



# FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

<b>Title: Security Bars/Grilles</b>		
<b>Number:</b> FPG-03	<b>Effective Date:</b> 01/01/2023	<b>Revised Date:</b> 03/01/2023
<b>Code References:</b> California Fire Code (CFC), California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, Merced Municipal Code (MMC)		
<b>Note:</b> <i>This guideline is a summary of Fire Department clarifications and interpretations of City and State Codes and nationally recognized standards in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the Fire Code. Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.</i>		

**Scope**

This Guideline has been developed to ensure the public and emergency response personnel can escape or be rescued from a building during a fire, panic situation or other emergency. The guideline provides the public and business community direction regarding the use of security bars/grilles.

**Codes and Guidelines**

This guideline shall apply to all buildings or temporary structures in accordance with the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 19 and the Merced Municipal Code.

**Permits Required**

An operational permit is not required.

**Specific Requirements**

1. **Doors**

Chains, bars, sliding bolts or other devices that would prevent access to a building or escape from the interior building during an emergency are prohibited.

- a. Exception: In Occupancy Groups B (business), F (factory), M (mercantile) and S (special) horizontal sliding or vertical security grilles are permitted at the main exit and shall be openable from the inside without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort during periods that the space is occupied. The grills shall remain locked in the full-open position during the period of occupancy by the general public. Where two or more means of egress are required, not more than one-half of the exits or exit access doorways shall be equipped with horizontal sliding or vertical security grilles. Keys for unlocking security grilles must be located in an approved key box.
- b. The use of bars, grates, bolts or similar devices on the interior of the building is prohibited at all times.
- c. Security bars or grilles are not allowed for use in A (assembly), E (educational), I (institutional), H (hazardous) or other occupancies not noted in section (a).



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**2. Windows**

Security bars/grilles are **PROHIBITED** on emergency escape and rescue windows. There is currently an exception if the windows are equipped with an approved release on the interior of the window and an approved exterior release that comply with the California Building Standards and the Merced City Fire Department. **THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO DEVICES APPROVED FOR USE IN THE CITY OF MERCED.**

**3. Key Box**

Keys for approved horizontal sliding or vertical security grilles shall be provided in an approved key box conforming to Merced City Fire Department Guideline #04