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## **Construction and Grading Fire Safety**

Listed below are the fire prevention requirements that apply during the construction and/or grading phases of a project. These requirements are in accordance with California Fire Code (CFC), the Public Resources Code (PRC) and the Health and Safety Codes (H&S).

1. An emergency reporting system shall be in place.
2. Emergency access must be maintained during construction activities.
3. Water mains and hydrants shall be installed and operational.
4. Fire extinguishers shall be provided for buildings under construction when required by the Fire Chief.
5. Combustible debris shall not accumulate within buildings.
6. Combustible and flammable liquids shall be stored in approved containers.
7. Burning combustible debris is prohibited.
8. Temporary heating devices shall be on an approved type, located away from combustibles.
9. Smoking shall be prohibited, except in designated areas free of combustible materials.
10. Open flame devices and other sources of ignition shall not be in areas where combustible materials are being used.
11. Temporary electrical wiring (extension cords) shall be approved and in safe working order. Such wiring shall be used for portable appliances and shall not be overloaded.
12. Operations involving flame producing equipment, cutting, welding or grinding (hot work equipment and activity) shall be conducted in a manner to prevent flames

and/or sparks from igniting adjacent combustibles or exposed combustible construction.

13. A fire watch may be necessary to prevent the ignition of combustibles.

The following additional fire prevention requirements apply if the construction or grading project is located on or adjacent to grass covered, brush covered or forest covered lands that are prone to wildland fires.

1. Grinding, welding, cutting and any other hot work activity will require:
  - 10 feet radial clearance of all flammable vegetation from around such operation.
  - Maintaining a shovel and a water-type fire extinguisher in the immediate area of the operation.
2. Spark arrestors are required on all internal combustion engines (such as welders, chain saws, weed eaters, mowers, tractors, generators, portable engines, specialized equipment, ATVs, motorcycles, bobcats, trenchers, etc.) Vehicles, such as cars and trucks, equipped with effective exhaust/muffler systems as defined by the California Vehicle Code are exempt from the spark arrestor requirement. Any equipment powered by a turbocharged engine is exempt from the spark arrestor requirement.
3. A burning permit is required for the burning of any natural vegetation. Burning of any other material is prohibited. A link to San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District's website to obtain a burn permit is:  
<http://www.slocleanair.org/rules-regulations/burning.php>

Project supervisors and employees should be aware of typical fire causes at construction sites. These include:

- Discarded cigarettes
- Hot work activity conducted too close to combustibles
- Faulty and/or overloaded extension cords
- Leaking fuel systems
- Faulty exhaust systems or missing spark arrestor
- Metal blades/metal treads striking rocks/concrete
- Exhaust systems contacting dry vegetation or combustibles
- Spontaneous combustion of certain paint products