



Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Public Announcement

Public Notice of Ordinance 20-01 Fire Code Adoption.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District has completed the ratification process for Ordinance 20-01 Fire Code adoption on September 22, 2020.

Building code elements of the new fire code will take effect on October 7, 2020. Permit applications received before October 7, 2020, will not need to meet the new codes, and will instead be reviewed and permitted according to the 2016 codes. The new codes and local amendments reflect changes in technology, fire safety techniques, and the building industry.

A new requirement for an exterior fire hazard inspection as part of real property transfers will take effect October 7, 2020. Online portals are available for sellers to [self-report compliance](#) and for realtors to [check the status of a property](#).

Other general safety provision changes include changing the annual exterior hazard compliance deadline to May 31, 2021 and includes new abatement requirements:

1. Ban the use of combustible ground cover (to include Mulch & Bark) within 2' of structures. A list of [approved ground cover](#) is available on the MOFD website.
2. Require at least a 1' air gap between the ground and lower portion of bushes, privets, and other decorative plants within 2' of structures.
3. Increase the vertical clearance for trees above roofs from 5' to 6'.
4. Increase the vertical clearance for trees from 5' to 6' above the ground and surface fuels.
5. Require the removal of Eucalyptus and Monterey Pine within 6' of structures.
6. Require an exterior fire hazard inspection for real property transfers.
7. Require the removal of Juniper and Bamboo within 10' of a road by the end of 2023.

Further, the following fuel reduction steps remain unchanged and are required on all parcels:

1. Annual grass and weeds cut to less than 3" no later than 1 June.
2. Roadside clearance maintained free of encroaching vegetation within 3' measured horizontally and 15' measured vertically.
3. Concentrations of non-irrigated brush thinned or removed.
4. Ladder fuels removed to create at least a 6' air gap between the lower portions of tree canopy and the ground or ground fuels.
5. Dead or dying trees removed.
6. Dead tree branches and other ground litter removed.

MOFD appreciates your continued commitment to fire safety and dedication to fire prevention as we all work to make our community less prone to the devastating effects of wildfire.

More information and a complete list of a [Summary of the Major Fire Code Changes](#) can be found on the MOFD website.