



## CITY OF ATASCADERO Fire & Emergency Services

### SOLAR PHOTVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Approved solar photovoltaic power systems shall be installed as outlined in the 2022 California Fire Code Chapter 12, Section 1205 with the following local amendments:

**1205.2 Access and Pathways.** Roof access, pathways and spacing requirements shall be provided in accordance with Sections 1205.2.1 through 1205.3.3. Pathways shall be over areas capable of supporting fire fighters accessing the roof. No portion of a pathway shall be located on a portion of a gable roof overhanging the gable rafter or truss. Pathways shall be located in areas with minimal obstructions, such as vent pipes, conduit or mechanical equipment.

Exceptions:

1. Detached, non-habitable Group U structures including, but not limited to, detached garages serving Group R-3 buildings, parking shade structures, carports, solar trellises and similar structures.
2. Building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems where the BIPV systems are approved, integrated into the finished roof surface and are listed in accordance with a national test standard developed to address Section 690.12(B)(2) of the California Electrical Code. The removal or cutting away of portions of the BIPV system during fire-fighting operations shall not expose a fire fighter to electrical shock hazards.
3. Roof access, pathways and spacing requirements need not be provided where the fire code official has determined that rooftop operations will not be employed.

**1205.2.1.3 has been deleted.**

**1205.2.2 Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings.** Panels and modules installed on Group R-3 buildings shall not be placed on the portion of a roof that is below an emergency escape and rescue opening. A pathway of not less than 36 inches (914 mm) wide shall be provided from the emergency escape and rescue opening to the eave directly below and a 36-inch-wide (914 mm) access space shall be provided directly in front of the full length of the wall line containing the emergency escape and rescue opening(s).

**1205.5 Ground-Mounted Photovoltaic Panel Systems.** Ground-mounted photovoltaic panel systems shall be installed in accordance with this section. Arrays shall be located a minimum of 20 feet (6,096mm) from other structures and shall not be located as to impeded access to and around a structure in any manner. Arrays shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from the rear, 5 feet from the sides, and 25 feet from the front of the property lines. Array mounts shall be non-combustible construction. No storage shall be permitted under the panel arrays. Arrays shall not be located upon biological conservation easements, riparian or vernal pool area.