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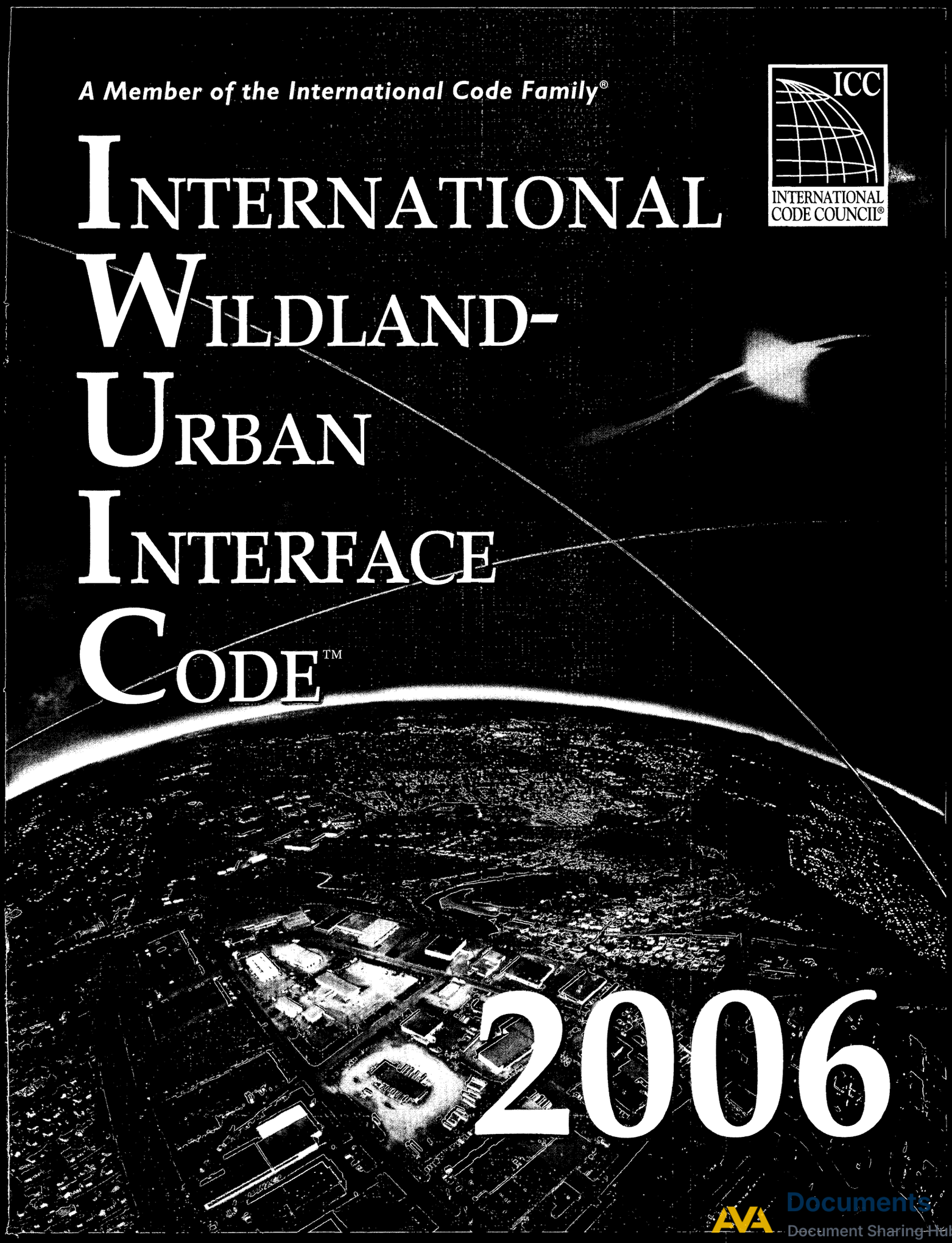
INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CODE™



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PREFACE

Introduction

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date code addressing the mitigation of fire in the wildland-urban interface. The *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*™, in this 2006 edition, is designed to bridge the gap between enforcement of the *International Building Code*® and *International Fire Code*® by mitigating the hazard of wildfires through model code regulations, which safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

This comprehensive wildland-urban interface code establishes minimum regulations for land use and the built environment in designated wildland-urban interface areas using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on data collected from tests and fire incidents, technical reports and mitigation strategies from around the world. This 2006 edition is fully compatible with all the *International Codes*® (I-Codes®) published by the International Code Council® (ICC®), including the *International Building Code*®, ICC *Electrical Code*®, *International Energy Conservation Code*®, *International Existing Building Code*®, *International Fire Code*®, *International Fuel Gas Code*®, *International Mechanical Code*®, ICC *Performance Code*®, *International Plumbing Code*®, *International Private Sewage Disposal Code*®, *International Property Maintenance Code*®, *International Residential Code*® and *International Zoning Code*®.

