

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER  
SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 30**

**SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 30  
INSTRUCTION 32-2001**



**15 JUNE 2021**

**Civil Engineering**

**FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction implements AFD 32-20, *Fire Emergency Services*, and is used in conjunction with DoD Instruction 6055.06, *Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Services Program*, Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards as Air Force policy unless otherwise directed in DoD or Air Force Instruction. This instruction prescribes policies and procedures; and defines responsibilities for an effective fire prevention and protection program for Vandenberg Air Force Base. This publication applies to all military personnel, Reserve, National Guard, civilians, contractors, and concessionaires and cannot be supplemented. A copy of this instruction will be kept in each unit/agency publication library and compliance with this instruction cannot be waived. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication. Route the AF Form 847 through the appropriate chain of command. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained IAW Air Force Instruction (AFI) 33-322, Records management and Information Governance Program, and disposed of IAW Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS). Table 32-35 or other appropriate 32 series table within the Civil Engineer functional area will apply to this publication). See **Attachment 1** for a Glossary of References and Supporting Information. Any specific manufacturer, commercial product, commodity, or service in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Air Force.

## ***SUMMARY OF CHANGES***

**This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.** All publications referenced have been updated and outdated publication references have been removed. Changes were made to Section 3.6 *Smoking and Disposal of Smoking Materials*. Open Fire permits are now required 48 hours in advance. Added Section 3.1 *Fire Reporting*. Added Section 3.20 *Wildland/Urban Interface* clearance requirements. Added Section 3.21 *Commercial Food Service Facilities*. Added Section 3.22 *Fire Department Vehicle Access*.

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## Chapter 1

### ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

**1.1. Supplemental Publications.** The following authoritative publications are used as standards of reference for fire protection and prevention. DoDI 6055.06, *Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Program*; AFD 32-20, *Fire Protection*, AFI 32-2001, *Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Program*; AFJMAN 23-210, *Joint Service Manual (JSM) for Storage and Materials Handling*, AFMAN 91-203, *Air Force Occupational Safety, Fire, and Health Standards*; UFC 3-600-01 *Fire Protection Engineering for Facilities*; AFI 32-10141, *Planning and Programming Fire Safety Deficiency Correction Projects*; NFPA codes and standards, and the International Building Code (IBC). Hazardous conditions of a peculiar nature for which no criteria has been developed or published will be corrected by local actions based upon sound judgment and the professional opinion of the installation fire chief. This publication may not be supplemented at lower levels.

**1.2. Objectives.** Fire prevention is of prime importance to all commanders and supervisors alike. The successful accomplishment of fire prevention program objectives is a cooperative venture involving all personnel on this installation. The objectives of this program are: to prevent the loss of life and property by fire through effective motivation of installation personnel to develop good fire prevention practices; to recognize and eliminate fire hazards in their work and living environment; and improve awareness of proper fire reporting and building evacuation procedures. There are four basic principles to a sound fire prevention program.

- 1.2.1. Effective fire prevention must be well planned.
- 1.2.2. The Installation Fire Chief (IFC) manages the program.
- 1.2.3. Commanders enforce the program.
- 1.2.4. Installation personnel execute the program.

**1.3. Scope.** The provisions of this instruction are applicable to:

- 1.3.1. The inspection of buildings, processes, equipment, systems and other fire related life safety conditions and situations.
- 1.3.2. The investigation of fires, explosions, hazardous materials incidents and other related emergency incidents managed by the fire department.
- 1.3.3. The review of construction plans, drawings and specifications for life safety systems, fire protection systems, emergency vehicle access, water supply systems and processes, hazardous materials and other fire and life safety issues.
- 1.3.4. The fire and life safety education of military members, civilian employees, contractors, and the public.
- 1.3.5. The storage, use, processing, handling and transportation of hazardous materials.
- 1.3.6. Code enforcement of special events including but not limited to exhibits, trade/bizarre shows, haunted houses, and other similar special occupancies.
- 1.3.7. Facility interior finish, decorations, furnishings and other combustibles that contribute to fire spread, fire load, and smoke production.

**1.4. Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).** Air Force: HQ USAF/A7C is the overall AHJ for Air Force fire protection policy and approval of permanent deviations to NFPA standards. Deviation from established Fire Emergency Policy will be handled IAW AFI 32-2001.

