



CITY OF
SANTA ROSA

Fire Department

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**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

SUBJECT: GROUP A OCCUPANCIES

Bulletin Number:	021
Date of Issue:	April 21, 1995
Revision:	July 16, 2003
Code Reference:	
2001 California Fire Code (CFC), Articles 12 and 25	
2001 California Building Code (CBC), Chapters 3 and 10	
Santa Rosa City Code (SRCC) 18-44	
Title 19 California Code of Regulations (CCR).	

NOTE: This bulletin is a summary of Fire Department interpretations of City and State Codes. Information contained herein applies to typical instances and does not address all circumstances.

DEFINITIONS:

Assembly Building is a building or portion of a building used for the gathering of **50 or more persons** for such purposes as deliberation, education, instruction, worship, entertainment, amusement, drinking or dining or awaiting transportation.

Also, any building or structure or portion thereof used or intended to be used for the showing of motion pictures when an admission fee is charged and when such building or structure is open to the public and has a capacity of ten or more persons.

Stage, Legitimate, is a stage wherein curtains, drops, leg drops, scenery, lighting devices or other stage effects are retractable horizontally or suspended overhead, and the stage height is greater than 50 feet. CBC 405.1.2.

GROUP DESCRIPTIONS:

Group Description of Occupancy

A-1 Any assembly building or portion of a building with a legitimate stage and an occupant load of 1,000 or more.

A-2 Any building or portion of a building having an assembly room with an occupant load of less than 1,000 and a legitimate stage.

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- A-2.1 Any building or portion of a building having an assembly room with an occupant load of 300 or more without a legitimate stage, including such buildings used for educational purposes and not classed as a Group E or B Occupancy.
- A-3 Any building or portion of a building having an assembly room with an occupant load of less than 300 without a legitimate stage, including such buildings used for educational purposes and not classed as a Group E or B Occupancy.
- A-4 Stadiums, reviewing stands, and amusement park structures not included within other Group A Occupancies.

CHECKLIST

YES NO

- Address numbers shall be plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property. Illuminated address numbers are required for new buildings or occupancies.
SRCC 18-44.901.4.4, Information Bulletin 91-015.
- Fire protection equipment shall be properly identified and maintained.
CFC 901.4.3, CFC 1001.5.1.
- A Place of Assembly permit shall be posted. SRCC 18-44.105.8.p.2.
- Decorative materials shall be non-flammable or shall be treated by a State Fire Marshal licensed applicator. The certificate shall be on-site for review.
CFC 2501.5, CFC 1103.3.3, CCR Title 19, 3.08.
- All furnishings must meet applicable California Bureau of Home Furnishings standards. Refer to Technical Bulletin 117 for buildings with a fire sprinkler system, and Technical Bulletins 133 and 117 for buildings that do not have a fire sprinkler system.
- A minimum of two exits shall be provided. Exit doors shall swing in the direction of exit travel. CBC 1003.3.1.5, CBC Table 10-A.
- Occupant loads exceeding 500 shall be served with a minimum of three exits. Occupant loads exceeding 1000 shall be served with a minimum of four exits. CBC 1004.2.3.4.

YES NO

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___ ___ Panic hardware shall be provided on all required exit doors. CFC 2501.8.2.

EXCEPTION: In Group A, Division 3 Occupancies and in all churches, panic hardware may be omitted from the main exit if the main exit consists of a single door or pair of doors. A key-locking device may be used in place of the panic hardware, provided there is a readily visible durable sign adjacent to the doorway stating ***THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHENEVER BUILDING IS OCCUPIED.*** CFC 1003.3.1.8

___ ___ Panic hardware shall have no other locking mechanism, i.e., deadbolt, slide bolt locks. CBC 1003.3.1.8, CFC 2501.8.2.

___ ___ The required width of any exit, exit door, corridor or exit stairway shall not be obstructed or reduced by the installation or placement of any item, including chairs, tables, equipment, displays or concessions. CFC 1203, T19 CCR 3.11(a).

___ ___ No storage is permitted in any exit, regardless of the width of such exit. T19 CCR 3.11(c).

___ ___ Doors leading into a one-hour corridor shall be self-closing, self-latching with no hold-open devices. Doors and frames shall be 20-minute rated and labeled on both the door and frame. CBC 1004.3.4.3.2.1

___ ___ Exits shall not pass through additional or intervening rooms, such as kitchens, storerooms, restrooms, closets. Lobbies and reception rooms constructed as required for corridors shall not be construed as intervening rooms. CBC 1004.2.2.

___ ___ Seating arrangement must comply with approved seating plan. CFC 2501.14.

___ ___ Aisle width, in areas without fixed seats, shall be 36 inches where tables, merchandise, furnishings and similar obstructions are placed on one side of the aisle or 44 inches when such obstructions are placed on both sides of the aisle. CFC 2501.9.2.

YES NO

___ ___ Minimum distance between rectangular conference or banquet type tables

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shall be not less than 54 inches. Minimum distance from walls shall be not less than 36 inches. T19 CCR 3.06(b).

