

Chapter 15.08 COLFAX FIRE CODE [121](#)

Sections:

[15.08.010 Fire Code adopted.](#)

[15.08.020 Fire Code amended.](#)

15.08.010 Fire Code adopted.

California Fire Code, 2013 Edition Volumes 1 & 2, including, the administrative provisions in the California Building Code, Chapter 1, Division II based on the 2012 International Fire Code including the Appendices, as published by the International Code Council (ICC) as adopted and amended by the California Building Standards Commission in the California Building Standards Code, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 9 is hereby adopted by reference. There is one copy of the code on file in the office of the building official for use and examination by the public.

(Ord. No. 523, § 4, 11-13-2013)

15.08.020 Fire Code amended.

The California Fire Code adopted in Section 15.08 is modified, amended and/or supplemented as follows:

- A. The California Fire Code (CFC) as adopted above with approved amendments and appendix chapters, and all State Fire Marshal codes delegated to local agencies, are to be enforced by the Chief of each Fire District, CSA, or as designated by contract. In the absence of the above, the Placer County Fire Warden shall act as the County Fire Marshal. Where provisions in the CFC conflict with other statutes/regulations or County ordinances, including but not limited to the Placer County Land Development Manual, the most restrictive shall govern.

Pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7, all Fire District amendments to the CFC will be valid after such amendments are first authorized by the Fire District board and then approved by the Board of Supervisors.

- B. Section 103.1, Department of Fire Prevention - General, is amended by replacing the first paragraph with the following:

The Chief of a fire department/district, with the written approval of the Board of Directors of the particular fire department, is authorized to make and enforce such rules and regulations for the prevention and control of fires and fire hazards as may be necessary from time to time to carry out the intent of this Code. Three certified copies of such rules and regulations shall be filed with the Clerk of the jurisdiction and shall be in effect immediately thereafter. Pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7, rules and regulations that involve building standards will be valid when approved by the City Council of the City of Colfax.

- C. Section 108, Board of Appeals, is amended by replacing the first paragraph with the following:

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In order to determine the suitability of alternate materials and type of construction and to provide for reasonable interpretation of the provisions of this code, there is hereby appointed a board of appeals consisting of the board of directors of each fire protection district for matters within their jurisdiction and the Placer County Building Board of Appeals in the remaining areas of the County. The Chief shall be an ex-officio member of the Board and shall act as secretary to the Board. The Board shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for conducting its investigations and shall render all decisions and findings in writing to the chief with a duplicate copy to the appellant and may recommend to the Executive Body such new legislation as is consistent therewith.

D. Chapter 1 Section 109.3, Notice of Violation, is amended by adding the following:

The Chief of any fire department/district within the County or his/her authorized representatives shall have authority to enforce this code and issue citations for violations in their respective jurisdiction.

E. Section 202 - Definitions: Add the following:

Fire Hydrant: Shall mean a hydrant supplied by a 6 inch or larger branch line, one or more pumper connection (4½-inch) and 2 or more 2½-inch outlets, capable of supplying required fire flow for at least 2 hours.

Section 502 - Definitions: Add the following:

Emergency Vehicle Access and occupant emergency egress/evacuation roads:

Use/Access for emergency vehicles during an emergency. Emergency egress/evacuation for residents during an emergency.

Size - Roadways shall meet the requirements of the local authority having jurisdiction but shall not be less than the requirements set in PRC 4290 and Placer County Code.

Fire Department Access Gates:

Use - Fire Department access to open lands and vegetated areas for the purpose of extinguishing a vegetation fire.

Size - Minimum 10' wide opening with 15' clear vertical clearance.

Access restrictions - Access is for emergency firefighting equipment only.

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Approved gates:

- a. Any gate approved for Emergency Access, Residential Egress and Evacuation shall be manually opening with no lock or latch requiring special knowledge.
- b. Any gate approved by authority having jurisdiction.

Section 503 Fire Apparatus Access Roads is amended to read:

Section 503.2.1 Dimensions:

Fire apparatus access roads for commercial applications required by this section shall have an unobstructed continuous width of not less than 26 feet for all Fire Department access lanes and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 15 feet. The roadway may be required to be increased to 28' when determined that aerial firefighting apparatus are required as part of the fire department response.

503.2.1.2 Residential or other fire and emergency access and circulation roads:

All other fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 15 feet.

Section 503.2.4 Turning Radius:

The inside turning radius for a Fire Access road shall be 30 feet or greater. The outside turning radius for an access road shall be 50 feet or greater.

Section 503.6 Security gates to include the following:

Private Road Gated Entrance:

- a. Gate openings to be 2' wider than the roadway served.