## Chapter 2

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **2.1. The Unit Commander shall:**

- 2.1.1. Immediately advise the Risk Management Division, 30 CES/CEFP, (606-4680) of any fire hazard that cannot be corrected by unit personnel and any structural changes or alterations within their facilities or areas.
- 2.1.2. Ensure changes of facility managers and alternates are reported, in writing, to 30 CES Customer Service within 30-days of the change.
- 2.1.3. Ensure sound fire prevention practices and inspections are maintained in facilities, rooms, or areas that are under continuous lock and key. During scheduled fire prevention visits, supervisors will arrange access to these areas for Fire Inspectors.
- 2.1.4. Review the fire safety deficiencies identified in their facilities, incorporate required changes into their program, and/or submit work orders to 30 CES for correction.

#### **2.2. The Facility Managers shall:**

- 2.2.1. Accompany fire inspectors during fire prevention visits, provide keys for all locked rooms, storage areas, vaults, security areas, and so forth. This includes all unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing (UEPH), visiting quarters (VQ), and temporary living facilities (TLF).
- 2.2.2. Ensure all personnel are familiar with activation of the fire alarm systems, location of exits, evacuation procedures, fire reporting procedures, and proper use of extinguishers.
- 2.2.3. Ensure all rooms are numbered either on the door or next to the door.
- 2.2.4. Ensure safe smoking practices and supervision of designated smoking areas.

#### **2.3. The Contractors and Concessionaires shall:**

- 2.3.1. All contractors and concessionaire managers are responsible for enforcing procedures set forth in this instruction.

#### **2.4. The Military Family Housing Occupants shall:**

- 2.4.1. Occupants of privatized military family housing will comply with the fire prevention and safety guidance provided by Balfour Beatty Communities (BBC).

## Chapter 3

### FIRE PREVENTION PRACTICES

**3.1. Fire Reporting.** All fires must be reported to the Fire Department's Emergency Communication Center (ECC) by calling 9-1-1. All fires must be investigated in accordance with DoDI 6055.06.

**3.2. Inspection and Prevention.** The primary responsibility for the 30 CES/CEFP is to monitor and evaluate the unit commander's fire prevention program to ensure compliance within established guidelines. Fire inspectors will visit all facilities at least annually to ensure prompt detection of deficiencies and elimination of fire hazards. These visits do not relieve the commander or the facility manager of the responsibility of identifying deficiencies and hazards in assigned work centers. At the end of each fire prevention visit, an AF Form 1487, Fire Prevention Visit Report, will be issued if fire safety deficiencies are identified. If an AF Form 1487 is issued, the following corrective actions will be taken by the facility manager.

3.2.1. If hazards cannot be corrected on-the-spot, implement interim control measures to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

3.2.2. Fire safety deficiencies (FSD) will be identified on AF Form 1487, programmed for correction through 30 CES Customer Service.

**3.3. Fire Evacuation Drills.** When scheduled and conducted by facility managers or unit safety representatives, fire drills will be coordinated with the 30 CES/CEFP at 606-4680.

**3.4. Assemblies and Recreational Facilities.** These facilities require special precautions to prevent fires due to the potential for high loss of life and property. This type of facility is where 50 or more people meet for deliberation, worship, entertainment, eating, drinking, or amusement. Examples of this type of facility found on Vandenberg are the movie theater, bowling alley, PCC, eating establishments, chapels, and fitness centers.

3.4.1. Managers of assembly facilities or their assistants (designated in writing) are responsible to ensure these facilities are left in a fire-safe condition at the close of business. Designated personnel will conduct daily closing inspections. This requirement will not be delegated to janitorial personnel.

3.4.2. Managers of assembly occupancies will provide a minimum of one facility supervisor, or a designated employee, when the occupant load is expected to exceed 250. This individual is responsible to direct personnel to exits in an orderly manner in the event of an emergency. Where the occupant load exceeds 250, additional designated personnel will be assigned at a ratio of one designated employee for every 250 occupants.

3.4.3. Individuals identified by assembly occupancy managers will complete "Crowd Control Manager" training with 30 CES/CEFP. An AF Form 483 will be completed and given to the facility manager. Training will be accomplished annually.

3.4.4. Fire prevention inspectors will inspect places of assembly before all major social events. It is the responsibility of assembly managers to notify the 30 CES/CEFP at least three workdays prior to any major social event. If temporary decorations are to be used, only fire retardant types will be permitted.

3.4.5. Managers of facilities where commercial or restaurant type cooking is performed must ensure AFMAN 91-203, section 6.2.2 is followed.

