



Public Works Services Department
Building Safety Division
1088 East Kamm Avenue
Dinuba, Ca. 93618

ROOF ACCESS and PATHWAYS for PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAYS

The following information is being provided to clarify locations of conduit installed in conjunction with rooftop photovoltaic (PV) systems. The intent is to limit the hazard of cutting live conduit during fire department roof venting operations and to minimize roof mounted tripping hazards for firefighters. All installations shall meet the requirements of the 2016 California Code (CFC) section 605.

In addition to standard plan requirements, all plans submitted for PV installation shall include the following details:

1. Plans shall include both ROOF ACCESS and PATHWAYS setbacks. Plans shall include dimensions and shading /hatching for clarity.
2. The location of all roof and attic mounted conduit shall be shown on the plans.
3. Conduit on both interior and exterior runs shall not be located within 3' feet of the ridge. Plan submittals proposing conduit installations in the attic shall require a section detail of the attic with conduit installation locations with dimensions.
4. Conduit located in attics shall be installed away from the ridge area. When an attic installation is utilized, conduit shall be attached to the bottom of load-bearing members and/or installed directly below the array or mounted to the top of ceiling joists to minimize the likelihood of saws cutting the conduits and conductors.
5. Conduit will be run as directly as possible to an outside wall to reduce trip hazards and maximize ventilation opportunities.
6. Electrical metallic tubing (EMT) and other forms of conduit is not permitted in exposed exterior locations visible from the public right-of-way. Exposed conduit placed toward the rear of the house out of view of the public right-of-way shall be painted to match the color of the house.

New California Setback Rules - July 1st, 2018

Effective July 1st, 2018 the standard three-foot setback was changed in California. The goal of this adjustment is to increase the amount of solar one can fit on the roof, while maintaining fire safety requirements.

Some key points to take away from this revision are the following:

1. Carports, shade structures, flat roofs, and detached garages are still exempt from PV array pathways and ridge setbacks.
2. Roof setbacks from ridge for ventilation relaxed from 36 inches to 18 inches for solar systems that take up less than 1/3 of the plan view total roof area.
3. **For homes with sprinkler systems**, if the system takes up less than 2/3 of the plan view total roof area, the setback for ridge ventilation is also relaxed to 18 inches.
4. **Follow the diagrams attached, but in general two pathways on each roof section reduced to one.**
5. In some cases, access pathways for roof faces with PV may be on roof faces adjacent to the roof face with PV modules.
6. Roofs under windows now require 36-inch-wide access pathway.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call the Building Official or Building Inspector at 559-591-5906.