



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** November 13, 2007

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Department

**SUBJECT:** Introduction Of Ordinance For 2007 Fire Code Adoption

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council introduce and subsequently adopt, by reading of title only, An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Santa Barbara Municipal Code Chapter 8.04, Adopting by Reference the 2006 Edition of the International Fire Code, the 2007 California Fire Code, Appendix Chapter 1, Appendix Chapter 4 and Appendices B, C and H of Said Codes; Adopting Local Amendments to Said Codes; and Repealing Ordinance No. 5257 (Adoption of the Previous Uniform Fire Code).

### DISCUSSION:

For many years the State of California and local jurisdictions within the state have adopted the Uniform Fire Code, with state and local amendments. The Uniform Fire Code, published by the Western Fire Chiefs, was part of a greater series of model codes that included the Uniform Building Code, published by the International Conference of Building Officials. When combined with state amendments, the Uniform Fire Code became the California Fire Code. The City, in turn, adopted the California Fire Code by reference subject to further revisions based on local conditions.

As of this code cycle, the Uniform Codes will no longer be used as the base codes in California. In September 2005, the state embarked on a project to adopt the International Codes as the base codes for building standards and fire protection. This complex process included the International Building Code and International Fire Code, among others. The state amended sections relating to building standards in all of the International codes to tailor the model codes to California conditions, preserve existing standards and prevent conflict with other California laws and regulations. The California Building Code contains over 1,143 state-generated amendments to the International Building Code. Likewise, the State Fire Marshal made over 600 amendments to the 2006 International Fire Code before adopting it as the 2007 California Fire Code. The state codes take effect on January 1, 2008.

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Additional Department(s) That Need to Review CAR

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Since February 2007 staff has been in the process of reviewing the 2007 California Fire Code, and making amendments of our own to adapt the code to local conditions. Local jurisdictions are allowed to amend California-adopted sections of the code, but are limited to only making the amended sections more stringent. For any sections relating to building standards we must make findings for the change. The findings are based on climate, topography or geology and must describe conditions that require additional life safety protection. Sections of the International code that are not adopted by the state may be amended in any manner to meet local needs.

This ordinance includes the findings and local amendments recommended by staff. It is accompanied by an explanatory attachment citing the reasons for changes made and whether or not findings apply to that section. The California Fire Code is a reasonably complete document and our approach to the code was to make as few amendments as possible. Some are administrative in nature, such as language added to preserve our existing joint Building Division / Fire Department Board of Appeals. Others preserve our existing requirements under the 2001 Fire Code, such as our requirements for sprinklers in buildings over 5000 square feet. We have also brought our urban-wildland interface requirements into the proposed ordinance, adding language that identifies the City of Santa Barbara Wildland Fire Plan as the document to define those areas. We anticipate that, as time goes on, the State of California will make additional adjustments to the new model codes. We plan to follow these developments closely and perhaps write additional amendments of our own in future code cycles.

### **Ordinance Committee Review**

The Ordinance Committee reviewed the proposed ordinance and local amendments on October 30, 2007. Following a presentation from Chief Prince and Fire Marshal Poire concerning the proposed local amendments, the Ordinance Committee voted unanimously to refer the draft ordinance to the City Council with a recommendation for adoption.

Staff recommends that the Council introduce and subsequently adopt the ordinance, by reading of title only. If adopted, the City's ordinance would go into effect on January 1, 2008, when the state codes go into effect.

**ATTACHMENT:** Summary of Local Amendments, 2007 Fire Code

**PREPARED BY:** Joseph Poiré, Fire Marshal

**SUBMITTED BY:** Ronald Prince, Fire Chief

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office

# Attachment

## Santa Barbara City Fire Department

### 2006 International Fire Code / 2007 California Fire Code Adoption Summary of Amendments

July 2007

**Bold Type = Significant change to the Municipal Code, International or California Fire Codes**

#	Chapter/Section	Title	Concept	Type( <u>new</u> , <u>existing</u> UFC / MC <u>deleted</u> or <u>revised</u> )	Findings
1	Appendix Chapter 1/ Sec. 103.1	Fire Prevention Bureau Personnel and Police	Part of the organization of the Fire prevention Bureau, carried over from the existing code, citing authority of fire code officials.	Existing, UFC / MC	NA
2	Appendix Chapter 1/ Sec. 104.10	Fire Investigations	Existing language from the 2001 California Fire Code, authority to investigate.	Existing, UFC / MC	NA
3	Appendix Chapter 1/ Sec. 108.1 through 108.3	Board of Appeals	Base code appeal sections, removed to allow for local appeals sections below.	Deleted	NA
4	Appendix Chapter 1/ Sec. 112.1.1 through 112.1.8	Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals	Readopts existing local provisions for a joint Building and Fire Code Board of appeals. Minor code language changes regarding accessibility.	Existing, UFC / MC, minor revisions	NA
5	Appendix Chapter 1/ Sec. 109.3	Violation Penalties	Completes the IFC section 109 by describing violations of the code as a misdemeanor, consistent with current language.	Revised	NA
6.	Chapter 3 / 304.1.2	Vegetation	Changes the language to make vegetation clearance conform to Chapter 47 instead of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code, which is not adopted by either the state or the City of Santa Barbara.	Revised	NA
7	<b>Chapter 3 / Section 308.3.1</b>	Open Flame cooking Devices	<b>308.3.1 prohibited charcoal barbeques on most apartment patio's and decks within 10 feet of any combustible element, a section that is unenforceable. Not adopted by the state.</b>	Deleted	NA
8	Chapter 3 / Section 308.3.1.1	Liquefied-petroleum gas fueled cooking devices.	Amends the section to allow standard sized (5 gallon) propane barbeques on apartment decks / balconies.	Revised	NA

