



Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
Office of the State Fire Marshal

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE BUILDING STANDARDS INFORMATION BULLETIN

ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE BUILDING STANDARDS

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The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to provide clarification regarding enforcement of OSFM's California Building Code (CBC), Chapter 7A requirements by local enforcing agencies charged through HSC §13146 with enforcement of the California Building Standards Code, of which the CBC is one part. This Information Bulletin is also being issued to help ensure statewide consistency in the application of the CBC Chapter 7A for all buildings.

Residential Buildings Including One and Two Family Dwellings

Assembly Bill 1216 (Vargas 2003) amended HSC §13108.5 and Government Code §51189 to require the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Director of Housing and Community Development, to propose fire protection building standards for roofs, exterior walls, structure projections, and structure openings of buildings located in Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas.

The Building Standards Commission approved the recommendations and these regulations are now promulgated as building standards in CBC Chapter 7A for all new buildings including one and two family dwellings (R-3 occupancies) located Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas as defined in CBC §702A).

Enforcement

The responsibility for enforcement of building standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal contained in CBC Chapter 7A shall be enforced by the building official or the fire authority for R-3 occupancies. Health and Safety Code §13108.5 describes how enforcement is delegated to the either the building official or the fire authority. For R-3 occupancies, the city, county, or city and county delegates whether the building official or fire authority has enforcement responsibility.

The building permit and/or plan approval issued for construction shall meet the intent of CBC Chapter 7A. CBC §701A.3.2.2 requires the building official, prior to construction, provide the owner or applicant a "certification" that the building as proposed to be built complies with all applicable state and local building standards, including those for materials and construction methods for wildfire exposure as described in Chapter 7A. The term "certification" is derived from Public Resources Code §4291(f) and Government Code §51189(a)(6) which have been incorporated into Chapter 7A.

CBC §701A.3.2.4 requires that prior to building permit final approval the property shall be in compliance with the vegetation clearance requirements prescribed in Public Resources Code §4291 and Government Code §51182. Enforcement of this provision must be complete prior to or during the final approval of the building and/or certificate of occupancy by the local fire authority or other enforcement entity designated for enforcement of the vegetation clearance requirements.

Other questions or comments regarding this Information Bulletin should be directed to Kevin Reinertson, Regulations Coordinator at (916) 327-4998, or by electronic mail to kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov.