

4.8 Fire Response Resources

Any discussion of fire hazard reduction hinges on the County's efforts to prevent fires and to suppress them once they have started. Fire-fighting readiness can be partially gauged by the following:

- **Minimum Safety Standards for Peak Load Water Supply, Road Width, and Turning Radius:** These function as safeguards to ensure public safety and prevent unsafe development. Peak load water supply standards ensure sufficient water flow is available to fight fires. Peak water flow requirements are based on building type, design, and use.
- **Planning:** The National Board of Fire Underwriters recommends a three-day emergency supply of water, while the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California recommends a seven-day emergency water supply.
- **Fire and Building Code Enforcement:** The County of Riverside presently administers the 1997 Uniform Fire Code (UFC) and Uniform Building Code (UBC); updated versions are adopted every three years. Some relevant fire safety code standards and programs include:
 - Section 8109.2 requires that buildings or structures more than three stories or 30 feet in height, or more than 15,000 square feet, shall be provided with an approved fully automatic sprinkler system. In addition, buildings or structures of more than 5,000 square feet to be used primarily for public assembly shall be provided with a fully automatic sprinkler system. Installation of sprinkler systems is also required in existing buildings where emergency access for fire apparatus or equipment is restricted. These requirements apply to existing as well as future developments.
 - New construction restrictions for Class B roofing materials. As defined in the Uniform Building Code, Class B roofs are pressure treated, wood-shake shingles. They are not as resistant to fire as Class A roofs, which include generally non-flammable products.

4.8.1 California Department of Forestry

The State agency with the greatest number of resources for firefighting capabilities is the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). CDF is primarily a wildland fire protection agency with the legal responsibility for protection of