**3.5. Vehicle Parking/Storage.** Vehicles and/or trailers will not be parked in any manner that would preclude access by fire department vehicles to all sides of buildings, fire lanes, or within 15-feet of fire hydrants or fire department sprinkler connections.

3.5.1. Vehicles will not be parked within 50 feet of any hangar, munitions storage area, or fuel storage area, except in designated parking spaces or for the purpose of loading and unloading. Vehicles will not be parked unattended in front of hangar doors.

3.5.2. Vehicles will not be parked within 10 feet of any building or structure except in designated parking areas or while loading or unloading.

3.5.3. Motor vehicles will not be parked or stored inside any building unless the area is designated for that purpose. Personnel requesting designated areas must submit a written request, including a drawing of the proposed parking area, to 30 CES/CEFP.

3.5.4. Fuel or oil trucks (loaded or empty) will not enter or park in any building, unless the structure is designated for that purpose.

**3.6. Smoking and Disposal of Smoking Materials.** VSFB is a smoking free installation. No smoking is allowed on base outside of designated smoking areas. No smoking, e-cigs, vaping or smokeless tobacco is allowed inside facilities. For issues concerning smoking near entrances, ventilation intakes or other health issues consult AFI 48-104, *Tobacco Free Living*.

3.6.1. An adequate number of containers with self-closing lids labeled "Smoking Material Only" will be distributed where smoking is permitted. Paper will not be discarded in these receptacles. Smoking materials will not be discarded in wastepaper baskets or other containers used for trash.

**3.7. Electrical.** Installation, adjustments, or alterations of electrical wiring or installed appliances will be accomplished only by qualified licensed electricians or authorized contractors in accordance with National Electric Codes (NEC).

3.7.1. All receptacles, switches, outlet boxes will have required cover plates.

3.7.2. Access to electrical power panels will not be blocked. A 3-foot access clearance is required for electrical equipment (panel boxes, switch boxes, and so forth), unless otherwise required by the NEC.

3.7.3. No device will be installed which interferes with the normal operation of circuit breakers or fuses. All electrical switches in electrical power panels will be correctly labeled to show which circuits or devices they control.

3.7.4. Electrical appliances will be UL® or other recognized testing laboratory certified.

3.7.5. Electrical appliances that do not require continuous operation will be unplugged when not in use. **EXAMPLE:** Residential type coffee pots.

3.7.6. Extension cords will not be used in lieu of permanent wiring. In areas that have insufficient outlets, the facility manager will submit an AF Form 332 to 30 CES Customer Service to have additional outlets installed, or relocate equipment so an extension cord is no longer required. Extension cords are for temporary use and will be rated for the capacity of the equipment being served.

3.7.7. Surge protectors are only authorized for sensitive electrical equipment (that is, printers, computers, monitors, LCD and LED TVs, modems, and routers). Surge protectors can be plugged into uninterruptible power supply (UPS) units.

3.7.8. Electrical cords will not be nailed or stapled to building surfaces. They will not be run through doorways, windows, holes in walls, under rugs or carpets. Cords used for the exterior installation of items such as holiday lights or vehicle plug-in heaters will be weatherproof and attached using devices specifically designed for that purpose. Care will be taken to ensure the cord is not damaged.

3.7.9. Permanent electrical wiring will not be exposed.

3.7.10. Flexible cords will be continuous in length without splices or taps.

3.7.11. Multiple plug adapters are prohibited.

3.7.12. All heat producing devices and major appliances will be plugged directly into a wall outlet. **EXAMPLE:** Coffee pots, microwaves, toasters, portable heaters and refrigerators.

**3.8. Fire Extinguishers.** Fire extinguishers will not be used for any purpose other than fire protection. No person will render any portable fire extinguisher inoperative or inaccessible. Any proven abuse will subject personnel to disciplinary action.

3.8.1. Fire extinguishers will be properly hung or placed into cabinets. Extinguisher cabinets will not be locked.

3.8.2. Fire extinguishers will not be removed or repositioned without approval from the 30 CES/CEFP.

3.8.3. Facility managers are responsible for conducting a monthly visual inspection of all fire extinguishers within their facilities to ensure they are in their designated location and are serviceable.

3.8.4. Fire extinguishers will be kept clear and accessible at all times. A 36-inch clearance is required in all directions.

3.8.5. Signs, directional arrows, targets, red backgrounds, or other means of showing the location of extinguishers are not required, unless the equipment is hard to find without such signs.

3.8.6. Using organizations are responsible for the purchase, maintenance, and proper disposal of extinguishers. All purchases of fire extinguishers will be coordinated with 30 CES/CEFP to ensure proper requirements.