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- b. Emergency vehicle access shall be provided by both a "Knox" over-ride switch and an approved emergency radio frequency gate opening device (Click2Enter type) or other device approved by the authority district.
- c. An approved hammerhead, turn-around bulb or other means of turn-around shall be provided on the entry side of the gate.
- d. Gates shall automatically open from the interior without use of a special code or device. (Magnetic strip or pressure pad assemblies are acceptable).
- e. All electric gates shall fail in the open position, i.e. loss of power, battery failure.
- f. Vertical clearances shall be no less than 15'.
- g. Gate shall be located no closer than 30' from the intersecting roadway ultimate edge of pavement.
- h. Provide a separate personnel gate or opening sized and surfaced to allow for pedestrian and accessibility access.
- i. Gate components shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and replaced or repaired when defective.

Residential driveway gated entrance:

Gated residential driveways shall be provided with Fire Department access locks or switches as approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

- F. Section 903.2, Where Required, is amended to read, adding the following:

In all occupancies except Group R, Division 3 and Group U Occupancies an approved automatic sprinkler system shall be installed where the occupancy/building has 3,600 or more square feet of total floor area, except where other sections of the IFC or the California State Fire Marshals regulations, and/or local Fire District ordinances applicable to a project are more restrictive, then the more restrictive shall apply. Where additions increase the total size of the building to 3,600 square feet or more, the addition and the existing occupancy/building shall be provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system. Fire separation areas shall not be used to reduce this requirement.

- G. Section 903.3.1.3, NFPA 13D Sprinkler Systems, is amended to read, add the following:

Automatic sprinkler systems installed in one-and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 congregate living facilities and townhouses shall be permitted to be installed throughout in accordance with the latest edition of NFPA Standard 13D and shall be equipped with a

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residential fire sprinkler water flow switch and interconnection to the residential smoke detector alarm system as defined in Building Service Division policy manual.

H. Section 903.4, Sprinkler System Monitoring and Alarms, is amended to read:

All valves controlling the water supply for automatic sprinkler systems and water-flow switches on all sprinkler systems shall be electrically supervised. Valve supervision, water-flow alarm, fire alarm systems, and trouble signals shall be distinctly different and shall be automatically transmitted to an approved central station.

EXCEPTION: Group R, Division 3 Occupancies will only be monitored if required by the local Fire District and/or authority having jurisdiction.

I. Section 907.2 of the IFC, Where Required - new buildings and structures, is amended to read as follows:

All occupancies except Group R, Division 3 and Group U occupancies shall have an approved automatic fire alarm system installed when the occupancy/building has 1,500 square feet or more of total floor area unless other sections of the CFC or California State Fire Marshals regulations are more restrictive, then the more restrictive shall apply. Fire alarms systems shall be in accordance with Section 907 of the CFC or the current edition of NFPA 72 if the specific occupancy is not covered in the CFC.

Additionally, all A, E, H, I and M occupancies shall have an automatic smoke/heat detection system installed in addition to any other system(s) required by this code. Where additions increase the total size of the building to 1,500 square feet or more, the addition and the existing occupancy/building shall be provided with an approved automatic smoke/heat detection system.

Fire alarm control panels in new buildings shall be sized to allow for maximum number of anticipated devices at build-out.

All automatic smoke and heat detection systems installed in addition to any other system(s) required by this code shall be automatically transmitted to an approved central station.

J. Section 3201, General, is amended by adding the following item:

Tires: No person shall pile, cause to be piled, or maintain any pile of tires (of any manufactured material) at a height greater than ten (10) feet, except in approved horizontal storage racks,

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measured in all cases from the ground level. Tires shall be neatly piled and in no case shall any one pile occupy more than two hundred (200) square feet of floor or lot area. An aisle of at least ten (10) feet shall be maintained at all times between the piles in such a manner as to allow free access.

- K. Section 5701.1, Scope and Application, is amended to read as follows:

It shall be unlawful to store flammable liquids as defined in Chapter 57 of the International Fire Code including gasoline and other motor fuels, in above ground storage containers, either portable or installed, in a RS, RM, RA, RF, F or AE zoned area on a parcel of less than ten (10) acres. In areas where above ground storage is permitted, minimum distances from property lines and structures for a tank of any type shall be not less than 50 feet. The limitations/prohibitions of this section shall also apply to areas in Squaw Valley designated as Low Density Residential (LDR), High Density Residential (HDR), Forest-Recreation or Conservation Preserve. In addition, the limitations/ prohibitions of this section shall apply to areas in the Lake Tahoe Basin which are designated as Tourist/ Residential, Tourist, Residential, Recreation and Conservation.

Any above ground storage must be approved, in writing, by an official of the appropriate fire protection department/district. This section shall not be applicable to portable containers suitable for such storage of 5 gallons or less.

