Title 14- Natural Resources  
Division 1.5- Department of Forestry  
Chapter 7- Fire Protection  
Subchapter 2 SRA Fire Safe Regulations  
Articles 1-5  

Article 1. Administration  

1270. Title  
These regulations shall be known as the “SRA Fire Safe Regulations” and shall constitute the basic wildland fire protection standards of the California Board of Forestry.  

1270.01. 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. A local jurisdiction may petition the Board for certification pursuant to Section 1270.03. Where Board certification has not been granted, these regulations shall become effective September 1, 1991. The future design and construction of structures, subdivisions and developments in State Responsibility Area (SRA) shall provide for basic emergency access and perimeter wildfire protection measures as specified in the following articles. 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. Note: Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.  

1270.02. Scope  
These regulations do not apply to existing structures, roads, streets and private lanes or facilities. These regulations shall apply as appropriate to all construction within SRA approved after January 1, 1991. Affected activities include but are not limited to:  

(a) Permitting or approval of new parcels, excluding lot line adjustments as specified in Government Code (GC) Section 66412(d),  
(b) application for a building permit for new construction, not relating to an existing structure,
(c) application for a use permit,
(d) the siting of manufactured homes (manufactured homes are as defined by the National Fire Protection Association, National Fire Code, Section 501A, Standard for Fire Safety Criteria for Manufactured Home Installations, Sites and Communities, Chapter 1, Section 1-2, Definitions, page 4, 1987 edition and Health and Safety Code Sections 18007, 18008 and 19971).
(e) road construction, including construction of a road that does not currently exist, or extension of an existing road.

Exemption: Roads required as a condition of tentative parcel maps prior to the effective date of these regulations; roads for agricultural or mining use solely on one ownership; and roads used solely for the management and harvesting of wood products.


### 1270.03. Local Ordinances
Nothing contained in these regulations shall be considered as abrogating the provisions of any ordinance, rule or regulation of any state or local jurisdiction providing such ordinance, rule, regulation or general plan element is equal to or more stringent than these minimum standards. The Board may certify local ordinances as equaling or exceeding these regulations when they provide the same practical effect.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4117 and 4290, Public Resources Code.

### 1270.04. Provisions for Application of these Regulations
This subchapter shall be applied as follows:

(a) local jurisdictions shall provide the Director with notice of applications for building permits, tentative parcel maps, tentative maps, and use permits for construction or development within SRA.
(b) Director shall review and make fire protection recommendations on applicable construction or development permits or maps provided by the local jurisdiction.
(c) the local jurisdiction shall ensure that the applicable sections of this subchapter become a condition of approval of any applicable construction or development permit or map.

1270.05. Inspection Authority
(a) Inspection shall be made pursuant to Section 1270.06 by:
   (1) the Director; or
   (2) local jurisdictions that have assumed state fire protection responsibility on SRA lands, or
   (3) local jurisdictions where these regulations have been implemented through that jurisdiction's building permit or subdivision approval process.

(b) Reports of violations shall be provided to the CDF Ranger Unit headquarters that administers SRA fire protection in that county.


1270.06. Inspections.
The inspection authority 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 and mitigated practices may be allowed by the inspection authority, where the exception provides the same overall practical effect as these regulations toward providing defensible space.


1270.08. Requests for Exceptions
Requests for an exception shall be made in writing to the inspection authority 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 or mitigation measure proposed, and a map showing the proposed location and siting of the exception or mitigation measure.


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 CDF Ranger Unit headquarters that administers SRA fire protection in that county.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. References: Sections 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

### 1271.00. Definitions

**Accessory building:** Any building used as an accessory to residential, commercial, recreational, industrial, or educational purposed 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 or 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 approaching wildfire or defense against encroaching wildfires or escaping structure fires. The perimeter as 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:** Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or his/her designee.

**Driveway:** A vehicular access that serves no more than two buildings, with no more than 3 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 turnabout 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 hoses with water.

**Local Jurisdiction:** Any county, city/county agency or department, or any locally authorized district that issues or approves building permits, use permits, tentative maps or tentative parcel maps, or has authority to regulate development and construction activity.

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

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

**Roads, streets, private lands:** 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 dwelling 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 subchapter, means an exception or alternative with the capability of applying accepted wildland fire suppression strategies and tactics, and provisions for fire fighter 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 fire fighter 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 of parts joined together in some definite manner.

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

**Traffic lane:** The 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 in 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 Public Resources Code Sections 4103 and 4104.
1271.05. Distance Measurements
All specified or referenced distances are measured along the ground, unless otherwise stated.


