

Article 5: Fire Protection and Prevention

Division 3: General Precautions Against Fire

(“General Precautions Against Fire” added 4-8-2008 by O-19728 N.S.)

§55.0301 General Precautions Against Fire

301.1 Scope through 304.1.1 Waste material. Sections 301.1 through 304.1.1 of the California Fire Code have been adopted without change pursuant to section 55.0101(a).

(Added 4-8-2008 by O-19728 N.S.; effective 5-8-2008.)

(Amended 7-31-2012 by O-20188 N.S.; effective 8-30-2012.)

§55.0304 Combustible Waste Material

(a) 304.1.2 Vegetation.

Weeds, grass, vines or other growth that is capable of being ignited and endangering property, shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant of the premises. Vegetation clearance requirements in the urban-wildland interface areas shall be in accordance with California Fire Code Chapter 49 and the *City of San Diego Land Development Code*.

(b) 304.1.2.1 Clearance of brush and vegetative growth from roadways.

The *Fire Code Official* is authorized to require areas within 10 feet (3048 mm) on each side of portions of fire apparatus access roads and driveways to be cleared of nonfire-resistive vegetation growth.

Exception: Single specimens of trees, ornamental vegetative fuels or cultivated ground cover, such as green grass, ivy, succulents or similar plants used for ground cover, provided they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire.

(c) 304.1.2.2 Clearance of brush and vegetative growth from electrical transmission and distribution lines.

Clearance of brush and vegetative growth from electrical transmission and distribution lines shall be in accordance with sections 304.1.2.2.1 through 304.1.2.2.5.

Exception: Sections 304.1.2.2.1 through 304.1.2.2.5 do not authorize persons not having legal right of entry to enter on or damage the property of others without consent of the owner.

(d) 304.1.2.2.1 Support clearance.

Persons owning, controlling, operating or maintaining electrical transmission or distribution lines shall have an approved program in place that identifies poles or towers with equipment and hardware types that have a history of becoming an ignition source, and provides a combustible free space consisting of a clearing of not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) in each direction from the outer circumference of such pole or tower during such periods of time as designated by the *Fire Code Official*.

Exception: Lines used exclusively as telephone, telegraph, messenger call, alarm transmission or other lines classed as communication circuits by a public utility.

(e) 304.1.2.2.2 Electrical distribution and transmission line clearances.

Clearances between vegetation and electrical lines shall be in accordance with sections 304.1.2.2.3 through 304.1.2.2.5.

(f) 304.1.2.2.3 Trimming clearance.

The radial clearances shown below are minimum clearances that shall be established, at the time of trimming, between vegetation and the energized conductors and associated live parts.

Exception: The *Fire Code Official* is authorized to establish minimum clearances different than those specified by Table 304.1.2.2.3 when evidence substantiating such other clearances is submitted to and approved by the *Fire Code Official*.

**TABLE 304.1.2.2.3
MINIMUM CLEARANCES BETWEEN VEGETATION
AND ELECTRICAL LINES AT TIME OF TRIMMING**

LINE VOLTAGE	MINIMUM RADIAL CLEARANCE FROM CONDUCTOR (feet)
750-35,000	6
35,001-60,000	12
60,001-115,000	19
115,001-230,000	30.5
230,001-500,000	115

(g) 304.1.2.2.4 Minimum clearance to be maintained.

Clearances not less than those established by Table 304.1.2.2.4 shall be maintained during such periods of time designated by the *Fire Code Official*. The site-specific clearances achieved, at time of pruning, shall vary based on species' growth rates, the utility company-specific trim cycle, the potential line sway due to wind, line sag due to electrical loading and ambient temperature and the tree's location in proximity to the high voltage lines.

Exception: The *Fire Code Official* is authorized to establish minimum clearances different from those specified by Table 304.1.2.2.4 when evidence substantiating such other clearances is submitted to and approved by the *Fire Code Official*.

**TABLE 304.1.2.2.4
MINIMUM CLEARANCES BETWEEN VEGETATION AND
ELECTRICAL LINES TO BE MAINTAINED**

LINE VOLTAGE	MINIMUM CLEARANCE (inches)
750-35,000	6
35,001-60,000	12
60,001-115,000	19
115,001-230,000	30.5
230,001-500,000	115

- (h) 304.1.2.2.5 Electrical power line emergencies.

During emergencies, the utility shall perform the required work to the extent necessary to clear the hazard. An emergency can include situations such as trees falling into power lines, or trees in violation of Table 304.1.2.2.4.

- (i) 304.1.2.3 Waste material.

Waste material shall not be placed, deposited or dumped in wildland-urban interface areas, or in, on or along trails, roadways or highways or against structures in wildland-urban interface areas.

- (j) 304.1.3 Space underneath seats through 307.4 Location. Sections 304.1.3 through 307.4 of the California Fire Code have been adopted without change pursuant to section 55.0101(a).

(“Combustible Waste Material” added 4-8-2008 by O-19728 N.S.; effective 5-8-2008.)

(Amended 7-31-2012 by O-20188 N.S.; effective 8-30-2012.)

§55.0307 Open Burning, Recreational Fires and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

- (a) 307.4.1 Bonfires.

A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Exceptions:

1. Fires upon beach areas shall be in accordance with San Diego Municipal Code sections 63.20.5(c) and (d).
2. Fires are not permitted in public parks except as provided in San Diego Municipal Code section 63.0102(b)(11).

- (b) 307.4.2 Recreational fires through 308.1.3 Torches for removing paint. Sections 307.4.2 through 308.1.3 of the California Fire Code have been adopted without change pursuant to section 55.0101(a).

(“Open Burning, Recreational Fires and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces” added 7-31-2012 by O-20188 N.S.; effective 8-30-2012.)

(Amended 4-6-2016 by O-20625 N.S.; effective 5-6-2016.)

§55.0308 Open Flames

308.1.5 Location near combustibles through 319.1 General. Sections 308.1.5 through 319.1 of the California Fire Code have been adopted without change pursuant to section 55.0101(a).

(“Open Flames” added 4-6-2016 by O-20625 N.S.; effective 5-6-2016.)

(Amended 1-18-2018 by O-20896 N.S.; effective 2-17-2018.)