The *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* provisions provide many benefits, including the model code development process, which offers an international forum for fire safety professionals to discuss performance and prescriptive code requirements. This forum provides an excellent arena to debate proposed revisions. This model code also encourages international consistency in the application of provisions.

Development

The first edition of the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* (2003) was the culmination of an effort initiated in 2001 by the ICC and the three statutory members of the International Code Council: Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI). The intent was to draft a comprehensive set of regulations for mitigating the hazard to life and property from the intrusion of fire from wildland exposures and fire from adjacent structures, and preventing structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels. Technical content of the 2000 *Urban-Wildland Interface Code*, published by the International Fire Code Institute, was utilized as the basis for the development, followed by the publication of the 2001 Final Draft. This 2006 edition presents the code as originally issued, with changes approved through the ICC Code Development Process through 2005. A new edition such as this is promulgated every three years.

This code is founded on principles intended to mitigate the hazard from fires through the development of provisions that adequately protect public health, safety and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

Adoption

The *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws. At the time of adoption, jurisdictions should insert the appropriate information in provisions requiring specific local information, such as the name of the adopting jurisdiction. These locations are shown in bracketed words in small capital letters in the code and in the sample ordinance. The sample adoption ordinance on page v addresses several key elements of a code adoption ordinance, including the information required for insertion into the code text.

Maintenance

The *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* is kept up-to-date through the review of proposed changes submitted by code enforcing officials, industry representatives, design professionals and other interested parties. Proposed changes are carefully considered through an open code development process in which all interested and affected parties may participate.

The contents of this work are subject to change both through the code development cycles and the governmental body that enacts the code into law. For more information regarding the code development process, contact the Code and Standard Development Department of the International Code Council.

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Although the development procedure of the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* assures the highest degree of care, ICC, its members and those participating in the development of this code do not accept any liability resulting from compliance or noncompliance with the provisions, because ICC and its founding members do not have the power or authority to police or enforce compliance with the contents of this code. Only the governmental body that enacts the code into law has such authority.

Marginal Markings

Solid vertical lines in the margins within the body of the code indicate a technical change from the requirements of the 2003 edition. Deletion indicators in the form of an arrow (➜) are provided in the margin where an entire section, paragraph, exception or table has been deleted or an item in a list of items or in a table has been deleted.

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ORDINANCE

The *International Codes* are designed and promulgated to be adopted by reference by ordinance. Jurisdictions wishing to adopt the 2006 *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* as an enforceable regulation for the mitigation of fire in the wildland-urban interface should ensure that certain factual information is included in the adopting ordinance at the time adoption is being considered by the appropriate governmental body. The following sample adoption ordinance addresses several key elements of a code adoption ordinance, including the information required for insertion into the code text.

SAMPLE ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION OF THE *INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CODE* ORDINANCE NO._____

An ordinance of the **[JURISDICTION]** adopting the 2006 edition of the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*, regulating and governing the mitigation of hazard to life and property from the intrusion of fire from wildland exposures, fire from adjacent structures and prevention of structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels in the **[JURISDICTION]**; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor; repealing Ordinance No. _____ of the **[JURISDICTION]** and all other ordinances and parts of the ordinances in conflict therewith.

The **[GOVERNING BODY]** of the **[JURISDICTION]** does ordain as follows:

Section 1. That a certain document, three (3) copies of which are on file in the office of the **[TITLE OF JURISDICTION'S KEEPER OF RECORDS]** of **[NAME OF JURISDICTION]**, being marked and designated as the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*, 2006 edition, including Appendix Chapters **[FILL IN THE APPENDIX CHAPTERS BEING ADOPTED]**, as published by the International Code Council, be and is hereby adopted as the *Wildland-Urban Interface Code* of the **[JURISDICTION]**, in the State of **[STATE NAME]** for regulating and governing the mitigation of hazard to life and property from the intrusion of fire from wildland exposures, fire from adjacent structures and prevention of structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels as herein provided; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of said *Wildland-Urban Interface Code* on file in the office of the **[JURISDICTION]** are hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this ordinance, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, if any, prescribed in Section 2 of this ordinance.