1272.00. Maintenance of Defensible Space Measures.
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 the permit, parcel or map approval.


Article 2. Emergency Access

1273.00. Intent
Road and street networks, whether public or private, unless exempted under Section 1270.02 (e), 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 1273.00 through 1273.11.


1273.01. Road Width
All roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of two nine-foot traffic lanes providing two-way traffic flow, unless other standards are provided in this article, or additional requirements are mandated by local jurisdictions or local subdivision requirements.


1273.02. Roadway Surface
The surface shall provide unobstructed access to conventional drive vehicles, including sedans and fire engines. Surfaces should be established in conformance with local ordinances, and be capable of supporting a 40,000 pound load.


1273.03. Roadway Grades
The grade for all roads, streets, private lands and driveways shall not exceed 16 percent.


1273.04. Roadway Radius
(a) No roadway shall have a horizontal inside radius of curvature of less than 50 feet and additional surface width of 4 feet shall be added to curves of 50-100 feet radius; 2 feet to those from 100-200 feet.
(b) The length of vertical curves in roadways, exclusive of gutters, ditches, and drainage structures designed to hold or divert water, shall be not less than 100 feet.


1273.05. Roadway Turnarounds
Turnarounds are required on driveways and dead-end roads as specified in this article. 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.


1273.06. Roadway Turnouts
Turnouts shall be a minimum of 10 feet wide and 30 feet long with a minimum 25 foot taper on each end.


1273.07. Roadway Structures
(a) All driveway, road, street, and private land roadway structures shall be constructed to carry at least the maximum load and provide the minimum vertical clearance as required by Vehicle Code Sections 35550, 35750, and 35250.  
(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) 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. 

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

### 1273.08 One-Way Roads
All one-way roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one 10-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 10 dwelling units. In no case shall it exceed 2640 feet in length. A turnout shall be placed and constructed at approximately the midpoint of each one-way road. 

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

### 1273.09 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parcels Served</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>parcels zoned for less than one acre</td>
<td>800 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parcels zoned for 1 acre to 4.99 acres</td>
<td>1320 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parcels zoned for 5 acres to 19.99 acres</td>
<td>2640 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parcels zoned for 20 acres or larger</td>
<td>5280 feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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
All driveways shall provide a minimum 10 foot traffic lane and unobstructed vertical clearance of 15 feet along its entire length.
(a) Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length, but less than 800 feet in length, shall provide a turnout near the midpoint of the driveway. Where the driveway exceeds 800 feet, turnouts shall be provided no more than 400 feet apart. (b) A turnaround shall be provided at all building sites on driveways over 300 feet in length, and shall be within 50 feet of the building.


1273.11. Gate Entrances
(a) Gate entrances shall be at least two feet wider than the width of the traffic lane(s) serving that gate. (b) All gates providing access from a road to a driveway shall be located at least 30 feet from the roadway and shall open to allow a vehicle to stop without obstructing traffic on that road. (c) Where a one-way road with a single traffic lane provides access to a gated entrance, a 40 foot turning radius shall be used.


Article 3: Signing and Building Numbering

1274.00. Intent
To facilitate locating a fire and to avoid delays in response, all newly constructed or approved roads, streets, and buildings 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.


1274.01. Size of Letters, Numbers and Symbols for Street and Road Signs
Size of letters, numbers, and symbols for street and road signs shall be a minimum 3 inch letter height, 3/8 inch stroke, reflectorized, contrasting with the background color of the sign.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

### 1274.02. Visibility and Legibility of Street and Road Signs
Street and road signs shall be visible and legible from both directions of vehicle travel for a distance of at least 100 feet.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

### 1274.03. 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 this article.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

### 1274.04. 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 through a consistent countywide system that provides for sequenced or patterned numbering and/or non-duplicating naming within each county. All signs shall be mounted and oriented in a uniform manner. This section does not require any entity to rename or renumber existing roads or streets, nor shall a roadway providing access only to a single commercial or industrial occupancy require naming or numbering.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

### 1274.05. Intersecting Roads, Streets and Private Lanes
Signs required by this article identifying intersecting roads, streets and private lanes shall be placed at the intersection of those roads, streets and/or private lanes.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

### 1274.06. Signs Identifying Traffic Access Limitations
A sign identifying traffic access or flow limitations, including, but not limited to weight or vertical clearance limitations, dead-end road, one-way road (or single land 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.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