3.8.7. Units, contractors, and 30 RS Det. 1 with flightline fire extinguishers (150-pound halon) that require service, will contact 30 CES/CEFP at 606-4680. Daily inspection of all fire extinguishers is the responsibility of the flightline supervisors. Flightline extinguishers shall be stored within facilities when not in use to the max extent to extend shelf life due to the corrosive environment of the airfield.

3.8.8. 30 CES/CEFP will fund, monitor, track and coordinate maintenance inspections, facilitate TCTO and all maintenance actions for the 150-pound halon fire extinguishers. Additionally, CEFP will coordinate with the 30 OSS Airfield Management, COR, and 30 RS at least 30 days in advance to provide their plan to pick up the extinguishers due scheduled maintenance.

3.8.9. Any discharge of halon from a fire extinguisher must be immediately reported to the Emergency Communication Center at 606-5380 or in case of emergency 9-1-1.

### **3.9. Fire Protection Systems.**

3.9.1. Fire alarm pull boxes will be readily visible and will be located within five feet of an exit door.

3.9.2. Heat/smoke detectors, notification devices, manual pull stations, and sprinkler heads will not be painted, covered, or obstructed from view.

3.9.3. Fire alarm pull boxes, standpipe systems, and fire protection alarm systems and devices will be kept clear and accessible at all times. A minimum access clearance of 36 inches is required.

3.9.4. No person will render any portable or fixed fire extinguishing system or fire alarm warning system inoperative or inaccessible. Any proven abuse will subject personnel to disciplinary action.

### **3.10. Hydrants.**

3.10.1. Parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant is prohibited and may subject the vehicle operator to a traffic citation from law enforcement or the vehicle to be towed.

3.10.2. Fences or barriers will be at least five feet from any hydrant and will not block or obstruct them.

3.10.3. The Emergency Communication Center (606-5380) will be notified of any fire hydrants out of service and given 24 hours' notice of any proposed water shut off which will affect the installation's water distribution system.

### **3.11. Housekeeping.**

3.11.1. Storage under stairs and stairwells is prohibited.

3.11.2. Waste receptacles will be emptied at the end of the workday or as often as necessary to prevent hazardous accumulation. Dumpsters and other central disposal units will be placed at least 10 feet from combustible structures and at least five feet from noncombustible structures.

3.11.3. Metal containers with automatic, self-closing lids will be used to store oily or paint-soaked rags, steel wool, and other hazardous waste materials. Each container will be plainly marked for its intended use. The metal lid will be kept closed and never wedged or blocked open.

3.11.4. Furnace, boiler, mechanical, fan and sprinkler riser rooms in installation facilities will not be used for storage of any type except what is required for maintenance.

**3.12. Warehouse and Storage Practices.** The combustibility and concentration of stored materials directly influence the fire hazards in warehouses and storage areas. The following will apply to all warehouses, supply rooms, or other structures used for the purpose of storing materials:

3.12.1. Maintain a minimum 36-inch distance between any heat producing appliance and combustibles (for example, unit heaters, boilers, and furnaces).

3.12.2. Aisles of at least 36 inches will be maintained for access to exit doors and electrical equipment, or fire safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, standpipes, and fire alarm pull stations.

3.12.3. Compressed gas cylinders containing incompatible gases will not be stored together. Separation of at least 20 feet is required if these types of gases are stored in close proximity to each other; IAW NFPA 1.

3.12.4. When clearance between materials is needed to maintain stock limitations, the following will apply:

3.12.4.1. For areas between 2,000 and 8,000 square feet of floor space containing hazardous materials, aisles four feet wide will be maintained.

3.12.4.2. For more than 8,000 square feet of floor space of stock with moderate or low combustibility, aisles six feet wide will be maintained.

3.12.4.3. Materials will not be stored within 36 inches of fire door openings.

3.12.4.4. Hazardous commodities. A 36-inch clearance is required around all flammable and hazardous chemical storage areas.

3.12.4.5. Clearance of stock items below beams, ceilings, and roofs will be 18 inches. If the material is stacked more than 15 feet high, clearance will be 36 inches.

3.12.5. Storage buildings larger than 120 square feet will not be constructed or placed any closer than 10 feet to the nearest structure, unless otherwise permitted by the most recently adopted version of the International Building Code (IBC).

