surface of all roadways shall provide unobstructed access to conventional drive vehicles, including sedans and fire engines. The surface shall conform to the standards of a Road Category 4 roadway. Where Road Category 2 or 3 has been approved pursuant to Section 312-3, the surface shall conform to the standards for these categories, as appropriate.

#### 3112-5. ROADWAY GRADES.

The grade for all roads, streets, and private lanes shall conform to the standards for Road Category 4. The grade for driveways shall conform to the standards for Road Category 1. No roadway grade in excess of 16 percent shall be permitted unless it has been demonstrated to be in conformance with the County Roadway Design Manual.

#### 3112-6. ROADWAY RADIUS.

- (a) The roadway radius for all roads, and private lanes shall conform to the standards for Road Category 4. The minimum roadway radius for driveways shall conform to the standards for Road Category 1. No roadway shall have a horizontal inside radius of curvature of less than 50 feet unless it has been demonstrated to be in conformance with the County Roadway Design Manual.
- (b) Curve alignments shall provide for curve widening on low radius curves to compensate for off tracking characteristics or trucks and trailers. Additional surface width of four (4) feet shall be added to curves of 50-100 feet radius; two (2) feet to those from 100-200 feet. Design of curve alignments shall be in conformance with the County Design Manual.
- (c) The length of vertical curves in roadways, exclusive of gutters, ditches, and drainage structures designed to hold or divert water, shall not be less than 100 feet. Design of vertical curves shall be in conformance with the County Roadway Design Manual.

#### 3112-7. ROADWAY TURNAROUNDS.

Turnarounds are required on driveways and dead-end roads as specified in these regulations. The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be 40 feet from the center line of the road. If a hammerhead/T is used, the top of the "T" shall be a minimum of 60 feet in length.

#### 3112-8. ROADWAY TURNOUTS.

Turnouts shall be designed in conformance with the County Roadway Design Manual. Turnouts shall be required on roadways constructed to the standard of Road Category 2 and at locations as specified in these regulations. Turnouts shall be a minimum of 10 feet wide and 80 feet long with a minimum of 25 foot taper on each end.

3112-9. 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 in California Vehicle Code Sections 35550, 35750, and 35250. All roadway structures shall be designed in conformance with the County Roadway Design Manual. The minimum vertical clearance shall be 15 feet at all points on the surface of the roadway.
- (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. This requirement may be omitted for bridges on private roads and driveways where compliance with paragraph (a) of this section has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works.
- (c) A bridge with only one traffic lane may be authorized by the County; however, the bridge shall provide for unobstructed visibility from one end to the other and shall have intervisible turnouts at both ends.
- (d) The County may allow a flatcar bridge having a width of not less than nine (9) feet to be used as a roadway structure on a private lane or driveway provided the requirements of Section 3112-9(c) are satisfied. No exception request shall be required for the reduced roadway width.

3112-10. ONE-WAY ROADS.

All one-way roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one 10-foot traffic lane. The County 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 10 dwelling units. In no case shall it exceed 2640 feet in length. A turnout shall be placed approximately at the midpoint of each one-way road.

3112-11. DEAD-END ROADS.

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

parcels zoned for less than one acre	800 feet
parcels zoned for 1 acre to 4.99 acres	1350 feet
parcels zoned for 5 acres to 19.99 acres	2640 feet
parcels zoned for 20 acres to 39.99 acres	5280 feet
parcels zoned for 40 acres to 159.99 acres	7500 feet
parcels zoned for 160 acres or larger	Unlimited

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 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.

3112-12. DRIVEWAYS.

- (a) All driveways shall be constructed to a minimum Road Category 1 standard. Driveways shall have a minimum 10 foot traffic lane and an unobstructed vertical clearance of 15 feet along its entire length. Driveways in excess of 1320 feet in length shall be constructed to the standard for Road Category 2.
- (b) Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length, but less than 800 feet in length, shall provide a turnout near the midpoint of the driveway. Where a driveway exceeds 800 feet, turnouts shall be spaced at intervals at approximately 400 foot intervals. The location and spacing of turnouts shall be in conformance with the County Roadway Design Manual.
- (c) A turnaround shall be provided at all building sites on driveways over 300 feet in length, or 200 feet if required by the local fire agency, and shall be within 50 feet of the building.

