

NOVATO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE LOSS MANAGEMENT DIVISION



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Fire Protection Standard 507

PAINT REMOVAL OPERATIONS

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This standard is promulgated pursuant to Article 11 of the Uniform Fire Code as adopted by the Novato Fire Protection District.

The Uniform Fire Code allows the use of torches to heat paint to remove the paint from buildings. The Code also prohibits fire hazards to exist. Based on past experience the Novato Fire Protection District and many other fire departments in the United States, require a pre-inspection to determine if the use of the torch will present a fire hazard.

The determination of whether the use of a torch will create a fire hazard will be based on the age of the building and the materials and methods of construction. If the use of a torch on a building is determined not to be a fire hazard, the following conditions will apply:

1. No permit will be required.
2. During all torch operating hours there shall be a telephone available in the building for immediate use.
 - a. Contractor must call before beginning operation.
 - b. Contractor must call after the end of the fire watch period.
 - c. All fires shall be immediately reported to the Fire District.
3. No burning shall take place under the following climate conditions:
 - a. Temperature greater than 85°F.
 - b. Wind speed greater than 15 mph.
4. There shall be a hose attached to a continuous water supply that can reach all areas affected. The hose line shall be charged at all times with shut off nozzle.
5. A fire watch, other than the person with the torch, shall be kept at all times during and for one (1) hour after all burning.

Paint removal contractors are encouraged to use alternative methods such as heat guns, scraping, blasting, or chemical treatment. The Fire District would also like to point out that some older paints may contain lead, arsenic, and mercury which may pose a hazard and may require a Hazardous Materials Health and Safety Plan to be filed for such operation.