

E. The normal departure procedure for aircraft shall be to maintain runway headings to one thousand two hundred feet MSL before turning. Aircraft remaining in the pattern shall climb to six hundred feet MSL before making crosswind turn.

F. Aircraft with an approach speed less than forty m.p.h. are governed by Chapter [16.32](#) of this code entitled "Unlicensed Aircraft".

(Ord. 1887 NCS §1, 1992; Ord. 1802 NCS §6 (part), 1990.)

16.20.030 Aircraft approaching to determine airport conditions.

All aircraft approaching to determine airport conditions should remain at one thousand five hundred eighty-seven feet MSL or more above the airport until entering the pattern. It is recommended that aircraft entering or remaining in the pattern announce their intentions on the unicorn radio. (Ord. 1887 NCS §2, 1992; Ord. 1802 NCS §6 (part), 1990.)

16.20.040 Helicopters.

Helicopters arriving at, operating on, or departing from the airport shall operate clear of the traffic pattern as established herein and shall operate on or over the field well clear of fixed-wing traffic and in accordance with the following regulations:

- A. All arrivals and departures shall be restricted to the helipad located on the northwest end of the field.
- B. The traffic pattern altitude is established at five hundred feet AGL and shall cross under the fixed-wing downwind leg at approximately midfield and proceed to the field over the segmented circle using caution for landing and departing fixed-wing traffic before proceeding across the runway to the parallel taxiway.
- C. All taxiing on the field shall be over the parallel taxiway, proceeding directly to the helipad and the adjacent helicopter tie-down area.
- D. Helicopters may taxi to the fuel island by way of the parallel taxiway only.
- E. No hover or taxi practice operations shall be conducted without the approval of the airport manager and limits for the same may be established at his discretion.

(Ord. 1884 NCS §1, 1992; Ord. 1802 NCS §6 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.24

AIRCRAFT FUELING AND DEFUELING

16.24.010 Fueling and defueling restrictions.

No aircraft shall be fueled or defueled at the airport while engines are running or while such aircraft is in a hangar or enclosed space. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.020 Smoking restrictions during fueling and defueling.

No smoking shall be permitted within fifty feet of the aircraft fuel tanks while the aircraft is being fueled or defueled or within fifty feet of any fuel carrier utilized for fueling or defueling of aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.030 Spillage of fuel.

Persons engaged in the fueling or defueling of aircraft shall exercise all caution to prevent spillage of fuel, including the filling of tanks to the point where they would overflow from heat expansion. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.040 Static discharge precautions.

No person shall use any material likely to cause a static discharge during fueling or defueling of aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.050 Fire extinguishers required.

Adequate fire extinguishers shall be within ready reach of persons engaged in fueling and defueling operations at all times. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.060 Restrictions on engine start-up.

No person shall start the engine of any aircraft when there is gasoline on the ground under the aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.070 Fueling hoses and defueling equipment.

Fueling hoses and defueling equipment shall be maintained in a safe, sound, and non-leaking condition at all times. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.080 Grounding devices for fueling and defueling operations.

During fueling and defueling, the aircraft shall be properly grounded. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.28

AIRPORT FIRE SAFETY RULES

16.28.010 Compliance with applicable fire safety rules.

All persons using the airport shall comply with the fire safety rules and regulations contained in this chapter and with all fire safety laws, ordinances and regulations established by any governmental entity having jurisdiction for fire protection at the airport. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.020 Power operated tugs.

Power operated tugs used within hangars shall be of a type approved by the fire marshal. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.030 Storage of material and equipment.

- A. No person shall store or stock material or equipment so as to constitute a fire hazard.
- B. No person shall store or place any flammable liquids, solids, gases, signal flares, or similar hazardous materials within any hangar or building except in areas or rooms specifically approved by the fire marshal. The storage of flammable liquids within buildings shall be under permit issued by the fire marshal. Such storage shall be in approved containers bearing the label of the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (five gallon maximum container).
- C. All tenants of buildings shall maintain the floors of hangars, hangar ramps, and adjacent areas free and clear of oil, grease, and other flammable materials.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.040 Maintenance and cleaning of hangars.

