

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ADOPTING  
AN UPDATED FIRE PROTECTION PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Montecito Fire Protection District operates under the provisions of California's Fire Protection District Law of 1987, wherein the State Legislature declared that the local provision of fire protection services, rescue services, emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response services and other services relating to the protection of lives and property is critical to the public peace, health and safety of the State of California and that local control over the types, levels and availability of these services is a long-standing tradition in California; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has also declared that its intent is to provide broad statutory authority for local fire protection districts, encouraging local officials to adapt powers and procedures set forth in the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 to meet their own circumstances and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 13861 gives the District certain powers, including the power to establish and enforce rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the District Board has considered at public hearings the approval of ongoing policies and procedures as set forth in the updated Fire Protection Plan, which plan addresses roofing requirements, vegetation management, access requirements, water supply, automatic fire sprinkler requirements, and provisions of the Uniform Fire Code; and

WHEREAS, the requirements imposed by the updated Fire Protection Plan are reasonably necessary because of the climatic, geologic and topographic conditions within the District; and

WHEREAS, the area within which the District is located regularly experiences strong, hot, dusty, and down canyon winds referred to locally as "Santa Anas" or sundowners; and

WHEREAS, such wind conditions increase fire danger by significantly contributing to the spread and intensity of fires, and significantly increase the difficulty of effective fire suppression within the District; and

WHEREAS, if a fire involving a single structure cannot be immediately extinguished, such wind conditions can rapidly spread flames to adjacent structures, significantly endangering lives and/or millions of dollars in property value; and

WHEREAS, such winds can spread existing flames from a structure or natural fuel to structures and natural fuel significant distances away, even jumping over fire breaks and freeways, resulting in significant property damage and/or loss of life; and

WHEREAS, much of the District is within heavy brush and chaparral; and

WHEREAS, it is generally known to take about 25 years to build up extremely dangerous combustible brush conditions, and the District contains areas where combustible flora has built up for 50 to 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the District is in an area prone to extensive drought conditions, significantly increasing the already natural combustibility of the chaparral, brush and ornamental shrubbery in the District; and

WHEREAS, such fuels can rapidly transform a small manageable fire into an uncontrollable conflagration, compromising the lives and safety of District personnel and residents; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of such fuels provide a direct correlation to the safety of the lives and property within the District, and will substantially reduce the risk of injury or death to District personnel; and

WHEREAS, the District is geographically situated such that extreme solar exposure (south, southwest, and west facing slopes) continually results in critically low live fuel moisture levels, further rendering most brush, chaparral and ornamental shrubbery highly combustible; and

WHEREAS, due to these conditions even non-structural fires can pose a massive threat to the lives and structures located in the District; and

WHEREAS, the District is located in close proximity to several active earthquake faults; and

WHEREAS, during and after an earthquake, there is a high potential for fires and other emergencies threatening the lives of District residents, generally requiring the commitment of all available resources; and

WHEREAS, geographic and topographic conditions delay response times for fire apparatus (these conditions include remote structures; narrow, winding roads which hamper the access of modern fire suppression apparatus; and extremely sloping roads which tend to slow fire apparatus response); and

WHEREAS, water can be in short supply in the District, and fires in areas with structures with noncombustible roofing typically consume far lesser quantities of water than those not complying with the Plan, allowing greater fire suppression coverage, and preventing unnecessary loss of life and/or property within the District; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 101 traverses the District, and is a transportation route for hazardous materials and any traffic accident on Highway 101 routinely requires the presence of all available fire apparatus, leaving the District with fewer resources to combat structural fires elsewhere in the District; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Pacific Railroad line also traverses the District, and a train accident or derailment could immediately deplete the District's resources, limiting the District's ability to furnish fire protection for the balance of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Montecito Fire Protection District is in the mutual aid plan and is committed to supply personnel and equipment for serious fires outside the District and which can reduce the personnel and equipment available for response to possible emergencies within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District Board has considered all of these factors, together with the Fire Marshal's description of the hazards they collectively describe; and

WHEREAS, the District Board has considered the updated Fire Protection Plan as a whole and considered it in public hearings;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Montecito Fire Protection District resolves as follows:

1. For all the reasons set forth in this resolution, it is reasonably necessary to adopt the updated Fire Protection Plan as presented by the Fire Marshal and said plan is hereby adopted.
2. The Board Secretary is directed and authorized to certify a full and complete copy of the updated Fire Protection Plan, which certified copy shall be on file at District headquarters and copies available for public inspection and copying.
3. Approval of the updated Plan is a continuing administrative activity consisting of general policy and procedure making, and the Fire Chief is authorized and directed to file a Notice of Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act with the County Clerk.
4. The updated Fire Protection Plan may be reviewed and revised by the Governing Board of the District at appropriate intervals.
5. If any portion of the Fire Protection Plan is for any reason found to be invalid, that finding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Plan. The Governing Board declares that it would have adopted the updated Fire Protection Plan and each of its portions irrespective of the fact that other portions may be invalid.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Montecito Fire Protection District the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1995, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: H.W. Childs, T.J. Gannon

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: R.J. Jensen

**MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**FIRE PROTECTION PLAN INDEX**

1. **ROOFING REQUIREMENTS**
  - a) Memorandum of overview for roofing permit process and scoping of roofing ordinance
  - b) Sample copy of blank fire protection certificate application (FPC)
  
2. **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**
  - a) Weed abatement & defensible space, MFPD Std. 1993-1
  - b) Fire hazard abatement procedures, MFPD S.O.P. 106.03
  - c) Complaint process, MFPD S.O.P. 106.04
  
3. **ACCESS REQUIREMENTS**
  - a) Private roads & driveways, MFPD Std. 1988-2
4. **WATER SUPPLY FOR FIREFIGHTING REQUIREMENTS**
  - a) Fire hydrant spacing & flow requirements, MFPD Std. 1988-3
  - b) Graph display of water supply requirements
  - c) Stored water system criteria, MFPD Std. 1988-1
  
5. **AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER REQUIREMENTS**
  - a) Residential fire sprinkler installation criteria, MFPD Std. 1988-4 *Last Revised 11/93*
  - b) Non-residential fire sprinkler installation criteria, MFPD Std. 1989-1 *Last Revised 10/91*
  
6. **CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE 2001 EDITION**

Regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire, hazardous materials or explosion.

  - a) Montecito Fire Protection District Ordinance No. 2002-1, adoption of 2001 Edition of California Fire Code by reference (with certain modifications) as published.