3.12.6. Packaging material will be stored in self-closing non-combustible containers.

**3.13. Flammable/Combustible Liquids.** POL facilities include any area or building used for storage, dispensing, or handling of any type of flammable/combustible liquids.

3.13.1. All drums or tanks used for the dispensing of flammable/combustible liquids will be properly bonded and grounded in accordance with technical order (TO) 00-25-172, *Ground Servicing of Aircraft and Static/Grounding Bonding*.

3.13.2. Storage of flammable/combustible liquids will be in accordance with AFMAN 91-203, *Air Force Occupational Safety, Fire and Health Standards*, and NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*. Only approved areas, cabinets, and containers will be used.

3.13.3. All fuel spills will be reported to the fire department immediately. Efforts will be made to prevent spills from entering sewer systems, ditches or water systems.

**3.14. Hot Work.** Welding, cutting, or brazing will not be accomplished until a valid AF Form 592, *USAF Welding, Cutting, and Brazing Permit*, has been issued by a fire department representative or an individual trained by 30 CES/CEFP. Compliance with the requirements set forth in NFPA 51B, *Fire Prevention during Welding, Cutting, and other Hot Work*, and AFMAN 91- 203, Chapter 27, *Welding, Cutting, and Brazing*, is mandatory. Contractors and installation employees may be trained, by 30 CES/CEFP, to issue routine welding permits.

3.14.1. Hot work permit training certificates are issued by 30 CES/CEFP and are valid for one year from date of issue. Call 606-4680 for a class schedule. Permits are not required in welding shops/areas authorized by 30 CES/CEFP.

3.14.2. The use of a blowtorch or any makeshift appliance for paint removal or burning designs on wood is prohibited.

3.14.3. Aircraft welding must comply with AFMAN 91-203, Chapter 27, NFPA 410, *Aircraft Maintenance*, and applicable maintenance operating instruction (MOI). Permits of this nature will be issued by 30 CES/CEFP with the concurrence of safety and bioenvironmental engineering.

3.14.4. Facility managers must be informed of hot work operations prior to starting, and any hot work permits for hazardous areas are required to be issued by 30 CES/CEFP.

3.14.5. Hot Work permit must be requested at least 48 hours prior to hot-work being conducted.

**3.15. Open Burning, Recreational Fires, and Fireworks.** Open burning, including the burning of rubbish and similar material, is strictly prohibited on this installation.

3.15.1. All open fires including, but not limited to: bonfires or campfires require a burn permit from the 30 CES/CEFP at least 48 hours prior to the event.

3.15.2. Fireworks (including bottle rockets, roman candles, sparklers, firecrackers, and so forth) are prohibited on this installation.

3.15.3. The burning of candles or incense is prohibited (to include dormitories) with the following exceptions:

3.15.3.1. During religious services in installation chapels.

3.15.4. Barbecue grills, outdoor fireplaces, smokers, and other open flame cooking appliances will not be operated indoors, on a combustible deck, or within 10 feet of any combustible structure. Charcoal will be thoroughly soaked with water before disposal.

**3.16. Decorations.** Decorative materials such as streamers, crepe paper, scenery, cotton batting, straw, and hay must have documentation from manufacturer stating the item is fire resistant. Contact 30 CES/CEFP to assist in determining fire resistance of materials.

3.16.1. Christmas tree lighting and wiring must bear the UL® seal of approval and be in good condition. Outdoor lighting and extension cords used for that purpose will be weatherproof and will be specifically designed for use outdoors.

3.16.2. Fresh/real/live Christmas trees are prohibited from all areas of the installation with the exception of base housing. Trees will not obstruct egress to exits and must be kept away from sources of heat. Trees will be watered daily and disposed of when they stop absorbing water.

3.16.3. Artificial trees are authorized to be used in government facilities. Artificial trees will be certified as flame retardant by the manufacturer.

3.16.3.1. Powered/lighted decorations will not be left plugged-in when the facility or room is unoccupied.

3.16.4. Persons living in dormitories, including individual rooms may display Christmas decorations to include small artificial trees only. All previously listed fire-safety requirements apply.

3.16.5. Decorations cannot be attached to building lighting devices or sprinkler systems.

3.16.6. Fog or smoke machines cannot be used without approval from 30 CES/CEFP.

**3.17. Heat Producing Appliances.** Only qualified repair personnel are permitted to install and perform maintenance on heating systems.

