



City of Bothell™

## PUBLIC INFORMATION HANDOUT **FP-8**

### Solar Photovoltaic Power Panels

#### International Fire Code 605.11 With Washington State Amendments

Solar electrical systems in private homes generate power that helps offset a portion of power supplied by the utility company. Photovoltaic solar panels are a way to generate power in a way that is cleaner for the environment. The following information is designed for single-family homes, two-family homes and townhomes as defined by the International Residential Code.



#### **Firefighter Accessibility**

Roof access points and pathways for firefighter are required.

Why?

A normal practice in the fire service is to open a roof to allow heated gases and smoke out of a structure that is on fire. This practice speeds the search for victims and firefighting efforts, and increases firefighter safety, as well as increasing survivability of the victims. Access points give firefighter and means to get to where they need to in order to properly ventilate the structure.

Should you have any questions or need for clarification of the Solar Photovoltaic Power Panels guidelines, please feel free to contact the City of Bothell Fire Prevention at: **(425) 806-6250**.

## Solar Photovoltaic Power Panels

### Firefighter Accessibility Requirements

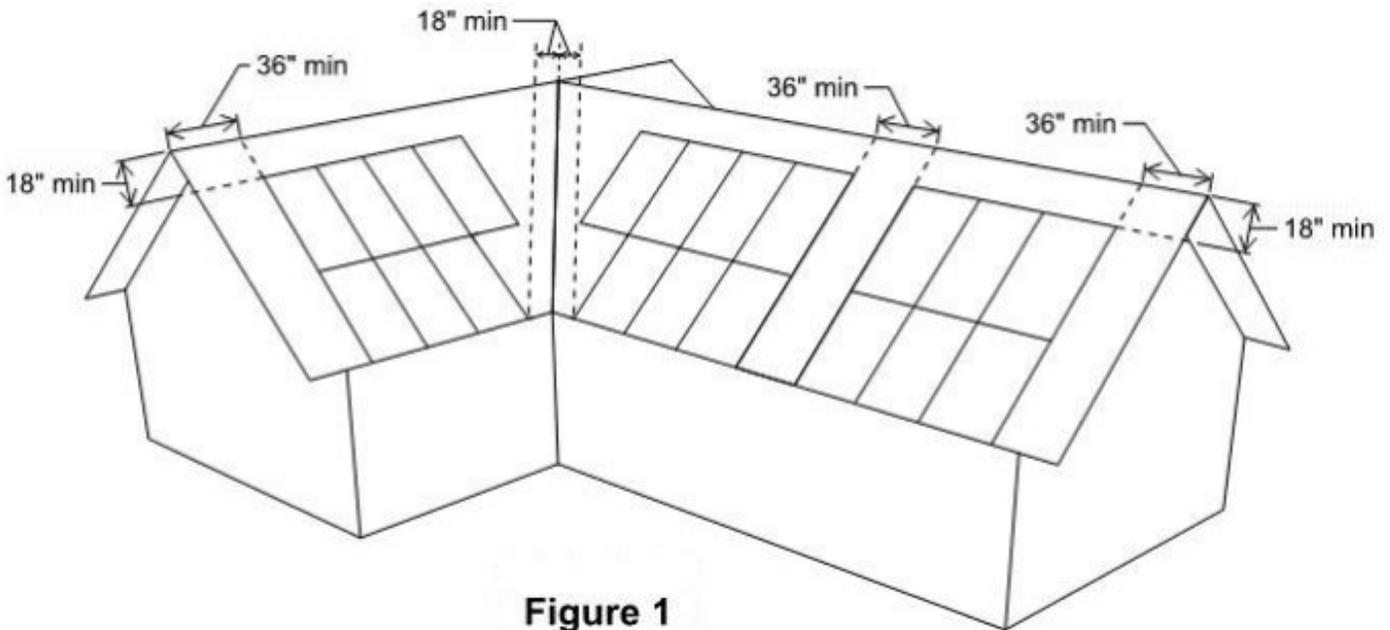
- Roof Access points must be located at strong points of building construction, in area that do not require ground ladders to be over widows or doors, or overhead obstructions like trees, wires, or signs.
- Each Photovoltaic array is limited to 150 feet in either direction.
- Multiple arrays must be separated by a 36 inch wide clear access pathway.
- Panels and modules on roofs with hips and valleys must not be located less than 18 inches from a hip or valley where solar equipment is to be placed on both sides hip or valley. Where panels or modules are only on one side of the hip or valley, they may be placed directly adjacent to the hip or valley, except on roof slopes of 2:12 or less.
- Panels and modules must be a minimum from the ridge too allow fire department ventilation operations.



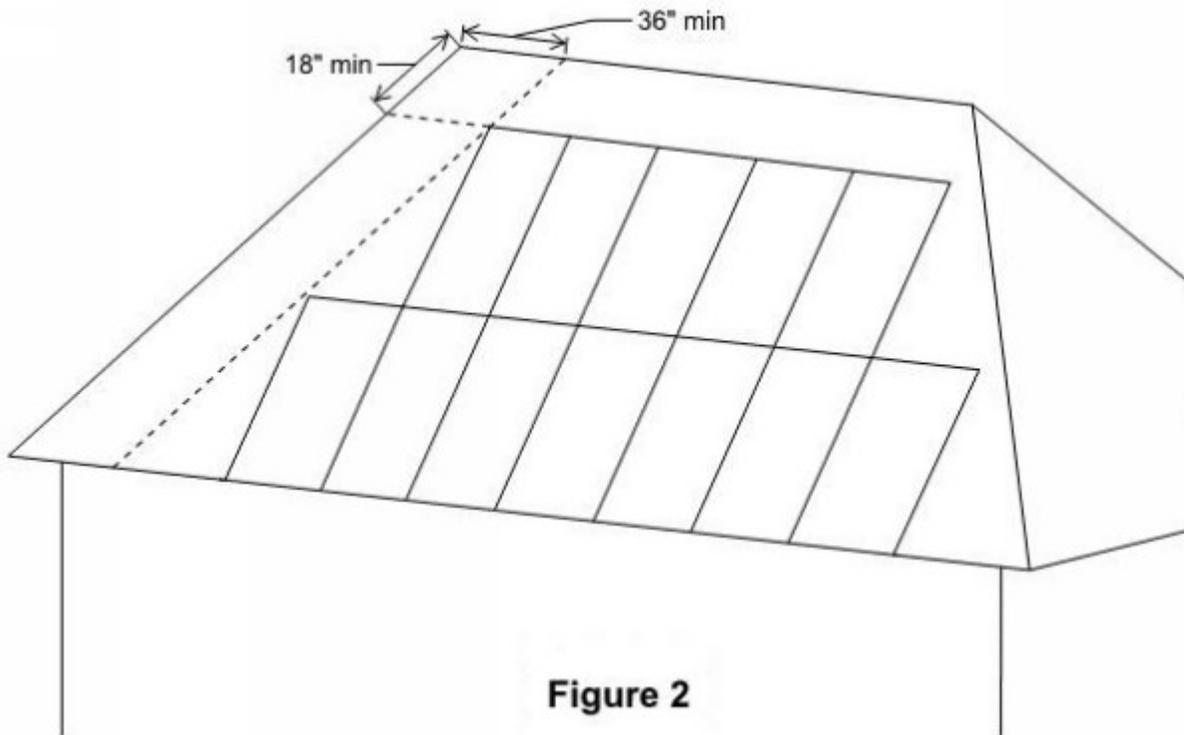
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## Solar Photovoltaic Power Panels

### General Solar Photovoltaic Power Panel layout Requirements



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

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