



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

**DRILL, OWN, OPERATE OR MAINTAIN AN
OIL OR NATURAL GAS WELL,**

Appendix Chapter 1, section 105.6.16 of the Los Angeles County Fire Code states that permits required by the Fire Code shall be obtained from the fire code official. No person shall drill, own, operate or maintain any oil or natural gas well without a permit. Each oil or natural gas well permit shall be valid only for the calendar year for which it is issued.

Well drilling and operating.

Wells for oil and natural gas shall be drilled and operated in accordance with Sections 3406.3.1 through 3406.3.8.

Location.

The location of wells shall comply with Sections 3406.3.1.1 through 3406.3.1.4.

Storage tanks and sources of ignition

Storage tanks or boilers, fired heaters, open-flame devices or other sources of ignition shall not be located within 25 feet (7620 mm) of well heads. Smoking is prohibited at wells or tank locations except as designated and in approved posted areas.

Exception: Engines used in the drilling, production and serving of wells.

Streets and railways.

Wells shall not be drilled within 75 feet (22 860 mm) of any dedicated public street, highway or nearest rail of an operating railway.

Buildings.

Wells shall not be drilled within 100 feet (30 480 mm) of buildings not necessary to the operation of the well.

Group A, E or I buildings.

Wells shall not be drilled within 300 feet (91 440 mm) of buildings with an occupancy in Group A, E or I.

Existing wells.

Where wells are existing, buildings shall not be constructed within the distances set forth in Section 3406.3.1 for separation of wells or buildings.

Zoning regulations.

The permit for any new well shall be issued only after it has complied with applicable planning and zoning regulations.

Waste control.

Control of waste materials associated with wells shall comply with Sections 3406.3.2.1 and 3406.3.2.2.

Discharge on a street or water channel.

Liquids containing crude petroleum or its products shall not be discharged into or on streets, highways, drainage canals or ditches, storm drains or flood control channels.

Discharge and combustible materials on ground.

The surface of the ground under, around or near wells, pumps, boilers, oil storage tanks or buildings shall be kept free from oil, waste oil, refuse or waste material.

Sumps.

Sumps associated with wells shall comply with Sections 3406.3.3.1 through 3406.3.3.3.

Maximum width.

Sumps or other basins for the retention of oil or petroleum products shall not exceed 12 feet (3658 mm) in width.

Backfilling.

Sumps or other basins for the retention of oil or petroleum products larger than 6 feet by 6 feet by 6 feet (1829 mm by 1829 mm by 1829 mm) shall not be maintained longer than 60 days after the cessation of drilling operations.

Security.

Sumps, diversion ditches and depressions used as sumps shall be securely fenced or covered.

Prevention of blowouts.

Protection shall be provided to control and prevent the blowout of a well. Protection equipment shall meet federal, state and other applicable jurisdiction requirements.

Storage tanks.

Storage of flammable or combustible liquids in tanks shall be in accordance with Section 3404. Oil storage tanks or groups of tanks shall have posted in a conspicuous place, on or near such tank or tanks, an approved sign with the name of the owner or operator, or the lease number and the telephone number where a responsible person can be reached at any time.

Soundproofing.

Where soundproofing material is required during oil field operations, such material shall be noncombustible.

Signs.

Well locations shall have posted in a conspicuous place on or near such tank or tanks an approved sign with the name of the owner or operator, name of the leasee or the lease number, the well number and the telephone number where a responsible person can be reached at any time. Such signs shall be maintained on the premises from the time materials are delivered for drilling purposes until the well is abandoned.

Field-loading racks.

Field-loading racks shall be in accordance with Section 3406.5.