

PROVIDE A 30 INCH CLEAR SPACE TO AND IN FRONT OF ELECTRICAL PANEL AND LABELING

CODE SECTIONS

2010 Yocha Dehe Fire Code

Section 605.3 Working space and clearance. A working space of not less than 30 inches in width, 36 inches in depth and 78 inches in height shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment. Where the electrical service equipment is wider than 30 inches, the working space shall not be less than the width of the equipment. No storage of any materials shall be located within the designated working space.

Exception:

1. Where reduced dimensions are allowed by the Electrical Code.
2. Access openings into attics or under-floor areas which provide a minimum clear opening of 22 inches by 30 inches.

Section 605.3.1 Labeling. Doors into electrical control panel rooms shall be marked with a plainly visible and legible sign stating ELECTRICAL ROOM or similar approved wording. The disconnecting means for each service, feeders or branch circuits originating on a switchboard or panelboard shall be legible and durably marked to indicate its purpose unless such purpose is clearly evident.

EXPLANATION

An area or path measuring 30 inches wide and 78 inches high must be maintained free of any obstructions or storage to and in front of the electrical panel. This includes the door(s) that enters the electrical room or any pathway that may be necessary to reach the electrical panel. Also the circuit breakers or other disconnects need to be identified in order to disconnect the power.

RATIONALE

In the event of a fire or emergency, a primary concern is to disconnect the electrical power at the electrical panel. This must be completed rapidly and with minimum effort. To achieve this, a clear and unobstructed means of access must be maintained at all times to reach the electrical panel. Additionally, storage near an electrical panel poses a significant fire risk as the panel is a potential ignition source for the combustible storage.

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