



Fairfax Fire Department
15 Goodall Street
Fairfax, Vermont 05454
(802) 849-6075
fire@fairfax-vt.gov

Memorandum

To: Solar PV System Installers/Building Owners
From: Fairfax Fire Department
Date: May 8, 2017
Subject: Installation of Building Mounted Solar PV Systems

The intent of this memorandum is to provide Solar PV system installers and property owners that are interested in having a building mounted solar PV system installed on their property, with notification that the Town of Fairfax has adopted an ordinance, which in-part addresses these installations.

The Town of Fairfax has adopted a “Building Inspection, Code Enforcement, and Fire Safety Ordinance. Section 16 of this Ordinance addresses Building Mounted Solar PV Systems. Below is the text of Section 16;

Section 16 - Building Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems

- (1) All building-Mounted Solar Voltaic Installations, installed after this ordinance becomes effective, shall be installed in accordance with the most current edition of NFPA 1, that has been adopted by the State of Vermont. No residential buildings shall be exempt.
- (1) A “Fairfax PV Solar System Installation Checklist” and detailed plans for the layout of the planned PV array, shall be submitted prior to the installation of any Building Mounted Solar Voltaic System.
- (2) The Checklist and plans shall be approved by the Fire Department prior to installation.
- (3) Building mounted arrays that do not have the specified “eve to ridge” pathways and “ridge setbacks” as outlined in NFPA 1, shall not be approved.
- (4) Conduit runs shall not restrict access to “pathways” and/or “ridge setbacks”.
- (5) After the panels and conduit are installed, and prior to placing the array into service, the installation shall be inspected by the FD, to verify compliance with NFPA 1 labeling, setbacks, and pathway requirements.
- (6) A certificate of compliance shall be issued by the Fire Department prior to the array being placed in service.
- (7) The installer shall be subject to a civil penalty if the array is placed into service prior to receiving a certificate of compliance.

This Ordinance does not in relieve any party from the requirements of the State of Vermont, regarding obtaining Building/Construction Permits and/or Electrical Work Notices through the Division of Fire Safety, or any other needed permits as required by the State of Vermont.

Prior to the installation of a building mounted solar PV systems installed in the Town of Fairfax, the “Fairfax PV Solar System Installation Checklist” must be submitted and approved by the Fairfax FD. This checklist is available from the FD, and in the “Fire Department” section of the “Documents & Forms” page of the Fairfax VT Web Site; <http://www.fairfax-vt.gov/documents>



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Once the system has been installed on the building, the Fire Department will perform an inspection, and issue a “Certificate of Compliance” if no violations are observed. If the system is energized prior to receiving a “Certificate of Compliance” the installer will be subject to a civil penalty.

The “Town of Fairfax Building Inspection, Code Enforcement, and Fire Safety Ordinance” is available in its entirety on the “Documents & Forms” page of the Fairfax VT Web Site; <http://www.fairfax-vt.gov/documents> listed in the “Ordinances” section.

Prior to the passing of this Ordinance, building mounted solar PV systems installed on a public building (which require permitting through the VT Division of Fire Safety), were required to be installed in compliance with NFPA 1.

NFPA Codes are nationally recognized, and have been adopted by the State of Vermont, for all buildings which the State has the authority to regulate.

The Fairfax Fire Department established this section of the Building Inspection, Code Enforcement, and Fire Safety Ordinance in order to ensure that all building mounted solar PV systems installed in the Town of Fairfax were installed in the same manor (in compliance with NFPA 1). This will help to provide a higher level of safety for homeowners, contractors performing work on the property, and emergency response personnel responding to these properties.

Sincerely,

David C Raymond

David Raymond
Battalion Chief / Town Health Officer

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