



ICC Los Angeles Basin Chapter and Ventura Region Chapter
Joint Inspection Committee
“Small Solar System One-Inspection Process Bulletin Program”



Bulletin 5 – An unobstructed clear path on roof for firefighters.

The most common disaster that strikes a single family dwelling is fire. However, more fire fighters are injured due to the “in process action” of trying to extinguish a home on fire that “happens” to have a PV system on its roof, than are injured due to the PV system igniting a home on fire. The paramount goal of a building inspector should be to confirm code compliance with fire code related requirements, most important of all the fire code related requirements – a clear path around PV panels for fire fighter access.

PV panels can significantly impede roof ventilation efforts of firefighters despite a code compliant clear path, lessening this path width only compounds those issues. A clear path for firefighters will also help maintain a safe emergency recuse path to bedroom windows.

In general a 3 feet clear path is required between panels and the edges/ridges of the roof surface.