3112-13. GATE ENTRANCES.

- (a) Gate entrances shall be at least two feet wider than the width of the traffic lane(s) serving the gate.
- (b) All gates providing access from a road to a driveway shall either:
  - (1) be located a minimum of thirty (30) feet from the roadway, or
  - (2) if located closer than thirty (30) feet from the roadway, turnout(s) shall be constructed near the gate entrance to allow parking next to the traffic lane(s) for use from each direction of travel. The location of the turnouts shall permit safe turning movements and maintain adequate sight visibility.
- (c) All gates providing access from a road to a driveway shall open to allow a vehicle to stop without obstructing traffic on that road.
- (d) Where a one-way road with a single traffic lane provides access to a gated entrance, a 40 foot turning radius shall be used.

CHAPTER 3

SIGNING AND BUILDING NUMBERING

3113-1. SIGNING AND BUILDING NUMBERING - INTENT.

To facilitate locating a fire and to avoid delays in response, all newly constructed or approved roads, streets, and building shall be designated by names or numbers, posted on signs clearly visible and legible from the roadway. This section shall not restrict the size of letters or numbers appearing on street signs for other purposes.

3113-2. SIZE OF LETTERS, NUMBERS AND SYMBOLS FOR STREET AND ROAD SIGNS.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Code, the size of letter, numbers, and symbols for street and road signs shall be a minimum 3 inch letter height, 3/8 inch stroke, contrasting with the background color of the sign. Street and road signs located at an intersection with a County maintained roadway, or on roads where the traveled speed is greater than 30 miles per hour, shall be reflectorized. Wooden street and road signs meeting the standards for letter height, stroke, and contrast shall be permitted in all locations where reflectorized signs are not required by these regulations.

3113-3. VISIBILITY AND LEGIBILITY OF STREET AND ROAD SIGNS.

Street and road signs shall be visible from both directions of vehicle travel for a distance of at least 100 feet.

3113-4. HEIGHT OF STREET AND ROAD SIGNS.

Height of street and road signs shall be uniform county wide, and meet the visibility and legibility standards of these regulations.

3113-5. NAMES AND NUMBERS ON STREET AND ROAD SIGNS.

Newly constructed or approved public and private roads and streets must be identified by a name or number consistent with the Uniform Numbering System as set forth in Humboldt County Code Sections 442-1 through 441-11. All signs shall be mounted and oriented in a uniform manner.

3113-6. INTERSECTING ROADS, STREETS AND PRIVATE LANES.

Signs required by these regulations identifying intersecting roads, streets and private lanes shall be placed at the intersection of those roads, streets, and/or private lanes.

3113-7. SIGNS IDENTIFYING TRAFFIC ACCESS LIMITATIONS.

A sign identifying access flow limitation, including but not limited to weight or vertical clearance limitations, dead-end road, one way road or single lane conditions, shall be placed:

- (a) at the intersection preceding the traffic access limitation, and
- (b) no more than 100 feet before such traffic access limitation.

3113-8. INSTALLATION OF ROAD, STREET AND PRIVATE LANE SIGNS.

Road, street and private lanes signs required by these regulations shall be installed prior to final acceptance by the County of road improvements.

3113-9. ADDRESSES FOR BUILDINGS.

All buildings shall be issued an address in accordance with the County Uniform Numbering System, Humboldt County Code Section 442 et seq. Accessory buildings will not be required to have a separate address; however, each dwelling unit within a building shall be separately identified.

3113-10. SIZE OF LETTERS, NUMBERS AND SYMBOLS.