3.17.1. Portable electric space heaters must be UL® listed/labeled and only used in areas for which they are listed. Heaters will only be plugged into approved receptacles. Use of extension cords with these heaters is not permitted. Electric heaters shall not be operated within three feet of any combustible materials. All portable electric heaters will be equipped with an automatic shut-off device that will shut off the heater if it tips over. Portable electric heaters must be unplugged when not in use.

3.17.2. Appliances that create large electrical current draw such as electric fry pans, deep fat fryers, toaster ovens, electric broilers, tabletop electric grills, electric woks, and hot plates cannot be used without written approval from 30 CES/CEFP. All cooking devices must be plugged directly into a wall receptacle and not a power strip.

**3.18. Exit and Exit Access.** Exit doors in facilities will be kept unobstructed and unlocked at all times while the facility is occupied. Draperies, decorations, or placards will not block exit signs or doors.

3.18.1. All emergency exit doors in places of public assembly and other facilities, as outlined in the Life Safety Code, will be equipped with panic hardware. No lock, padlock, hasp, bar, chain, or other devices will be installed or maintained on any exit door equipped with panic hardware.

3.18.2. Facility emergency lighting and illuminated exit signs will be operational at all times. Facility manager will test these devices monthly and document results. If either are inoperable, a work order will be established for repairs.

3.18.3. Prior to blocking any door or exit, the facility manager will contact the 30 CES/CEFP for approval.

3.18.4. Hangings or draperies will not be placed over exit doors or otherwise be located to conceal or obscure any exit. Mirrors will not be placed on exit doors. Mirrors will not be placed in or adjacent to any exit in such a manner as to confuse the direction of exit.

**3.19. Cooking.** Cooking is prohibited in all buildings except those specifically designated with kitchen facilities or pre-approved by 30 CES/CEFP. Cooking must be supervised at all times.

3.19.1. Coffee makers, soup warmers, hot air popcorn poppers, microwave ovens, and toasters are permitted for use in offices, shops, day rooms, unaccompanied personnel quarters, and like buildings or rooms. These items must be supervised while in use. All appliances must bear the UL® label or other recognized testing agency seals of approval. These appliances will not be plugged into systems furniture or extension cords. External timers are not authorized.

3.19.2. The use of open-coil hot plates, oil-type popcorn poppers, and noncommercial deep-fat fryers inside facilities is prohibited in other than commercial facilities, unless pre-approved by the 30 CES/CEFP.

**3.20. Wildland/Urban Interface.**

3.20.1. Much of Vandenberg SFB's vegetation/brush is highly flammable Southern California chaparral. Many base facilities are scattered throughout our 99,000 plus acres and are at risk from wildfires. Vegetation/brush control becomes critical in managing the fire threat. A 100-foot defensible space is the best fire prevention tool. Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three ignition zones increases the chances the facility will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the Immediate Zone: 0 to 5 feet; Intermediate Zone: 5 to 30 feet; and the Extended Zone: 30 to 100 feet.

**Figure 3.1. Ignition Zone Clearances.**

### 3.20.2. Ignition Zone Clearances.

#### 3.20.2.1. Immediate Zone.

3.20.2.1.1. The building and the area 0-5' from the furthest attached exterior point of the structure; defined as a non-combustible area. Science tells us this is the most important zone to take immediate action on as it is the most vulnerable to embers. Start with the building itself then move into the landscaping section of the Immediate Zone.

3.20.2.1.1.1. Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.

3.20.2.1.1.2. Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.

3.20.2.1.1.3. Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.

3.20.2.1.1.4. Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.

3.20.2.1.1.5. Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows. Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.

3.20.2.1.1.6. Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

### 3.20.2.2. Intermediate Zone.

3.20.2.2.1. The area 5-3-‘ from the furthest exterior point of the building. Landscaping/hardscaping – employ careful landscaping or create breaks that can help influence and decrease fire behavior.

3.20.2.2.1.1. Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.

3.20.2.2.1.2. Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.

3.20.2.2.1.3. Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches.

3.20.2.2.1.4. Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground; for shorter trees, do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.

3.20.2.2.1.5. Space trees to have a minimum of eighteen feet between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.

3.20.2.2.1.6. Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than ten feet to the edge of the structure.

3.20.2.2.1.7. Trees and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

### 3.20.2.3. Extended Zone.

3.20.2.3.1. 30-100 feet, out to 200 feet. Landscaping – the goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire’s path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.

3.20.2.3.1.1. Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.

3.20.2.3.1.2. Remove dead plant and tree material.

3.20.2.3.1.3. Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.

