



Scott M. Jalbert, Unit Chief

## **Standard 3**

### **Roof Access**

#### **Scope**

The scope of this standard is to establish the requirements to ensure safe and unobstructed access to roofs by Fire Department personnel.

#### **General Requirements**

##### **Unobstructed Access**

California Fire Code, section 504.4 states that no person shall install or maintain any security barrier such as barbed wire fencing, razor wire fencing, chain link fencing or any other fencing material, cable, aerial, antenna, or other obstruction on the roof of any commercial establishment in such a manner as to obstruct or render egress or access hazardous in the event of fire or other emergency.

##### **Stairway Access**

New buildings two or more stories above grade plane, except those with a roof slope greater than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33.3-percent slope), shall be provided with a stairway to the roof or other access to the roof for emergency personnel approved by the Fire Code official. Stairway access to the roof shall be in accordance with Section 1009 of the California Building Code. Such stairway or other approved access shall be marked at street and floor levels with a sign indicating that the stairway or access continues to the roof. Where roofs are used for roof gardens or other purposes, stairways shall be provided as required for such occupancy classification.

##### **Building Height and Area**

Class III standpipe systems shall be installed throughout buildings where the floor level of the highest story is located more than 30 feet above the lowest level of the Fire Department vehicle access, or where the floor level of the lowest story is located more than 30 feet below the highest level of Fire Department vehicle access and in any parking structure.

A Class III system provides 1-1/2" hose stations to supply water for use by trained building occupants and 2-1/2" hose connections to supply a larger volume of water for use by Fire Departments and those trained in handling heavy water streams.

A building that is greater than 20,000 square feet of floor area and greater than 18 feet in height shall have a dry or wet standpipe system with a 2-1/2 inch outlet at the roof near the roof access. Location of the outlet and the fire department connection to the standpipe shall be labeled and approved by the Fire Code official.