


CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER		POLICY	DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Subject:	SECURITY FENCES AND WALLS AND PERMIT APPLICATION		
Reference:	2016 DFC 316 - Denver Fire Code		
Approved:			Manuel Almaguer Division Chief, Fire Prevention Division
Number:	DFC 316	Effective Date: February 1, 2017	Page 1 of 3

This policy is meant to provide basic information for the most common conditions and situations. In any given occupancy, many other Fire Code requirements may be enforced. Questions can be addressed by contacting the Fire Prevention Division between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday at 720-913-3474. Walk-in hours are 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. ONLY, Monday - Friday, at 745 W. Colfax Ave.

I. General Information

Barbed and razor wire and other sharp, pointed material (e.g., glass shards, metal spikes, etc.) mounted on top of walls and roofs, and electrically charged fences, give our commercial areas a blighted appearance and lower property values. They also expose unsuspecting, innocent parties, including Denver Firefighters and Police officers responding to a call for assistance, to serious injury, yet rarely deter (and may actually encourage) crime. The restrictions on the above-referenced security fences apply to all properties in all areas of the City and County of Denver.

Denver Fire Code Section 316 contains specific restrictions to property security devices, including the following:

The following prohibitions shall apply to all fences, walls or retaining walls, regardless of height:

- A.** The use of barbed wire or any other sharp-pointed material as a fencing material or on top of fences or retaining walls is prohibited except when specifically approved by the Department.
- B.** The use of electrically charged fences or portion of fence on top of fences or walls is prohibited.
- C.** The use of broken glass or metal spikes on top of security fences or walls is prohibited in all applications.
- D.** The use of razor wire is prohibited in all applications.

It shall be unlawful to construct and maintain any barbed wire or other sharp, pointed material in connection with the construction of any fence or privacy screen in any residentially zoned area. In nonresidential zones, barbed wire may be used, provided said material is exclusively located at least six (6) feet above the ground and projects over the fence owner's property and does not overhang abutting properties.

It shall be unlawful for any person within the city to place, build or erect a fence, railing or guard of any kind constructed of barbed wire, iron spikes, or other sharp-pointed

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER		POLICY	DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Subject:	SECURITY FENCES AND WALLS AND PERMIT APPLICATION		
Number:	DFC 316	Effective Date: February 1, 2017	Page 2 of 3

material. However, this section shall not prohibit the use of such material under the following conditions:

- A.** Police and correctional facilities;
- B.** Located in commercial or industrial zoning districts, or for government use; and
- C.** Approved by the Fire Official, after a review of the documentation indicating the need for security and bona-fide operation of a business.
- D.** The Fire Official may approve as a special exception the placement of barbed wire for security reasons around commercial or industrial uses, transformer stations, microwave stations, or other similar public necessity or dangerous sites, provided that the applicant has shown that the fence is reasonably necessary for security and/or safety, that it protects people from dangerous sites and conditions. The barbed wire strands shall not slant outward from the fence more than sixty (60) degrees from a vertical line.
- E.** Electrified fences may be permitted by specific approval of the fire code official. Requirements and submission for an electrified fence shall comply with DFD policy 316-1. All fences shall be designed in accordance with IBC Section 312 and NFPA 70 (National Electrical Code). Only fences powered by a 12-volt direct current (DC) power source shall be considered.
- F.** In all cases where security fencing or walls as described in this policy is/are requested, an application shall be made to the Denver Fire Department and an annual, renewable permit shall be issued and maintained, provided any barbed wire is securely affixed to the top of a soundly constructed fence or structural barrier which is at least six (6) feet in height. Further, regardless of the zoning district, barbed wire meeting the aforementioned height standards may be used for security around hazardous equipment or installations, such as but not limited to, high-voltage equipment, electrical transformer, volatile fuel installation, etc., provided that the requested fence is not on the property line of a lot that is occupied as a place of residence. No strand of barbed wire shall be permitted to be placed lower than six (6) feet high, and no more than three (3) strands of barbed wire are permitted.

Any person, firm, or corporation that owns or leases property upon which a fence screen is located shall be responsible for the repair, upkeep, maintenance, and reconstruction of any such fence or privacy screen and any area adjacent thereto... If ownership of a fence located upon a property line is joint or cannot be determined, then each party owning or leasing property adjacent to the fence shall be responsible for its care, and maintenance.

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER		POLICY	DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT
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Number:	DFC 316	Effective Date: February 1, 2017	Page 3 of 3

BARBED WIRE FENCE PERMIT

This business is located in the City and County of Denver and I have or intend to construct, repair and/or replace or permit an existing barbed wire fence on this property. I agree that the fence shall be located, constructed, and/or maintained at all times.

Building / Business Name: _____ Type of Co.: _____

Address / ZIP: _____

Manager/Owner: _____ Phone No: _____
(Circle One)

Business E-mail Address: _____

Site Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(if Different Than Above)

Existing Fence New Installation Other: _____
(Circle One)

Installation Company: _____

Address/ City/ ZIP: _____

Installer Contact: _____ Phone No: _____

Fence Dimensions: _____ Feet Long _____ Feet at highest point

**Please provide a diagram that shows the layout of fence, streets,
building(s) on property, adjacent buildings, and points of egress

Installer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Manager/Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____