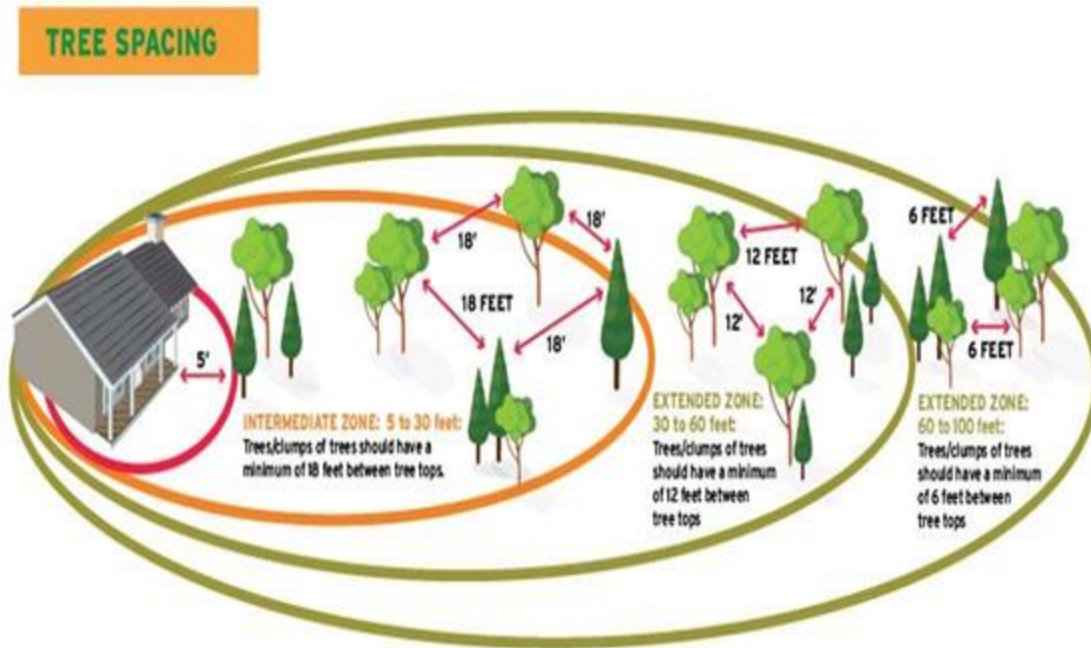
3.20.2.3.1.4. Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.

3.20.2.3.1.5. Trees 30-60 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops.

3.20.2.3.1.6. Trees 60-100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops.\*

3.20.2.3.1.6.1. **NOTE:\*** The distances listed for crown spacing are suggested based on NFPA Standards. However, the crown spacing needed to reduce/prevent crown fire potential could be significantly greater due to slope, the species of trees involved and other site specific conditions.

Figure 3.2. Tree Spacing.



3.20.2.4. Special vegetation/brush clearance consideration for mission critical or high hazard facilities in urban interface areas will be assessed on a case by case basis through the Fire Prevention Office.

3.20.2.5. Where slope and fire hazards warrant, the clearance and thinning will be increased to fit the conditions. Appropriate clearance will be determined by the Fire Prevention Office.

3.20.2.6. Remove vegetation/brush within the diked area around any flammable fuel tank.

3.20.2.7. Remove vegetation/brush from within a 50-foot area around any stationary fuel-dispensing unit.

3.20.2.8. Do not store grass cuttings in paper bags, cardboard boxes or other combustible containers in or adjacent to any building or structure.

**3.21. Commercial Food Service Facilities.** All commercial food service facilities on base shall be maintained to prevent the loss of US Air Force resources. Grease and heat removal hoods, ducts and exhausts at these facilities shall be cleaned and deep fat fryers must be calibrated regularly. Unit commanders will appoint in writing a Quality Assurance Evaluator for cleaning, maintenance and testing performed under a service contract. The Quality Assurance Evaluator is usually accomplished by the facility manager. Refer to NFPA 96 (current edition), *Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations* for compliance.

3.21.1. Follow NFPA 96 (2017 edition) Table 11.4 *Schedule of Inspection for Grease Buildup* to determine the frequency that grease and heat removal hoods, ducts and exhausts shall be inspected. If the exhaust system is contaminated with deposits from grease-laden vapors it must be cleaned IAW NFPA 96 Section 11.6 *Cleaning of Exhaust Systems*. Inspections and cleaning must be performed by a properly trained, qualified and certified person.