**1274.07. Installation of Road, Street, and Private Lane Signs**

Road, street and private land signs required by this article shall be installed prior to final acceptance by the local jurisdiction of road improvements.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

**1274.08. Addresses for Buildings**

All buildings shall be issued an address by the local jurisdiction which conforms to that jurisdiction's overall address system. Accessory buildings will not be required to have a separate address; however, each dwelling unit within a building shall be separately identified.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

**1274.09. Size of Letters, Numbers and Symbols for Addresses**

Size of letters, numbers, and symbols for addresses shall be a minimum 3 inch letter height, 3/8 inch stroke, reflectorized, contrasting with the background color of the sign.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 4290, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code.

**1274.10. 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 solely to a single commercial or industrial business, the address sign shall be placed at the nearest road intersection providing access to that site.
Article 4. Emergency Water Standards

1275.00. Intent
Emergency water for wildlife protection shall be available and accessible in quantities and locations specified in the statute and these regulations, in order to attack a wildfire or 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.

1275.01. Application
The provisions of this article shall apply when new parcels are approved by a local jurisdiction. The emergency water system shall be available on-site prior to the completion of road construction, where a community water system is approved, or prior to the completion of building construction, where an individual system is approved.

1275.10 General Standards
Water systems that meet or exceed the standards specified in 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, static water systems equaling or exceeding the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1231, "Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting," 1989 Edition, or mobile water systems that meet the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rural Class 8, 2nd Edition 3-80, standard shall be accepted as meeting the requirements of this article. These documents are available at CDF Ranger Unit Headquarters.

Nothing in this article 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 local jurisdiction, such protection measures shall be provided.
1275.15 Hydrant/Fire Valve
(a) The hydrant or fire valve shall be 18 inches above grade, 8 feet from flammable vegetation, no closer than 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 by road from the building it is to serve, and
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 with 2 1/2 inch National hose male thread with cap for pressure and gravity flow systems and 4 1/2 inch draft systems. Such hydrants shall be wet or dry barrel as required by the delivery system. They shall have suitable crash protection as required by the local jurisdiction.


1275.20 Signing of Water Sources
Each hydrant/fire valve or access to water shall be identified as follows:

(a) if located along a driveway, a reflectorized blue marker, with a minimum dimension of 3 inches shall be located on the driveway address sign and mounted on a fire retardant post, or

(b) 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 shall be within 3 feet of said hydrant/fire valve, with the sign no less than 3 feet nor greater than 5 feet above ground, in a horizontal position and visible from the driveway, or


Article 5. Fuel Modification Standards
1276.00. Intent
To reduce the intensity of a 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.


1276.01. Setbacks for Structure Defensible Space
(a) All parcels 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.
(b) For parcels less than 1 acre, local jurisdictions shall provide for the same practical effect.


1276.02. Disposal of Flammable Vegetation and Fuels
Disposal, including chipping, burying, burning or removal to a landfill site approved by the local jurisdiction, 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.


1276.03. 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.


1299. Defensible Space.
The intent of this regulation is to provide guidance for implementation of Public Resources Code 4291(a) and (b), and minimize the spread of fire within a 100 foot zone around a building or structure.

(a) A person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is
covered with flammable material, and is within State Responsibility Area, shall do the following:

(1) Within 30 feet from each building or structure maintain a firebreak by removing and clearing away all flammable vegetation and other combustible growth pursuant to PRC § 4291(a). Single specimens of trees or other vegetation may be retained provided they are well spaced, well-pruned, and create a condition that avoids spread of fire to other vegetation or to a building or structure.

(2) Within the 30 feet to 100 feet zone (Reduced Fuel Zone) from each building or structure (or to the property line, whichever is nearer to the structure), provide a fuel break by disrupting the vertical and/or horizontal continuity of flammable and combustible vegetation with the goal of reducing fire intensity, inhibiting fire in the crowns of trees, reducing the rate of fire spread, and providing a safer environment for firefighters to suppress wildfire pursuant to PRC § 4291(b).

(b) Any vegetative fuels identified as a fire hazard by the fire inspection official of the authority having jurisdiction shall be removed or modified provided it is required by subsection (a)(1) & (a)(2).

(c) Within the intent of the regulations, the fire inspection official of the authority having jurisdiction may approve alternative practices which provide for the same practical effects as the stated guidelines.

(d) Guidance for implementation of this regulation is contained in the publication: “General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space” as published by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection by resolution adopted on February 8, 2006.