



Fire Code Design Requirements

The San Jose Fire Code (SJFC) was adopted by City Council, and was added to the Municipal Code (Muni Code 17.12) and became law January 1, 2008. The basis of the SJFC is the 2007 California Fire Code, as amended locally.

Under the Muni Code, the Fire Department Development Services Division reviews nearly all construction projects, in partnership with the Building Division and the Planning Division of PBCE. All Fire reviews are done in the interest of both the occupants and of the Fire Department and other emergency responders. The purpose of this information bulletin is to identify the primary issues the Fire Department reviews.

- Fire and life safety features of buildings
- Fire protection systems
- Fire alarm systems
- Smoke control systems
- Hazardous Materials storage and/or use
- Fire apparatus access
- Fire flow
- Fire hydrant location

For some of these areas, the review must be completed and approved during the Planning stage, as opposed to the Permitting stage. In particular, Fire may require approval of Fire apparatus access, fire flow, and fire hydrant locations before the Planning permit is approved.

For further information, please see additional Fire Department handouts, which are posted on our website.

David Schoonover, Deputy Fire Chief & Fire Marshal