

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING FIRE PROTECTION BULLETIN



GENERAL CANNABIS OPERATION & PERMITTING INFORMATION

October 2018

General

The intent of this bulletin is to provide general information on conditions that may be imposed for cannabis cultivation, production, manufacturing and plant extraction within the Santa Barbara County Fire Department Jurisdiction.

The conditions imposed on any project will vary based on the entire scope of work and the adopted codes in place at time of development.

Cultivation and Production

Cannabis cultivation processes shall comply with the same general requirements imposed on a commercial, agricultural operation.

Agricultural operations may be subject to a fire protection plan based on the location and size of the operation.

Adequate access for emergency medical response shall be in compliance with the Santa Barbara County Fire Code.

New construction is subject to permit review where required by the Santa Barbara County Fire Code located in Chapter 15 of the Santa Barbara County Code of Ordinances.

https://library.municode.com/ca/santa_barbara_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH15FIPR

Manufacturing and or Plant Extraction

Project requirements are based on the occupancy classifications and intended uses of each structure and or facility. The following information is intended to assist in navigating through the primary conditions that are imposed for these types of facilities. All projects shall be in compliance with the Santa Barbara County Fire Code for the life of the project.

1. Permit Types: Construction and Operational Permits

- a. Required Construction Permit: Permit required to construct any building or facility. Construction permits are reviewed and inspected through the Fire Protection Certificate Application process. This is done at time of building permit at the building counter.
 - i. Fire Protection Certificate (FPC): Requirements for the project issued by the Fire Department, includes plan checking and inspections.
 - ii. Includes all new permit required structures as well as existing structures where a change in occupancy classification is required.
- b. Operational Permit: A valid operational permit is required for the continued operation of any cannabis facility
 - i. Annual Inspection and issuance of a permit while the facility is in operation.
 - ii. Permit shall remain in good standing at all times

- c. Website Links: For additional information, please click the following links.
 - i. [Construction](#)
 - ii. [Operational](#)

- 2. **Access:** Apparatus access shall be provided and maintained for all facilities and structures; includes all driveways and roadways that support the facility.
 - a. Access ways shall be in compliance with the Santa Barbara County Fire Code and Title 14
 - i. Features: width, length, slope, turnouts, surface material, vegetation clearance, vertical clearance and fire department turnarounds when applicable.
 - ii. Road naming may be required
 - b. For additional information, reference Development [Standard #1](#)

- 3. **Water Supply:** Fire Protection Water Supplies capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided and maintained for all structures and facilities.
 - a. Fire Protection Water Supplies shall comply with the Santa Barbara County Fire Code and applicable NFPA standards.
 - i. A Fire Protection Engineer may be required to design and certify the system.
 - b. Features: Fire hydrants, stored water tanks, reservoirs, wells, water mains and pumps where applicable.
 - i. Flow rates and flow capacity dependent on scope of project
 - c. For additional information, reference Development [Standard #2](#) & [Standard #3](#).

- 4. **Vegetation Management:** Hazardous vegetation and fuels shall be managed to reduce the severity of potential exterior wildfire exposure to structures and to reduce the risk of spreading from structures.
 - a. Defensible space shall be maintained around all structures, facilities and access ways.
 - b. Determined Fire Hazards shall be reduced and minimized. Requirements found in Development Standard #6. <http://www.sbcfire.com/development-standards/>

(Vegetation management plan may be required)

- 5. **Fire Protection System:** Includes Fire Sprinklers and Fire Alarm System (when applicable), Requirements found in Development Standard #4, Development Standard #5 and the Santa Barbara County Fire Code. <http://www.sbcfire.com/development-standards/>