



**COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION BUREAU MANUAL  
DEVELOPMENT POLICIES  
425.11 DRIVEWAY AND ACCESS ROAD MAXIMUM SLOPE  
OF GRADE  
EFFECTIVE: APRIL 1, 2016  
AUTHORIZED: *R. Pearce***

## **SCOPE**

Access road maximum slope of grade.

## **PURPOSE**

This policy clarifies the District's requirements for the access road maximum slope of grade.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

1. The maximum allowable slope of grade is 18%.
2. The maximum road grade of 18% may be exceeded with written permission from the Fire Chief in unusual situations. Any portions of access roads given permission to exceed 18% slope of grade shall be in accordance with the following provisions:
  - a) No portion of the road may exceed 21% slope of grade, and
  - b) The road surface where the slope exceeds 18% shall be of scored concrete for traction, and
  - c) The area above 18% shall not exceed 200 feet in length within any 1000' of access roadway, and
  - d) No portion of the access road or driveway shall be less than 16' wide.
  - e) All structures receiving access from the roadway shall incorporate additional built in fire-resistive construction features as outlined here:

- 1) Exterior walls shall be constructed with materials approved for a minimum of one-hour-rated fire resistive construction on the exterior side or constructed with non combustible materials.
  - 2) Eaves and soffits shall be protected on the exposed underside by materials approved for a minimum of one-hour-rated fire resistive construction. Fascias are required and must be protected on the backside by materials approved for a minimum of one-hour-rated fire resistive construction or 2-inch (51mm) nominal dimension lumber.
  - 3) Gutters and downspouts shall be constructed of noncombustible material.
  - 4) All under floor areas shall be enclosed to the ground with exterior walls.
  - 5) Automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be installed that are designed to a minimum 13R standard.
3. In areas governed by the State's Public Resources Code section 4290, the maximum allowable slope of grade is 16% (Title 14).

## **CROSS REFERENCES**

California Fire Code