

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Prevention Operations		Code: P-VIII-4
Nightlife Enforcement		
Chpt: II	Inspection Activities	Revised:12/26/12 Pages: 2

I. Purpose: To define the role of Fire Prevention Bureau personnel in the enforcement of assembly occupancy regulations, particularly in the Entertainment District as defined by the City Zoning Ordinance. The goal is to maintain public safety in these high risk occupancies by ongoing contact and the dissemination of information..

II. Policy

- A. To maintain a cooperative working relationship with nightclub owners
- B. Participate in ordinance creation and regulations relating to nightlife enforcement
- C. Conduct annual inspections of assembly occupancies in the Entertainment District
- D. Cooperate with and provide information to the Police Department Nightlife Enforcement Team (NET) and other city agencies.

III. Procedure

A. Inspections:

- 1. Assembly Occupancies in the Entertainment District will be inspected annually by Fire Prevention Bureau personnel
- 2. Occupancies possessing a dance permit will be inspected as part of their dance permit renewal.
 - a. Dance permit clubs may have additional conditions, such as a safety plan. Conditions of that nature should be reviewed before the inspection.. Copies of these plans will kept on site and in Community Development records.
- 3. Routine inspections will be carried out during non-peak hours when occupancy's safety systems are more visible and a responsible party has the time to accompany the inspector.
- 4. Occupancies will be inspected pursuant to current code requirements and the Assembly SOP.

B. NET

- 1. The Fire Prevention Bureau will cooperate with the Police Department Nightlife Enforcement Team, providing information regarding properties in the Entertainment District to prevent fire safety hazards and overcrowding.
- 2. Pre-scheduled nightlife assembly details may include a variety of activities including attending the Downtown Bar Association meetings

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prior to special events such as Fiesta, graduation weekend, holidays etc.

3. Extraordinary requests for an inspector to assist the Nightlife Enforcement Team will be routed to the Division Supervisor, who will make the assignment.
4. The primary concerns are adherence to occupant loads, impaired exits and other potential threats to public safety.
5. Inspectors will use their discretion when counting occupant loads or addressing safety violations but shall be mindful of a general “zero tolerance” policy for overcrowding.
6. Citations will be in accordance with the Enforcement S.O.P. and the Fire Prevention Bureau Training Manual.
7. Additional operational details may be found in the Fire Prevention Training Manual and special events tactical plans.

C. Ordinances and Regulations

1. The Fire Prevention Bureau will participate in the creation of new policies, ordinances and regulations pertaining to safety issues in the Entertainment District. Such ordinances may include but are not limited to:
 - a) Local amendment adoptions to the California Fire Code
 - b) The Dance Ordinance / Permit process
2. When required, Fire Prevention Bureau members will appear before the Fire and Police Commission to testify about overall nightlife enforcement or individual occupancy requests, such as dance permits.