

CODE INTERPRETATION

By: Chuck Jonas, CBO, Chief Building Inspector Date: April 12, 2019

County of Fresno
Development Services/Capital Projects Division

Code Reference: Fresno County Ordinance Code, Title 15, Section 15.08.020 (A)
Fresno County Zoning Ordinance, 855.H.2,
2016 CRC, Appendix V – Swimming Pool Safety Act

Heading: Private Swimming Pool Safety Requirements

In Fresno County, there are two separate pool safety requirements for swimming pools. One for drowning prevention safety features and one for fences or walls, which shall entirely enclose the swimming pool. Both must be installed prior to a final inspection and prior to filling the pool with water. They are:

1. Two approved drowning prevention safety features between the home and pool and;
2. An approved fence or wall between the swimming pool and the adjoining property per Fresno County Zoning Ordinance 855.H.2.

APPROVED DROWNING PREVENTION SAFETY FEATURE BETWEEN THE HOME AND POOL

Whenever a building permit is issued for construction of a new swimming pool or spa, or any building permit is issued for remodeling of an existing pool or spa, at a private single-family home, it shall be equipped with at least two of the following seven drowning prevention safety features:

1. Enclosure – An approved fence, wall, or barrier serving as an enclosure that separates the pool from the house; or,
2. Removable Mesh Fencing - The pool shall incorporate removable mesh pool fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F 2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device; or,
3. Safety Cover – The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover that meets all requirements of the ASTM Specifications F 1346; or,
4. Exit Alarms -The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool; or,

5. Self-Closing, Self-Latching Doors - All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor; or,
6. Swimming Pool Alarms - Swimming pool alarms that, when placed in pools, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. These pool alarms shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F 2208 "Standards Specification for Pool Alarms" which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms. Swimming pool alarms shall not include swimming protection alarm devices designed for individual use, such as an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water; or,
7. Other Means of Protection - Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the devices set forth above, and have been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those devices established by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Enclosures shall have all of the following characteristics:

1. Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
2. Enclosures must be at least 60 inches high.
3. The maximum vertical clearance from the ground and the bottom of the enclosure of 2 inches.
4. Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter).
5. An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.

APPROVED FENCE OR WALL BETWEEN THE SWIMMING POOL AND ADJOINING PROPERTY

1. Swimming pools shall be entirely enclosed by fences or walls, in accordance with Fresno County Zoning Ordinance 855.H.2, except as hereinafter provided.
2. Swimming pool fence or wall shall not be required when either of the following conditions apply:
 - a. There exists a natural barrier restricting physical access to the swimming pool that is essentially equivalent in effect to the required fence or wall as determined by the Director.
 - b. The parcel is under one ownership of at least twenty acres and the swimming pool is located a minimum of three hundred feet from any property line.

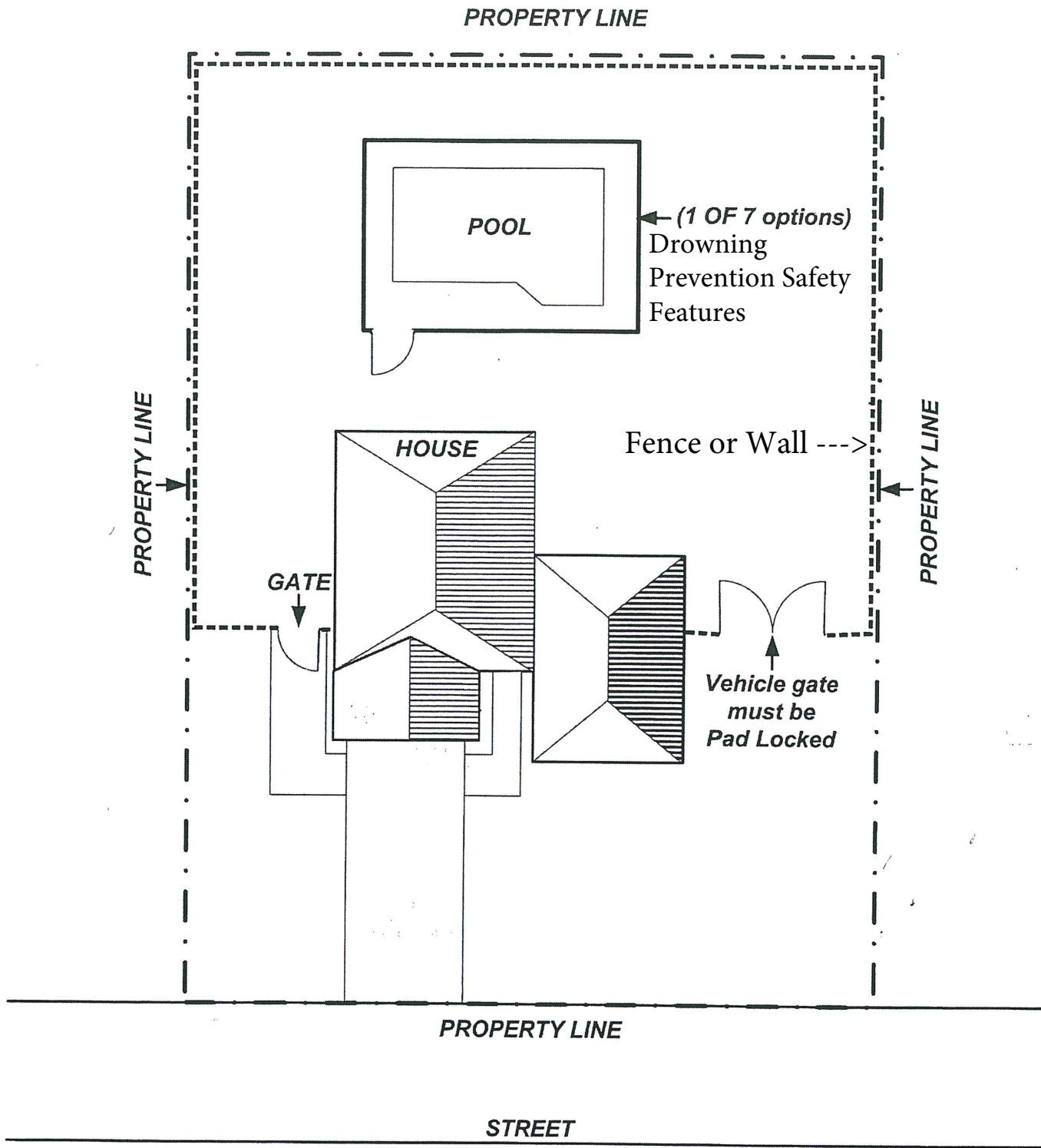
Permitted Materials:

1. Fence materials may include wire mesh, steel mesh, chain link, louvered glass, stake and other similar materials. Planting shall be regulated to maintain the required open areas in said fence structure.
2. Wall materials shall include concrete, concrete block, wood or any other similar materials that are solids and are so assembled as to form a solid barrier.

Hot tubs or spas that have a locking safety cover that complies with the American Society for Testing Materials-Emergency Performance Specifications (ASTM-ES 13-89) are exempt from the above barrier requirements.

What types of swimming pool safety upgrades are required?

To eliminate safety hazards on existing pools and spas, California Health and Safety Code 115928 requires installations of pool anti-entrapment covers whenever a building permit is issued for the remodel or modification of an existing swimming pool, existing toddler pool or existing spa at a single-family residence. The permit shall require that the suction outlet of the existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa shall be upgraded with an anti-entrapment cover meeting current standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ASME/ANSI Standard A 112.19.8.



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS