



# Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District

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September 13, 2021

Bill Weber, President RSF Association  
17022 Avenida de Acacias  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

RE: Fire District position on the use of Fiber Cement Building Products

Dear Mr. Weber,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Rancho Santa Fire Protection District in regards to its position on the use of Fiber Cement building materials. Fiber Cement building materials have been around for over thirty years and is most often used on the exterior of buildings in both residential and commercial applications. It has become the product of choice as a wood substitute after the devastating fires of 2003 and 2007 that occurred in San Diego County.

The Fire District whole heartily supports the use of Fiber Cement building materials mainly due to their fire resistive nature. While there are numerous products on the market, most Fiber Cement products have been tested to ASTM International standards are considered noncombustible. They have a flame spread index of 0, and a smoke production of <5. This makes the application extremely appropriate in areas of high wildland fire danger. Most Fiber Cement products meet the California Building Code Chapter 7A - Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure. In certain applications, even a 1-hour fire resistance may be obtained. Due to its noncombustible properties, insurance companies may offer discounts to homeowners vs. standard wood siding. In fact, the use of Fiber Cement products versus wood may even be the determining factor in receiving fire insurance at all.

Utilizing Fiber Cement products not only provides for fire safety, it offers the most realistic option for a wood look without using wood. The texture of Fiber Cement products can give that natural wood feel; and with dramatic improvement in architectural aesthetics, it can provide an elegant look that most people cannot differentiate between a wood product. The other benefits of Fiber Cement materials is they do not warp or crack and can withstand dramatic temperatures variations. Unlike wood products, fiber cement products is not susceptible to rotting or subject to vermin like termites.

If there are any other questions that I or my staff can answer, we would gladly assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Fred Cox  
Fire Chief