



## **FIRE PREVENTION MANUAL**

### **CODE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **402.011 OUTSIDE COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE REQUIREMENTS (LARGE PILES)**

**EFFECTIVE: JUNE 2008**

### **SCOPE**

This policy shall apply to all combustible materials requiring an operational permit, including those materials regulated elsewhere in the *California Fire Code* (CFC), except where specific requirements are provide in the CFC. An operational permit is required when the pile exceeds 5,000 square feet of exterior storage as outlined in the *Fresno Municipal Code* (FMC).

Exterior storage of combustible materials includes, but is not limited to: idle pallets; plastic or wooden finished products; baled material; loose, free-flowing and/or bulk storage; or similar materials.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the requirements for outdoor combustible storage, as required by FMC Section 10-50315.4.3.

### **BACKGROUND**

These materials present a severe fire hazard due to their characteristics. This policy provides the minimum criteria for safe outdoor storage of these materials.

Note: Farming operations are exempt from this policy.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

#### General Requirements (all storage within the scope of this policy)

1. The method of stacking shall be in a stable, orderly, and regular manner.
2. The site shall be maintained clear of combustible vegetation.
3. Storage areas shall be surrounded with an approved fence. The fence shall be a minimum of 6 feet in height.

4. Fire lanes shall be a minimum of 20 feet in width, within 200 feet of all portions of a regulated pile perimeter, and with an approved all-weather surface capable of supporting fire department apparatus. A site plan identifying approved access roads shall be submitted as a condition of approval.
5. Designated marking boundaries for stacking limits with posts (in paved yards, parking lot striping may be used) must be visible and maintained. Each method of designation shall be approved by the Fire Marshal (or designee).
6. Storage yards shall be provided with fire hydrants spaced a maximum distance of 500 feet from all portions of a pile perimeter. A minimum fire flow of 1,500 gpm is required. Existing sites without available public water mains will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
7. Pile height, location, etc., are subject to the most restrictive requirement, which may be Development and Resource Management Department (DARM) land use requirements (Zoning).

Pallet and Bin Box Storage (regardless of material)

1. Exterior idle bin box and pallet storage piles shall be arranged in accordance with the current edition of NFPA 1, Section 34.10.3.

Baled Storage (regardless of material)

1. Maximum height of storage shall not exceed 20 feet.
2. Maximum pile dimensions shall not exceed 50 feet x 50 feet.
3. Minimum separation between baled storage piles shall be 10 feet.
4. Storage subject to this policy shall not be located within 10 feet of any property line or building.
5. A pile breakdown in an approved location with a minimum clear area of 120 feet x 90 feet shall be provided.

Loose, Free-Flowing and/or Bulk Storage (regardless of material)

1. Maximum height of storage shall not exceed 20 feet.
2. Maximum pile dimensions shall not exceed 50 feet x 50 feet.

3. Minimum separation between storage piles shall be 10 feet.
4. Storage subject to this policy shall not be located within 10 feet of any property line or building.
5. A pile breakdown in an approved location with a minimum clear area of 120 feet x 90 feet shall be provided.