



October 23, 2014

Subject: Update on Firefighter Breathing Air Replenishment System

To: All Interested Parties

This notice is to give an update on Firefighter Breathing Air Replenishment System (FBARS) required on new high-rise buildings in the City of San Jose.

The City has adopted the 2013 California Fire Code (CFC) under Ordinance # 29349 with an effective date of January 10, 2014; FBARS is currently excluded in the body of the ordinance. On May 13, 2014, staff was directed by council to prepare a proposed amendment to the code as previously amended in December 2013 mandating FBARS requirement for any building having floors used for human occupancy located more than seventy-five (75) feet above the lowest level of the fire department vehicular or personnel access, whichever access is more restrictive as determined by the Fire Chief: any building with two or more stories underground: and tunnels over five hundred (500) feet in length: any building where the fire apparatus access point is located more than one-hundred and fifty (150) feet from the nearest entrance to the building.

Staff prepared the ordinance amending the Code to require (FBARS) as outlined above. The amendment to the code resulting from this ordinance will be in addition to the code previously adopted by council in December of 2013. The Council will consider this Ordinance on November 4, 2014.

Our recommendation to all developers, builders, and design professionals is to design high rise structures with FBARS. This requirement will not apply when an application for a building permit is submitted to the Building Department prior to the effective date of the ordinance. Any applications submitted after the effective date will be required to install FBARS. Plans submitted in Planning will be advised to provide FBARS when applicable. It should be noted that submittals to the Planning Department does not count as submitted to Building Department for construction permit.

The status of FBARS will be posted on our website as soon as it becomes effective. The link is at (<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=197>). Our engineering staff will also be available to answer questions; main line is (408)535-7750.

Sincerely,


Johnny Dellinger
Interim Assistant Fire Chief