



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

1315 Dell Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008 | (408) 378-4010 | SCCFD.org

<b>STANDARD DETAILS &amp; SPECIFICATIONS</b>  SUBJECT: Model Rocket Guidelines	Spec No	<u>SI-5</u>
	Review Date	_____
	Revis. Date.	<u>11.02.09</u>
	Eff. Date.	<u>11.24.98</u>
	Approved By	<u>Initials</u>
	Page	<u>1</u> of <u>3</u>

## SCOPE

The requirements contained in this Standard apply to the use of model rockets within the municipalities served by the Santa Clara County Fire Department.

## DEFINITIONS

**Model Rocket:** Any toy or educational device that weighs not more than 500 grams, including the engine and any payload, that is propelled by model rocket engines.

**Model Rocket Engine:** Commercially manufactured, non-reusable rocket propulsion device which is constructed of a nonmetallic casing and solid propellant, wherein all of the ingredients are self-contained so as not to require mixing or handling by the user and which have design and construction characteristics determined by the State Fire Marshal to provide a reasonable degree of safety to the user. For the purpose of this Standard, model rocket engines shall not contain more than 62.5 grams of propellant.

## REQUIREMENTS

### I. Authorization

- A. No model rocket user shall launch any model rocket from any site without first securing authorization from the Fire Department.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of the model rocket user to secure permission of the owner of private lands when such land is approved to be used to launch model rockets.
- C. Model rocket launch permits will be issued for group educational purposes only. Single user (those not affiliated with a group educational curriculum) will not be issued a permit.
- D. Permits shall not be issued for any model rocket launches within designated Wildland Urban Interface Areas.





# SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

1315 Dell Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008 | (408) 378-4010 | SCCFD.org

## II. Supervision

The permittee shall be responsible for the safety of all other spectators and other persons connected with launching of model rockets.

## III. Launch Site

- A. Shall be located outdoors in a cleared area, free of tall trees, power lines, buildings, and dry brush or grass as approved by the Fire Department.
- B. Model rocket shall be launched from the center of the launch site.
- C. Launch site diameter shall be as per the following table and based on motor type.

Equivalent Motor Type	Minimum Site (ft) Dia.
1/4-A & 1/2-A	50
A	100
B	200
C	400
D	500
E & F	1000

## IV. Approved Locations

- A. Within the jurisdiction of the Santa Clara County Fire Department:
  - 1. Los Gatos, Cupertino and Saratoga: allowed for school sponsored, educational programs at approved school sites and/or under the supervision of permitted model rocket clubs at approved sites. Discharging of model rockets are prohibited within city/town parks.
  - 2. City of Campbell: permits issued for discharging of size A and B motors and allowed only at John D. Morgan and the Campbell Community Center and for school sponsored, educational programs at approved school sites.
  - 3. Monte Sereno: Prohibited.
  - 4. Los Altos and Los Altos Hills: Prohibited.
  - 5. Unincorporated Areas: Contract County Fire Marshal's Office (408-299-5762).





# SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

1315 Dell Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008 | (408) 378-4010 | SCCFD.org

## V. Launch Site Safety

- A. Model rocket shall be launched from a stable launch device that provides rigid guidance until it has reached a speed adequate to ensure a safe flight path.
- B. To prevent accidental eye injury, the launcher shall be placed so the end of the rod is above eye level, or the end shall be capped when approaching it.
- C. Launcher shall have blast deflector devices to prevent the motor exhaust from hitting the ground directly. Area adjacent to launch device shall be cleared of dry grass or combustibles.
- D. Launching system shall be remotely controlled and electrically operated and have a launching switch that will return to "off" position.
- E. All persons shall remain 30 feet from launching device and be provided with an audible 5-second countdown pending launch.
- F. Misfires shall not be approached until minimum of one-minute time has elapsed.
- G. Launches shall be discontinued when winds exceed **20 mph**.
- H. Launch angles shall be within 30 degrees of vertical.
- I. Launches shall only occur during daylight hours.