- A. All tenants of buildings shall maintain the floors of hangars, hangar ramps, and adjacent areas free and clean of oil, grease, and other flammable materials.
- B. No person shall use flammable substances for cleaning floors of hangars or other buildings.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.050 Cleaning of aircraft engines and parts.

The cleaning of aircraft engines or other parts using solvents shall be limited in scope and only nonflammable or high flashpoint solvents shall be used. Drip and collecting pans shall be used during any cleaning process. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.060 Disposal of gasoline and other flammable waste projects.

No person shall dispose of gasoline, oil, solvent, or other flammable waste products in any drain, manhole, open ditch, or other airport areas. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.070 Painting and doping of aircraft.

Painting and doping of aircraft with flammable liquids shall be conducted only in areas or in buildings approved by the fire marshal. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.080 Smoking restrictions.

No person shall smoke any cigarette, cigar or pipe, or strike any match or kindle any flame whatsoever within fifty feet of any aircraft while being fueled, or within fifty feet from fuel islands or any flammable liquid container, or within any aircraft workshop located upon the airport, except as approved by the fire marshal. Smoking shall be permitted within areas designated by the fire marshal. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.090 Cutting, welding and spray painting.

Cutting, welding, and spray painting operations shall be conducted only within areas or buildings approved by the fire marshal. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.100 Electrical wire, fixtures and appliances.

All electrical wiring, fixtures, and appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the city building code. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.110 Fixed base operators to provide fire safety training.

Each fixed base operator shall institute training programs for employees in the use of portable fire extinguishing equipment and methods of evacuating or relocating occupants of the premises in case of fire or other emergency. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.120 Portable fire extinguishers.

- A. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided and installed by each fixed base operator, within the operator's leased area, as directed by the fire marshal as to number, type, and location.
- B. Portable fire extinguishers shall not be moved from designated locations for any reasons other than as a precaution against an immediate hazard or to be recharged.
- C. Access to all fire extinguishing equipment shall be kept free and unobstructed at all times. Portable fire extinguishers shall be inspected periodically by the fire marshal.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.130 Duty to report fire.

Every person who becomes aware of any fire or smoldering combustion of any unwarranted or insidious nature which is not confined within equipment designed for fire or which is a hazard to the premises shall report said fire or smoldering combustion without delay to the local fire department. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.140 Fire marshal drills and inspections.

Fire prevention inspection shall be conducted by the fire marshal and fire drills shall be held at his discretion. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.32 UNLICENSED AIRCRAFT

16.32.010 Rules and regulations governing ultralight aircraft.

All air vehicles not licensed by the FAA are considered ultralight aircraft. Due to the unique operating characteristics, licensing procedures and minimal Federal Air Regulations, this chapter shall establish specific rules and regulations governing ultralight aircraft operators as defined in FAR Part 103. All other provisions of Title [16](#), excepting Chapter [16.20](#) governing aircraft traffic patterns, are applicable to ultralight aircraft operators. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.32.020 Prior permission required.

All ultralight operations shall require approval of the airport manager for each arrival or departure for safety reasons because of the potential hazard of ultralight operations. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.32.030 Yielding right-of-way.

In accordance with FAA Part 103.13, ultralight operators shall maintain vigilance so as to see and avoid conventional aircraft and shall yield the right-of-way to all conventional aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.32.040 Compliance with FAA rules.

All ultralight aircraft arriving at or departing from the airport shall conform to the FAA rules for operations at airports without a control tower. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.36

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

16.36.010 Penalty for violations.

Any person violating any provision of Title [16](#) shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars or six months in jail, or both such fine and imprisonment. (Ord. 1802 NCS §9 (part), 1990.)

The Petaluma Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 2891 NCS, passed July 1, 2024.

Disclaimer: The city clerk's office has the official version of the Petaluma Municipal Code. Users should contact the city clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

[City Website: cityofpetaluma.net](http://cityofpetaluma.net)

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