- L. Section 5704.2.9.6.: "Locations where above ground tanks are prohibited" is amended to read as follows:

Storage of Class I and Class II flammable liquids in aboveground tanks outside of buildings is prohibited unless approved by the Fire Chief having jurisdiction, using standards not less than the IFC or recognized equivalent.

- M. Section 5706.4, Bulk Plants or Terminals, is amended to read as follows:

No new bulk plant shall be constructed within the limits established by the Placer County zoning ordinance, as limits of the districts in which such plants are prohibited. Where allowed portions of properties where flammable and combustible liquids are received by tank vessel, pipelines, tank cars or tank vehicles and are stored or blended in bulk for the purpose of distributing such liquids by tank vessels, pipelines, tank cars, tank vehicles or containers shall be in accordance with IFC Section 5706.4.

- N. Appendix C, Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution, Table C105.1, is amended to read:

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TABLE C 105.1
NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF FIRE HYDRANTS

FIRE-FLOW REQUIREMENT (gpm)	MINIMUM NO. OF HYDRANTS	AVERAGE SPACING BETWEEN HYDRANTS ^{1,2,3} (feet) ⁶	MAXIMUM DISTANCE FROM ANY POINT ON STREET OR ROAD FRONTAGE TO A HYDRANT ⁴
X 3.85 for L/min.		X 304.8 for mm	
1,000 - 1,750	2	300	250
2,000 - 2,250	2	300	225
2,500	3	300	225
3,000	3	300	225
3,500 - 4,000	4	300	210
4,500 - 5,000	5	300	180
5,500	6	300	180
6,000	6	250	150
6,500 - 7,000	7	250	150
7,500 or more	8 or more ⁵	200	120

a. Reduce by 100 feet for dead-end streets or roads.

b. Where streets are provided with median dividers which can be crossed by firefighters pulling hose lines, or arterial streets are provided with four or more traffic lanes and have a traffic count of more than 30,000 vehicles per day, hydrant spacing shall average 500 feet (152.4m) on each side of the street and be arranged on an alternating basis up to a fire-flow requirement of 7,000 gallons per minute (26 495L/min.) and 400 feet (122 m) for higher fire-flow requirements.

c. Where new water mains are extended along streets where hydrants are not needed for protection of structures or similar fire problems, fire hydrants shall be provided at not less than 1,000-foot (305m) spacing to provide for transportation hazards.

d. Reduce by 50 feet (15 240 mm) for dead-end streets or roads.

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- e. One hydrant for each 1,000 gallons per minute (3785 L/min.) or fraction thereof.
- f. Spacing may be increased to 500' for Single Family Dwelling Residential Sub-Divisions.
 - O. Appendix D, Fire Apparatus Access Roads is adopted and amended as follows:

D102.1 amended to read: Facilities, buildings or portions of buildings hereafter constructed shall be accessible to fire department apparatus by way of an approved fire apparatus access road with asphalt, concrete, or other approved driving surface capable of supporting the imposed load of fire apparatus as determined by the fire authority having jurisdiction but no less than 40,000 pounds.

D103.1 (add: Exception: R-3 Occupancies).

D103.2 In areas above 5,000 ft. elevation:

Exception 1: Driveways of R-3 Occupancies shall not exceed 12 percent in grade, unless otherwise authorized by the fire chief.

Exception 2: The driveway slope may exceed 12% (12 vertical feet in one hundred horizontal feet) slope provided the driveway meets or exceeds the prescribed minimum width, and is not longer in length than the maximum permissible height of the structure within such jurisdiction, but in no case more than 35 feet, and has the appropriate transitional slopes at the edge of pavement to property line, and has no significant articulation greater than 45% angle in its entire length).

D103.2 In areas below 5,000 ft:

Elevation driveway grade shall not exceed 16% unless authorized by the fire chief.

Delete Section D103.5.

Section D104 Commercial and Industrial Developments. D104.2 is amended to read:

Buildings or facilities having a gross building area of more than 62,000 square feet (5760 m²) shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.

Delete exception.

Section D107 One or Two Family Residential Developments.

D107.1 is amended to read:

Developments of one- or two-family dwellings where the number of dwelling units exceeds 30 shall be provided with separate and approved fire apparatus access roads and shall meet the requirements of Section D104.3.

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Delete exception 1 and 2.

(Ord. No. 523, § 4, 11-13-2013)

FOOTNOTE(S):

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Editor's note— Ord. No. 523, § 1, adopted Nov. 13, 2013, repealed Ch. 15.08 in its entirety and enacted a new Ch. 15.08 to read as set out herein. Former Ch. 15.08, §§ 15.08.010—15.08.020, pertained to similar subject matter and derived from Ord. No. 514, § 4, adopted Jan. 26, 2011. [\(Back\)](#)