

|   |  |                                      |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
|  | <b>STANDARD OPERATING POLICY AND PROCEDURE</b><br>Community Development and Public Works | Number:<br><br><b>7-2</b>            |
| <b>Subject: Ground Mount Photovoltaic Protection</b>                              |  | <b>Approval Date:</b><br>08/21/2015  |
| <b>Approval:</b> Chuck King, Building Official                                    |  | <b>Effective Date:</b><br>08/21/2015 |

**1.0 PURPOSE**

To describe various means of protection for ground-mounted photovoltaic systems, to prevent accidental contact with live parts.

**2.0 DISTRIBUTION**

Public, Community Development and Public Works Staff

**3.0 REVISION HISTORY**

**4.0 CODE REFERENCE**

2011 National Electrical Code, Article 110.27(2)  
 2012 International Residential Code, Section E3404.9

**5.0 POLICY**

An enclosure of not less than forty-eight (48) inches high located not less than forty-eight (48) inches horizontally from any portion of the array shall be installed to prevent accidental contact by unqualified personnel. The enclosure shall be constructed with chain link fencing, wrought iron, masonry block, or other approved materials with the following installation parameters:

Chain Link Fence (a) openings shall not exceed one (1) inch in dimension or be slatted (b) support posts shall be cemented or otherwise set into the ground in a manner that will retain structural stability (c) support posts shall be located no greater than eight (8) feet apart when there is a top support rail, or no greater than six (6) feet apart when no top rail support is provided.

Wrought Iron Fence (a) fence pickets and the bottom rail of fencing shall be spaced so that a four (4) inch sphere is unable to pass through or under the fence (b) the distance from the bottom rail of the fence shall be measured to solidly compacted finished grade or paved surface (c) ornamental metal or other projections shall be less than one (1) inch in horizontal dimension.

Masonry Block (a) walls shall be solid (b) walls shall be supported on a foundation that provides adequate support and be reinforced in a manner that will stabilize the wall to prevent overturning.

Other Approved Materials or Methods (a) materials or methods not listed shall be approved prior to installation and be designed to prevent ready access to the area where live parts are present.

Access to Array Area (a) gates that provide access shall meet the criteria identified above for fencing materials and height (b) gates shall be locked to prevent ready access.