___ ___ Aisles shall not be occupied by persons for whom seating is not available. T19 CCR 3.11(d).

___ ___ Loose seats must be bonded together in groups of not less than three when more than 299 seats or chairs are provided, except when tables are provided or in dining arrangements. CFC 2501.10.2, CCR Title 19, 3.06a.

___ ___ Combustible material or equipment shall not be placed or installed in, or exposed to any exit or exit. CCR Title 19, 3.11b.

___ ___ Low level exit signs and pathway marking shall be provided in interior rated corridors of unsprinklered buildings constructed after January 1, 1989. CBC 1007.2.8, 1007.2.9.

___ ___ Illuminated exit signs, internally or externally illuminated, shall be required at all exit doors from rooms requiring two exits as specified in UBC Table 10-A, and where otherwise necessary to clearly indicate the direction of egress. One of the lights providing illumination shall be provided by an emergency power supply. CFC 1212.

___ ___ Exit path illumination, with a backup emergency power supply, shall be provided to maintain one (1) footcandle at floor area. SRCC 18-44.1211.1, 18-44.1211.2.

___ ___ A maximum room capacity sign shall be provided when the occupant load exceeds 50 persons within a room. CFC 2501.16.1, CCR Title 19, 3.30.

___ ___ Extension cords shall not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring. CFC 8506.1.

___ ___ Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extend through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor covering, nor be subject to environmental damage or physical impact. CFC 8506.3.

YES NO

___ ___ Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage. CFC 8506.2.5.

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- Storage shall not be permitted in electrical panel rooms. CFC 8509.1.
- Provide one fire extinguisher, minimum type 2A10BC, for each 3000 square feet. Distance from any point to the nearest extinguisher shall not exceed 75 feet of area. CFC 1002.1, CCR Title 19, 3.29.
- State Fire Marshal tag shall appear with the following service information: Month, day, year last service, type service, licensed company's name. T19 CCR 597.3. All extinguishers must be serviced annually.
- Storage not permitted in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms, heater closets, or central heating room. T19 CCR 3.19(f).
- One-hour separation shall be maintained between boiler or central heating plant exceeding 400,000 BTU per hour input and rest of building. CBC 302.5.
- All exterior openings in a boiler room or rooms containing central heating equipment, if less than 10 feet from other doors or windows in the same building, shall be protected by a fire assembly having a 3/4 hour rating - such fire assemblies shall be fixed, automatic or self-closing. CBC 303.8.
- Filters on heating equipment must be kept clean and maintained in a safe operating condition. Gas appliances to be kept free of dust. CFC 1107.1.
- Screens shall be provided on heating appliances or fireplaces utilizing open flame. CCR Title 19, 3.17.
- All combustible rubbish, oily rags or waste material, when kept within a building or adjacent to a building, shall be securely stored in metal or metal-lined receptacles equipped with tight-fitting covers or in room or vaults constructed of non-combustible materials. CFC 1103.2.1.
- Commercial dumpsters and containers with an individual capacity of 1.5 cubic yards or greater shall not be stored or placed within 5 feet of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines. CFC 1103.2.2.

YES NO

- Each circuit breaker switch shall be plainly labeled. CFC 8509.3.
- A sign shall be provided for the outside door of high voltage (over 600

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volts) room indicating "Warning - High Voltage Keep Out." NEC 110-34.

- ___ ___ Storage in buildings shall be orderly, shall not obstruct fire sprinkler installations, shall be more than 2 feet from the ceiling, and shall be so located as not to endanger exit from the building. CFC 1103.3.2.
- ___ ___ "NO SMOKING" signs shall be posted. CCR Title 19, 3.32.
- ___ ___ Combustible materials shall not be stored in attic areas or similar spaces unless protected on the storage side as required for one-hour fire resistive construction or protected by sprinklers. CFC 1103.3.2.5.
- ___ ___ Flammable liquid storage is limited to 10 gallons that is used for maintenance purposes and operation of equipment when stored in cabinets which comply with CFC Section 7902.5.9, CCR Title 19, 3.15.
- ___ ___ Candles and other open flames are not permitted unless specifically inspected and approved by the Fire Department. CFC 1109.8, 2501.17.

PERMITS REQUIRED

- A. **Candles and open flames in assembly areas.** To use open flame or candles in connection with assembly areas or dining or drinking establishments. CFC 105.8.c.1. Duration: Annual.
- B. **Hazardous materials - Range 1.** To store aboveground less than 500 lbs., 55 gal. or 200 cu. ft. gaseous hazardous materials. SRCC, Section 18-44.105.8.h.3(1-5). Duration: Annual.
- D. **Places of assembly.** To operate a place of assembly as defined in SRCC, Section 18-44.105.8.p.2.1. Duration: Annual.
- E. **Places of assembly - special function within an occupancy not under control of annual permittee.** SRCC, Section 18-44.105.8.p.2.4 Duration: Each use or event.
- F. **Tents and air-supported structures.** To erect or operate a tent or air-supported structure covering an area in excess of 200 sq. ft., or a canopy in excess of 400 sq. ft. except for structures used exclusively for camping. SRCC, Section 18-44.105.8.t.1. Duration: Each use or event.
- G. **Outside use of propane.** To use propane at special events.

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SRCC, Section 18-44.105. Duration: Annual, but separate permit required for each event where propane will be used.