Section 2. The following sections are hereby revised:

Section 101.1. Insert: **[NAME OF JURISDICTION]**

Section 3. That Ordinance No. _____ of **[JURISDICTION]** entitled **[FILL IN HERE THE COMPLETE TITLE OF THE ORDINANCE OR ORDINANCES IN EFFECT AT THE PRESENT TIME SO THAT THEY WILL BE REPEALED BY DEFINITE MENTION]** and all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. That if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The **[GOVERNING BODY]** hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

Section 5. That nothing in this ordinance or in the *Wildland-Urban Interface Code* hereby adopted shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding impending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any act or ordinance hereby repealed as cited in Section 3 of this ordinance; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this ordinance.

Section 6. That the **[JURISDICTION'S KEEPER OF RECORDS]** is hereby ordered and directed to cause this ordinance to be published. (An additional provision may be required to direct the number of times the ordinance is to be published and to specify that it is to be in a newspaper in general circulation. Posting may also be required.)

Section 7. That this ordinance and the rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders and matters established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in full force and effect **[TIME PERIOD]** from and after the date of its final passage and adoption.

Section 8. Specific boundaries of natural or man-made features of wildland-urban interface areas shall be as shown on the wildland area interface map. The legal description of such areas is as described as follows: **[INSERT LEGAL DESCRIPTION]**

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CHAPTER 1

ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 101
GENERAL

101.1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the *Wildland-Urban Interface Code* of [NAME OF JURISDICTION], hereinafter referred to as "this code."

101.2 Scope. The provisions of this code shall apply to the construction, alteration, movement, repair, maintenance and use of any building, structure or premises within the wildland-urban interface areas in this jurisdiction.

Buildings or conditions in existence at the time of the adoption of this code are allowed to have their use or occupancy continued, if such condition, use or occupancy was legal at the time of the adoption of this code, provided such continued use does not constitute a distinct danger to life or property.

Buildings or structures moved into or within the jurisdiction shall comply with the provisions of this code for new buildings or structures.

101.3 Objective. The objective of this code is to establish minimum regulations consistent with nationally recognized good practice for the safeguarding of life and property. Regulations in this code are intended to mitigate the risk to life and structures from intrusion of fire from wildland fire exposures and fire exposures from adjacent structures and to mitigate structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels. The extent of this regulation is intended to be tiered commensurate with the relative level of hazard present.

The unrestricted use of property in wildland-urban interface areas is a potential threat to life and property from fire and resulting erosion. Safeguards to prevent the occurrence of fires and to provide adequate fire-protection facilities to control the spread of fire in wildland-urban interface areas shall be in accordance with this code.

This code shall supplement the jurisdiction's building and fire codes, if such codes have been adopted, to provide for special regulations to mitigate the fire- and life-safety hazards of the wildland-urban interface areas.

101.4 Retroactivity. The provisions of the code shall apply to conditions arising after the adoption thereof, conditions not legally in existence at the adoption of this code, to conditions which, in the opinion of the code official, constitute a distinct hazard to life or property.

> **Exception:** Provisions of this code that specifically apply to existing conditions are retroactive. See Sections 402.3, 601.1 and Appendix A.

101.5 Additions or alterations. Additions or alterations may be made to any building or structure without requiring the existing building or structure to comply with all of the requirements of this code, provided the addition or alteration conforms to that required for a new building or structure.

> **Exception:** Provisions of this code that specifically apply to existing conditions are retroactive. See Sections 402.3, 601.1 and Appendix A.

Additions or alterations shall not be made to an existing building or structure that will cause the existing building or structure to be in violation of any of the provisions of this code nor shall such additions or alterations cause the existing building or structure to become unsafe. An unsafe condition shall be deemed to have been created if an addition or alteration will cause the existing building or structure to become structurally unsafe or overloaded; will not provide adequate access in compliance with the provisions of this code or will obstruct existing exits or access; will create a fire hazard; will reduce required fire resistance or will otherwise create conditions dangerous to human life.

101.6 Maintenance. All buildings, structures, landscape materials, vegetation, defensible space or other devices or safeguards required by this code shall be maintained in conformance to the code edition under which installed. The owner or the owner's designated agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings, structures, landscape materials and vegetation.