3.21.2. Deep fat fryers and other cooking equipment must be serviced at least annually by properly trained and qualified persons IAW NFPA 96 Section 11.7 *Cooking Equipment Maintenance*. Maintenance and repairs shall be performed on all components at intervals necessary to maintain good working condition (NFPA 96 4.1.3.1).

**3.22. Fire Department Vehicle Access.** (UFC 3-500-01, Fire Protection Engineering For Facilities, 14 July 2009).

3.22.1. All-Weather Ground Access. All buildings greater than 465 m (5,000 sq ft), or more than two stories in height must have at least one means of all-weather ground access to allow emergency vehicles unimpeded access to the building. All-weather ground access must be paved, start from the road, and terminate no farther than 10 m (33 ft) from the building.

3.22.2. Vehicle Access. All force protection equipment, such as bollards or gates, must not require more than one person to remove or open. Access may require fire apparatus to drive over a curb. Any locking device controlling vehicle access must be under control of the Fire Department or 24-hour security personnel located at the specific facility. Dimensions of fire lanes and turnarounds must comply with NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code.

ROBERT A. LONG, Colonel, USSF  
Commander

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFJMAN 23-210, *Joint Service Manual (JSM) for Storage and Materials Handling*, 12 April 1994

AFPD 32-20, *Fire Protection*, 10 July 2018

AFI 32-2001, *Fire Emergency Services Program*, 27 September 2018

AFI 32-6000, *Housing Management*, 18 March 2020

AFI 32-10141, *Planning and Programming Fire Safety Deficiency Correction Projects*, 14 May 2019

AFMAN 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 23 March 2020

AFI 48-104, *Tobacco Free Living*, 11 July 2019

AFI 91-202, *The USAF Mishap Prevention Program*, 11 March 2020

AFMAN 91-203, *Air Force Occupational Safety, Fire and Health Standards*, 07 September 2020

DOD Instruction 6055.6, *Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Services Program*, 3 October 2019

TO 00-25-172, *Ground Servicing of Aircraft and Static/Grounding Bonding*, 21 February 2008

NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, 2019 Edition

NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*, 2021 Edition

NFPA 33, *Spray Application Using Flammable or Combustible Materials*, 2021 Edition

NFPA 51B, *Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work*, 2019 Edition

NFPA 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*, 2020 Edition

NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, 2019 Edition

NFPA 96, *Standard for Ventilation and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations*, 2021 Edition

NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, 2021 Edition

NFPA 410, *Standard on Aircraft Maintenance*, 2020 Edition

NFPA 1144, *Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire*, 2018 Edition

UFC 3-600-01, *Fire Protection Engineering for Facilities*, 6 May 2021

***Prescribed Forms***

None

*Adopted Forms*

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

*Abbreviations and Acronyms*

**AC**—Administrative Change

**AFDPO**—Air Force Departmental Publishing Office

**AFH**—Air Force Handbook

**AHJ**—Authority Having Jurisdiction

**BBC**—Balfour Beatty Communities

**CES**—Civil Engineer Squadron

**CFR**—Code of Federal Regulations

**ECC**—Emergency Communications Center

**FSD**—Fire Safety Deficiencies

**IAW**—In accordance with

**IBC**—International Building Code

**IFC**—Installation Fire Chief

**JSM**—Joint Service Manual

**LCD**—Liquid Crystal Display

**LED**—Light-emitting Diode

**MOI**—Maintenance Operating Instruction

**NEC**—National Electric Codes

**NFPA**—National Fire Protection Association

**OSHA**—Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**OSS**—Operations Support Squadron

**PCC**—Pacific Coast Club

**RS**—Reconnaissance Squadron

**UEPH**—Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing

**UFC**—Unified Facilities Criteria

**UPS**—Uninterruptible Power Source

**VQ**—Visiting Quarters

**VSFB**—Vandenberg Space Force Base

*Terms*

**Accountable Forms**—Forms that the Air Force stringently controls and which cannot be released to unauthorized personnel, since their misuse could jeopardize DOD security or result in fraudulent financial gain or claims against the government.

**Administrative Change**—Change that does not affect the subject matter content, authority, purpose, application, and/or implementation of the publication (e.g., changing the POC name, office symbol(s), fixing misspellings, etc.)

**Approval Authority**—Senior leader responsible for contributing to and implementing policies and guidance/procedures pertaining to his/her functional area(s) (e.g., heads of functional two-letter offices).

**Authentication**—Required element to verify approval of the publication; the approval official applies his/her signature block to authenticate the publication. The signature block includes the official's name, rank, and title (not signature).