



STANDARDS & GUIDELINES FOR RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

TASK

Help local Fire Departments and /or Planning Boards gather information and adopt community wide development standards for rural fire protection.

DESCRIPTION

These development standards and guidelines can assist the fire department and planning boards in adopting requirements for new development. These standards would allow for expedient response of fire apparatus, recommend ways to limit spread of fire to adjacent structures and help property owners in protecting their property from fire.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- Useful guidelines to allow access and egress for fire and other emergency vehicles as well as possible evacuation of residents.
- Plan for establishing quickly accessible water sources for fire suppression.
- Recommendations for landscape architects and homeowners to keep flammable vegetation and other incendiary materials away from structures.
- Aid residents and emergency response personnel to quickly locate a residence (house numbers and road names).

- Allow developers and municipality to know what is expected prior to land clearing, building and possible demands on fire department resources.

GUIDELINES

- Locate sufficient water sources (natural or man made and year round) to adequately protect structures.
- Make sure road widths are sufficient for two-way fire apparatus movement.
- Ensure that bridges and other structures will support fire trucks.
- Roads should provide liberal areas for emergency vehicles to turn and reverse direction (turning radius at cul-de-sacs).
- Driveways and houses should be visible and identified so they can be located in emergency situations.
- No flammable material should be within reach of structures. Information for maintaining defensible space should be made available to residents.
- Conduct fire prevention and safety workshops in regional areas to introduce fire education message to residents.

REFERENCES

- National Fire Protection Association
299 Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire. Available from:
National Fire Protection Association
1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101,
Quincy Mass., 02269-9101 (617) 770-3000
- Information Brochures from N.H. Division of Forests and Lands reference Protecting Your Home From Wildfire, Construction and Use of Incinerators.
- Information reference Outdoor Burning and Fire Permits, available from your local fire department.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

- N.H. Fire Prevention Society
P.O. Box 130
432 Daniel Webster Hwy.
Merrimack, N.H. 03054
- New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development
Division of Forests and Lands
Forest Protection Bureau
P.O. Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856, (603) 271-2217
- New Hampshire Department of Safety
State Fire Marshal's Office
10 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH, 03301
(603) 271-3294

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