9	Chapter 4	Emergency Planning and Preparedness	<b>Chapter 4 conflicts with or duplicates state regulations (Title 19) in several sections; has additional requirements in conflict with or not desirable under local conditions. Not adopted by the state.</b>	Deleted	NA
10	Chapter 5 / Section 503.1 through 503.4	Fire Apparatus Access Roads	Amends the access sections to meet existing local requirements of 20 feet in width for commercial and 16 feet in width for residential to within 150 feet of exterior walls. Minor changes to the exceptions allowed for the 150 foot requirement, adding language to #1 that sprinklers Also maintains current local standards for grade, cross slope turning radius and dead ends.	Existing, UFC / MC, minor revisions	Yes
11	Chapter 5 / 503.5.1.1 and <b>503.5.1.2</b>	Secured Gates and barricades	One section amended, one added to the access roadways, dealing with the closure of certain roadways due to fire danger. Minor revisions to the “tampering” with locked gates section and the new section <b>prohibits parking vehicles in a manner that blocks closed gates.</b>	New, revised	Yes?
12	Chapter 5 / Section 505.1.1	Premise Identification, Mixed use occupancy	<b>Refers to local municipal code section 8.04.030 regarding mixed use occupancy signs to clarify that they are required in both existing and new construction.</b>	New	Yes
13	Chapter 5 / Section 505.3	Directory	Maintains the existing requirement for a project directory when required by the fire code official. Minor wording changes.	Existing	Yes
14	Chapter 5 / Section 508.through 508.5.3	Required Water Supply	The basic fire flow requirements of Chapter 5 were adopted by the state, along with Appendix B of the International; Code. The state then leaves local jurisdictions to either use Appendix B or any “approved method” without further definition. These sections outline the locally approved method and are a readoption of our existing fire-flow requirements for new construction.	Existing	Yes
15	Chapter 9 / Section 903 through 903.2.1.1.6	Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems	The California Fire Code provisions in Chapter 9 are less stringent than our existing requirements, in some cases allowing for assembly occupancies up to 12,000 square feet without sprinklers. These sections maintain our current standard of any new structure in excess of 5000 square feet and retroactive to buildings over 5000 square feet where square footage is added. Some new language added includes clarification over how square footage is calculated, sprinklers added when and occupancy changes to a higher hazard and the standards that govern the installation of sprinkler systems.	Existing	Yes

16	Chapter 9 / Section 907.1.5	Fire Alarm Detection Systems	This section is a minor revision of our existing requirement for an automatic detection fire alarm in mixed use occupancies. We first authored this section in response to the proliferation of residential units above commercial occupancies throughout the city. The concept is to alert the residents in the event of a fire condition in the business occupancies below, especially at night when the business is closed.	Existing, revised	Yes
17	Chapter 33 / 3301.1.2	Explosives and Blasting Agents	Limits storage by Zone, excludes most of the city. Storage is limited to the industrial zone near the airport, by permit only	Existing	NA
18	3301.3 and 3301.4	Fireworks, Prohibition	State law allows for “safe and sane” fireworks. Maintains the current prohibition on all fireworks within the city limits, including safe and sane. Provides for confiscation.	Existing	Yes
19	Chapter 47 / Sections 4701 through 4715.13	Requirements for Wildland Interface Areas	This city previously adopted the wildland interface sections under Appendix IIA of the 2001 California Fire Code. The sections noted here are, for the most part, the same as Appendix IIA and apply to subjects such as “control of ignition sources” and “defensible space” requirements. <b>New sections of significance refer to the City of Santa Barbara Wildland Fire Plan as the controlling document for the designation of Wildland Urban Interface Areas and the adoption of additional clearance distances based on that plan.</b>	Existing and new (4707.2)	Yes
20	Municipal Code Section 8.04.030 A and B	Fire Prevention Development Standards	A) Fire Zone 2 allows for on site water and other requirements in areas where there is no municipal water supply. B) Requires the mixed use occupancy sign, which identifies the presence of dwelling units for first responders when a new building combines residential and commercial occupancies. No proposed changes.	Existing	Yes
21	Municipal Code 8.04.040	Storage of Combustible or Explosive Materials	<b>Repeal. Former sections A &amp; B stringently regulated in other sections of the code, allowed by permit. Section C, Explosive and Blasting Agents, moved to Chapter 33 as noted above.</b>	Repeal 8.04.040, revise and move C	NA