



# Riverside County Fire Department

## Office of the Fire Marshal

2300 Market St., Ste. 150, Riverside, CA 92501 Ph. (951) 955-4777 Fax (951) 955-4886

## Technical Policy

<b>Title:</b> Stand-Alone Cellular and Hilltop Radio Communication Equipment Sites		
<b>Technical Policy:</b> # TP 19-001	<b>Effective Date:</b> 08/15/2019	<b>Revised Date:</b> 01/07/2020
<b>Code References:</b> 2019 California Fire Code Sections 104.1, 503, 507 and NFPA 704		

### Purpose

The Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has prepared this policy to provide guidance to building officials, contractors, architects, business owners, consultants and the general public on local interpretations and practices that are considered to be in compliance with the 2019 California Fire Code (CFC). The purpose is to identify general fire code requirements for stand-alone cellular and hilltop radio communication equipment sites. The intent is to clarify aspects of the code that are vague or non-specific by addressing selected issues under normal conditions. The requirements of this policy shall not be construed as altering any existing code, law or regulation which may require fire protection features not covered or alluded to in these requirements, nor shall they waive any requirements of any code, law or regulation. The reader is cautioned that the guidance detailed in this policy may or may not apply to their specific situation, and that the OFM retains final authority to determine compliance.

### Scope

Requirements in this policy apply to normally non-occupied new, reconstructed, or relocated stand-alone cellular and hilltop radio communication equipment sites. Requirements apply to both single use (one transmitter) and shared use (multiple transmitters) sites. These general minimum requirements are based on a typical site with antenna, all-weather equipment vault/cabinet, battery back-up system and/or emergency power generator and perimeter fence to secure the site. Sites that propose additional uses/activities/equipment or are Radio Communication Equipment Sites designated as critical infrastructure by the Fire Chief may have supplemental requirements. Within unincorporated County additional Transportation and Land Management Agency (TLMA) requirements may apply and for partner cities please check with the local city for requirements above and beyond what is included in this policy. This policy does not apply when the equipment is located within or on a building.

### Requirements

#### Access

Roadways installed and maintained by the cellular company/radio agency solely for maintenance of their equipment shall be deemed acceptable. Roadways to the site shall not be required to be installed and maintained to support fire apparatus.

#### Water Supply

No additional water supply for fire protection is required.

#### Gates and Barriers

Gates or other barriers across access roadways and at entrances to sites shall provide rapid reliable access by means of a Knox Box or Knox Padlock in an accessible location to provide immediate access for life safety and/or firefighting purposes. The Knox product and its location shall be approved.

#### Emergency and Standby Power

Emergency power systems, standby power systems and uninterrupted power supplies shall be in accordance with the CFC. Sign(s) designed in accordance with NFPA Standard 704 must be posted as applicable.