



CAL FIRE
San Luis Obispo
County Fire Department

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Robert Lewin, Fire Chief

FIRE SAFETY DURING CONSTRUCTION & GRADING

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIFORM FIRE CODE, THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE AND THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, THE FOLLOWING FIRE PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS APPLY DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OR GRADING PHASES OF THIS PROJECT:

- An emergency reporting system shall be in place.
- Emergency access must be maintained during construction activities.
- Water mains and hydrants shall be installed and operational.
- Fire extinguishers shall be provided for buildings under construction when required by the chief.
- Combustible debris shall not accumulate within buildings.
- Combustible and flammable liquids shall be stored in approved containers.
- Burning combustible debris is prohibited.
- Temporary heating devices shall be of an approved type, located away from combustibles.
- Smoking shall be prohibited, except in designated areas free of combustible materials.
- Open flame devices and other sources of ignition shall not be located in areas where combustible materials are being used.
- Temporary electrical wiring (extension cords) shall be approved and in safe working order. Such wiring shall be used for portable appliances and shall be in safe working order and shall not be overloaded.
- Operations involving flame producing equipment, cutting, welding or grinding (Hot Work Equipment and Activity) shall be conducted in a manner to prevent flames and/or sparks from igniting adjacent combustibles or exposed combustible construction.
- A fire watch may be necessary to prevent the ignition of combustibles.

IF THE CONSTRUCTION OR GRADING PROJECT IS LOCATED ON OR ADJACENT TO GRASS-COVERED, BRUSH-COVERED OR FOREST-COVERED LANDS WHICH ARE PRONE TO WILDLAND FIRES, THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL FIRE PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS APPLY DURING CONSTRUCTION AND GRADING ACTIVITY:

1. Grinding, welding, cutting, and any other Hot Work activity requires:
 - A. A minimum of 10 feet radial clearance of all flammable vegetation from around such operation.
 - B. Maintain a shovel and one water type fire extinguisher available for use at the immediate area of the operation.
2. Spark arresters are required on all internal combustion engines (such as welders, chain saws, weed eaters, mowers, tractors, generators, portable engines, specialized equipment, quads, motorcycles, bobcats, trenchers, etc). Vehicles, such as cars and trucks, equipped with effective exhaust/muffler systems as defined by the Vehicle Code are exempt from the spark arrester requirement. Any equipment powered by a turbocharged engine is exempt from the spark arrester requirement.
3. A Burning Permit is required for the burning of any natural vegetation. Burning of any other material is prohibited.

PROJECT SUPERVISORS AND EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE AWARE OF TYPICAL FIRE CAUSES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES:

- Discarded cigarettes.
- Hot Work activity conducted too close to combustibles.
- Faulty and/or overloaded extension cords.
- Leaking fuel systems.
- Faulty exhaust systems or missing spark arrester.
- Metal blades/metal treads striking rocks/concrete.
- Exhaust systems contacting dry vegetation or combustibles.
- Spontaneous combustion of certain paint products.