Notwithstanding Humboldt County Code Section 442-1, the size of letters numbers and symbols for addresses shall be a minimum 3 inch letter height, 3/8 inch stroke, contrasting with the background color of the sign. Address for buildings located at the driveway entrance onto a County maintained roadway, or on roads where the traveled speed is greater than 30 miles per hour, shall be reflectorized. Wooden address signs meeting the standards for letter height, stroke, and contrast shall be permitted in all locations where reflectorized signs are not required by this section.

3113-11. INSTALLATION, LOCATION AND VISIBILITY OF ADDRESSES.

- (a) All buildings shall have a permanently posted address, which shall be placed at each driveway entrance and visible from both directions of travel along the road. In all cases, the address shall be posted at the beginning of construction and shall be maintained thereafter, and the address shall be visible and legible from the road on which the address is located.
- (b) Address signs along one-way roads shall be visible from both the intended direction of travel and the opposite direction.
- (c) Where multiple addresses are required at a single driveway, they shall be mounted on a single post.
- (d) Where a roadway provides access and to a single commercial or industrial business, the address sign shall be placed at the nearest road intersection providing access to that site.

CHAPTER 4

EMERGENCY WATER STANDARDS

3114-1. WATER STANDARDS - INTENT.

Emergency water for wildfire protection shall be available and accessible in quantities and locations specified in statute and these regulations, in order to attack a wildfire and defend property from a wildfire. Such emergency water may be provided in a fire agency mobile water tender, or naturally occurring or manmade containment structure, as long as the specified quantity is immediately available.

3114-2. APPLICATION.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply when new parcels are approved by the County. The emergency water system shall be available on-site prior to or prior to the completion of building construction, where and individual system is approved. A water source on an adjacent parcel for which the subject property has access by means of a recorded easement shall be accepted as meeting the intent of this section.

3114-3. GENERAL STANDARDS.

A water system that meets or exceeds any of the following standards shall be accepted as meeting the requirements of these regulations:

- (a) Public Utilities Commission of California (PUC) revised General Order #103, adopted June 12, 1956 (Corrected September 7, 1983, Decision 83-09-001), Section VIII Fire Protection Standards and other applicable sections relating to fire protection water delivery systems,

- (b) Static water systems equaling or exceeding the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1231, "Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting", 1981 Edition, or
- (c) Mobile water systems that meet the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rural Class 8, 2nd Edition 3-80, standard.
- (d) Notwithstanding the above water system standards, a water system serving an individual residential dwelling which meets the 2,500 gallon emergency water supply requirements of the County's Alternative Owner Builder Ordinance, Humboldt County Code Section 331.5-13(h), and which conforms to the minimum pipe size and valving requirements set forth in these regulations, shall be accepted as meeting the requirements of this section.

Nothing in these regulations prohibits the combined storage of emergency wildfire and structural firefighting water supplies unless so prohibited by local ordinance or specified by the local fire agency.

Where freeze protection is required by the County, such measures shall be provided.

#### 3114-4. HYDRANT/FIRE VALVE.

- (a) The hydrant or fire valve shall be 18 inches above grade, eight (8) feet from flammable vegetation, no closer than four (4) feet nor farther than 12 feet from a roadway, and in a location where fire apparatus using it will not block the roadway.

The hydrant serving any building shall:

- (1) be not less than 50 feet nor more than 1/2 mile from the building it is to serve, except that a hydrant serving any building on a lot less than ten (10) acres in acre shall be located within 500 feet of the building; provided that the local fire agency may allow a hydrant to be located up to 1000 feet from the building when site conditions warrant.
  - (2) be located at a turnout or turnaround, along the driveway to that building or along the road that intersects with that driveway.
- (b) The hydrant head shall be brass or other corrosion resistant material with 2-1/2 inch National Hose male thread with a cap for pressure and gravity flow systems, and for draft systems, where applicable. Crash protection meeting the requirements of the Uniform Mechanical Code shall be installed when required by the County.
  - (c) All pipes supplying water to hydrants must be at least 3 inches in diameter; however, a pipe having a diameter of less than 3 inches may be used provided it can demonstrate the capability of supplying a minimum 200 gallon per minute (gpm) flow from the hydrant connection.

