Medical Cannabis Facility: Regulatory Update

17th Annual South County Environmental Compliance Workshop
Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Dorothy Priolo
Deputy Fire Marshal
Monterey County Regional Fire District
dpriolo@mcrfd.org
Medical Cannabis

Regulatory Steps in Fire Safety

Planning – Use Permit
Building – Construction Permit
Fire – Operation & Maintenance
Monterey County Planning

- Development Review Committee
- Pre-Application Meeting to review requirements for your site
- Use Permit
  - Formal submittal of plans to illustrate Medical Cannabis site, buildings, operations, etc.
Monterey County Building

- Building Permit(s)

Change of occupancy classification per California Building Code

- Greenhouses (possible)
- Former Packing Sheds
- Other Processing Buildings
Local Fire Agency

- Operational Permits for Haz Mat
- Fire Protection Systems
- Site Design for Access
- Perimeter Management (fencing)
- Water System
- Specific Growing and Processing Systems
Planning Your Facility Before the Medical Cannabis Permits

- **Cannabis Industry Consultant** – Educate Permitting Agencies
- **Architect** – Illustrate & Design Your Site
- **Civil and/or Mechanical Engineer** – Coordinate Systems
- **Fire Protection Engineer** – Specialized Processes
Planning Your Facility Before the Medical Cannabis Permits

• Development Review Committee (DRC)
• Site Visit
• Collaborative Design to Adapt New & Existing Sites
• Existing Buildings
• New Buildings
Greenhouses

Many existing greenhouses may remain Group U “Agricultural” building code classification if traditional growing methods remain.
Existing Warehouses & Packing Sheds

Uses for processing of cannabis are treated in the California Building Code:
  • Group F-1 Occupancies
  • Similar to Tobacco and Hemp
  • All Post-Cultivation Activities
New Buildings

Classified based on their activities.

Uses for processing of cannabis are treated in the California Building Code:

- Group F-1 Occupancies
- Fire Sprinkler Systems
- Fire Alarm Systems
- Specialized Alarm Systems
Designing Cannabis Sites

Security vs. Fire Emergency Response

Occupant Access Control vs. Egress

Perimeter Fences & Gates vs. Existing Site Constraints
Designing Cannabis Sites

Proprietary, Site-Specific Issues:
   Lighting

Heating & Ventilation

Compressed Gases
Requirements vs. Features

California Fire Code
California Building Code

Site-Specific Needs
Facilitate Emergency Response

- Hazardous Materials Release
- Fire
- Medical Emergencies
Often enhance everyday business activities

- Deliveries
- Security
- Employee Activities
Hazardous Materials

Chemicals

Crop Management
Traditional Hazardous Materials

- Process Chemicals
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
What site elements help emergency responders?

- Address Posting
- Roadway
- Gate Entry
- Knox Box
- Building I.D.
- Room I.D.
- Utility Shut-Offs
- Product I.D.
Site Address

Minimum 4 inch numbers on side streets.

Up to 12 inch numbers on highways or large properties.
Roadway Entering Business Site

Minimum 20 or 24 ft. wide

Clear vertical height 13’6”
Business Site

Clear signage
Inside the secured area

On Building
Or
Intersection Signage
Roadway Entering Business Site

Entry Gate
Opening Width is Same as Width of the Roadway
Roadway Entering Business Site

Gates
Ready for Fire Response

Knox Padlock
Knox Key Switch
Knox Box for Building Access

- Premises Keys
- Small Site Map
- Commodities List

www.knoxbox.com
Building Identification on Site

Main Office

Multiple Buildings on Campus

Building I.D. on All Sides
Room Identification

- Electrical Room
- Mechanical Room
- Critical Processes
NFPA 704 Placards

Find Hazards Info on MSDS

Post Sign with Summary of Hazards from all Products
Utilities

Ensure Visibility of Outdoor Disconnects

Gas

Electricity
Next Generation of Agriculture

- A blend of traditional agricultural practices
- Newly legitimate hazardous processes