

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Bureau's mission is to save lives and protect property through fire prevention education, inspection, and engineering efforts. The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for a variety of life/safety programs aimed at enhancing the safety of the entire community. The Prevention staff is responsible for administering the California Fire Code, Title 19 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations, the Redlands Municipal Code and a variety of other nationally accepted standards and practices. These codes relate to compliance with fire and life safety requirements set by local, state and federal government and apply to new and existing building occupancies. The Fire Prevention Bureau also provides services in the areas of new construction plan review and construction inspections, hazard abatement, weed abatement and fuel modification. Prevention personnel also oversee annual fire/life safety inspections of all businesses within the City of Redlands. The Fire Prevention Bureau consists of one Fire Marshal and an Administrative Assistant II.

The Fire Prevention Bureau manages the Redlands Fire Department's Fire Safety Inspection program, which seeks to provide annual safety inspections of all businesses within the City of Redlands. Fire Prevention personnel handle the scheduling, all associated record keeping, and invoicing for this citywide program. An annual inspection is conducted to ensure all life/safety factors at a given property are in compliance with all applicable codes. This includes such components as exits, structural condition of the building, fire apparatus access, and fire safety systems. Additional areas of concern include any hazardous processes or operations and insuring all appropriate permits are in place. Annual inspections also serve as a means of fire pre-planning, so that fire crews are familiar with a property in the event of an emergency at the location. All new businesses are also subject to an initial Certificate of Occupancy inspection upon first opening for business. The requirements for a Certificate of Occupancy are the same as those for an annual inspection and serve as the annual inspection for the first year of operation.

Many properties require at least one follow-up inspection to ensure compliance and some require several re-inspections and citations to insure all safety concerns are met. Although Operations Division personnel conduct the majority of these inspections, Fire Prevention personnel inspect larger and more complex occupancies such as high-rise buildings, factories, hospitals, schools, theatres, warehouses, and manufacturing facilities using hazardous materials or processes, because inspections of those properties require specialized training. Prevention Bureau personnel ensure that all safety systems (e.g., smoke detection, fire detection, fire alarm, smoke control, emergency communication systems) in these occupancies are installed in accordance with applicable standards and that these systems are inspected and tested on a regular basis. Inspections ensure that occupancies that use, store or produce hazardous materials and substances have disclosed accurate reports of quantities and that the operations are in compliance with applicable standards. Additional inspections are performed for special events involving large gatherings, fireworks and as a result of citizen complaints regarding potential fire hazards.

Plan Reviews-2009

The Fire Prevention Bureau oversees the design and development of all commercial and residential structures within the City of Redlands as they pertain to applicable state and local fire/life safety standards. Plan review is also done on a variety of fire/life safety systems including fire sprinklers, fire alarms and hood and duct extinguishing systems. Staff drafts conditions for development review and approves plans for construction. Field inspections are conducted throughout the construction process. The Fire Marshal represents the Department on the Environmental Review Committee, Development Review and Preliminary Review committees as well as in meetings with a variety of builders, developers and other concerned individuals.

Fire Safety Inspections - 2009

Operations Division	2,375
Fire Prevention Bureau	854
Certificate of Occupancy	131
Fireworks Displays Inspected	9

Plan Reviews 2009

New Single Family Dwelling Plans	5
Residential Remodel Plans	48
New Commercial Plans	11
Commercial Tenant Improvement Plans	51
Fire Sprinkler/Fire Alarm Plans	84

Parcels Inspected	3233
Parcels cleaned by City Crews	174

Weed Abatement Program-2009

Wildland fire hazard reduction efforts are a focus of the Fire Prevention Bureau, which administers the department's Weed Abatement and Fuel Modification Programs. The Fuel Modification Program is enforced in the urban/wildland interface in the high fire hazard areas of the city. Prevention personnel review plans for appropriate vegetation buffers between structures and wildland areas in an effort to mitigate the impact of wildfires. Fire Hazard reduction through the department's Weed Abatement Program is conducted each spring and fall. Property owners are notified through postings in local newspapers that it is time to clear all weeds and dead growth from properties throughout the entire city. Prevention personnel conduct an inspection of all affected properties for compliance and then direct contracted abatement crews to clear any properties that have not been cleaned by the owners. Property owners are billed for the cost of the cleaning plus an administrative fee. Unpaid weed abatement bills result in the attachment of a lien against the parcel. A reduction in the number and severity of vegetation fires has resulted from this program.

Fire Safety Programs

The Fire Prevention Bureau conducts a variety of fire safety programs throughout the year. Programs include fire extinguisher demonstrations and training, fire safety talks, school visits and other public outreach functions. The annual observance of National Fire Prevention Week in October involved Engine Company visits to all of the elementary schools within the city and culminated in an Open House at Fire Station 261. During that week alone contact was made with over 5,000 members of the community.