#### 3114-5. SIGNING OF WATER SOURCES.

Each hydrant/fire valve or access to water shall be identified as follows:

- (a) if located along a driveway, except where the residence is served with an individual water supply, a wooden sign with a minimum 3 inch letter height, 3/8 inch stroke, contrasting with the background color of the sign, with the wording "FIRE WATER" mounted on a wooden post or compliance with section (a) above shall be acceptable, or

- (c) if located along a street or road,
  - (1) a reflectorized blue marker, with a minimum dimension of 3 inches, shall be mounted on a fire retardant post. The sign post shall be within 3 feet of said hydrant/fire valve, with the sign no less than 3 feet nor greater than 5 feet above the ground, in a horizontal position and visible from the roadway, or
  - (2) as specified in the State Fire Marshall's Guidelines for Hydrant Markings Along State Highways and Freeways, May 1988.

## CHAPTER 5

### FUEL MODIFICATION STANDARDS

#### 3115-1. FUEL MODIFICATION - INTENT.

To reduce the intensity of wildfire by reducing the volume and density of flammable vegetation, the strategic siting of fuel modification and greenbelts shall provide (1) increased safety for emergency fire equipment and evacuating civilians; and (2) a point of attack or defense from a wildfire.

#### 3115-2. SETBACK FOR STRUCTURE DEFENSIBLE SPACE.

- (a) Notwithstanding other provisions of this Code, all parcels one (1) acre and larger shall provide a minimum 30 foot setback for buildings and accessory buildings from all property lines and/or the center of a road, except as provided herein:
  - (1) a building or accessory building may be located closer than 30 foot to a property line where a maintenance and open space easement for the benefit of the subject parcel has been recorded over the adjoining lot. The extent of the adjustment shall be no greater than the width of the easement, and no exception from minimum setbacks as specified in other provisions of this Code are granted pursuant to this section.
  - (2) a detached accessory building may be located within the 30 foot setback when it is constructed using non-combustible or fire resistive materials, and is located not closer than 20 feet to another building.

The required specific distance between buildings or structures and property lines or the centerline of the road shall be measured perpendicularly in a horizontal plane extending across the complete length of said property line or lines and/or roadway.

- (b) For parcels less than one (1) acre, the County shall provide for the same practical effect

Methods of achieving the "same practical effect" include but are not limited to:

- (1) development of a community water system meeting the specifications as set forth in Section 3114-3 (a-c);

- (2) establishment of a County Service Area or other acceptable form of district or association to provide maintenance of defensible space measures, including vegetation modification;
- (3) use of non-combustible or fire-resistive materials in construction of buildings or installation of sprinklers within buildings;
- (4) development of greenbelts in strategic locations around the subdivision or parcels; or
- (5) road development which provides for travel lanes and parking lanes that exceed the minimum requirements of these regulations.

3115-3. DISPOSAL OF FLAMMABLE VEGETATION AND FUELS.

Disposal, including chipping, burying, burning or removal to a landfill site approved by the County, of flammable vegetation and fuels caused by site development and construction, road and driveway construction, and fuel modification shall be completed prior to completion of road construction or final inspection of a building permit or initiation of a use under a use permit.

3115-4. GREENBELTS.

Subdivisions and other developments, which propose greenbelts as a part of the development plan, shall locate said greenbelts strategically, as a separation between wildland fuels and structures. The locations shall be approved by the inspection authority.

CHAPTER 6  
ENFORCEMENT

3116-1. VIOLATION.

The following provisions shall apply to violations of the regulations as contained in this ordinance. All of the remedies provided for in this section shall be cumulative and no inclusive.

- (a) Penalty. Any person, whether principal, agent, employee or otherwise, violating or causing or permitting the violation of any of the provisions of this Code shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Section 112-5 of the Humboldt County Code.
- (b) Public Nuisance. Any new development operated or maintained contrary to the provisions of this Code shall be the same hereby is declared to be a public nuisance and shall be subject to injunction and abatement as such.