SECTION 102
AUTHORITY OF THE CODE OFFICIAL

102.1 Powers and duties of the code official. The code official is hereby authorized to administer and enforce this code, or designated sections thereof, and all ordinances of the jurisdiction pertaining to designated wildland-urban interface areas. For such purposes, the code official shall have the powers of a law enforcement officer.

102.2 Interpretations, rules and regulations. The code official shall have the power to render interpretations of this code and to adopt and enforce rules and supplemental regulations to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, rules and regulations shall be in conformance to the intent and purpose of this code.

A copy of such rules and regulations shall be filed with the clerk of the jurisdiction and shall be in effect immediately thereafter. Additional copies shall be available for distribution to the public.

102.3 Liability of the code official. The code official charged with the enforcement of this code, acting in good faith and without malice in the discharge of the duties required by this code or other pertinent law or ordinance, shall not thereby be rendered personally liable for damages that may accrue to persons or property as a result of an act or by reason of an act or omission in the discharge of such duties. A suit brought against the code official or employee because of such act or omission performed by the code official or employee in the enforcement of any provision of such codes or other pertinent laws or ordinances implemented through the enforcement of this code or

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enforced by the code enforcement agency shall be defended by this jurisdiction until final termination of such proceedings, and any judgment resulting therefrom shall be assumed by this jurisdiction. The code enforcement agency or its parent jurisdiction shall not be held as assuming any liability by reason of the inspections authorized by this code or any permits or certificates issued under this code.

102.4 Other agencies. When requested to do so by the code official, other officials of this jurisdiction shall assist and cooperate with the code official in the discharge of the duties required by this code.

SECTION 103
COMPLIANCE ALTERNATIVES

103.1 Practical difficulties. When there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the code official is authorized to grant modifications for individual cases on application in writing by the owner or a duly authorized representative. The code official shall first find that a special individual reason makes enforcement of the strict letter of this code impractical, the modification is in conformance to the intent and purpose of this code, and the modification does not lessen any fire protection requirements or any degree of structural integrity. The details of any action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered into the files of the code enforcement agency.

If the code official determines that difficult terrain, danger of erosion or other unusual circumstances make strict compliance with the vegetation control provisions of the code detrimental to safety or impractical, enforcement thereof may be suspended, provided that reasonable alternative measures are taken.

103.2 Technical assistance. To determine the acceptability of technologies, processes, products, facilities, materials and uses attending the design, operation or use of a building or premises subject to the inspection of the code official, the code official is authorized to require the owner or the person in possession or control of the building or premises to provide, without charge to the jurisdiction, a technical opinion and report. The opinion and report shall be prepared by a qualified engineer, specialist, laboratory or fire safety specialty organization acceptable to the code official and the owner and shall analyze the fire safety of the design, operation or use of the building or premises, the facilities and appurtenances situated thereon and fuel management for purposes of establishing fire hazard severity to recommend necessary changes.

103.3 Alternative materials or methods. The code official, in concurrence with approval from the building official and fire chief, is authorized to approve alternative materials or methods, provided that the code official finds that the proposed design, use or operation satisfactorily complies with the intent of this code and that the alternative is, for the purpose intended, at least equivalent to the level of quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety prescribed by this code. Approvals under the authority herein contained shall be subject to the approval of the building official whenever the alternate material or method involves matters regulated by the *International Building Code*.

The code official shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claims that may be made regarding its use. The details of any action granting approval of an alternate shall be recorded and entered in the files of the code enforcement agency.

SECTION 104
APPEALS

104.1 General. To determine the suitability of alternative materials and methods and to provide for reasonable interpretations of the provisions of this code, there shall be and hereby is created a board of appeals consisting of five members who are qualified by experience and training to pass judgment on pertinent matters. The code official, building official and fire chief shall be ex officio members, and the code official shall act as secretary of the board. The board of appeals shall be appointed by the legislative body and shall hold office at their discretion. The board shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for conducting its investigations and shall render decisions and findings in writing to the code official, with a duplicate copy to the applicant.

104.2 Limitations of authority. The board of appeals shall not have authority relative to interpretation of the administrative provisions of this code and shall not have authority to waive requirements of this code.

SECTION 105
PERMITS

105.1 General. When not otherwise provided in the requirements of the building or fire code, permits are required in accordance with Section 105.

105.2 Permits required. Unless otherwise exempted, no building or structure regulated by this code shall be erected, constructed, altered, repaired, moved, removed, converted, demolished, or changed in use or occupancy unless a separate permit for each building or structure has first been obtained from the code official.

For buildings or structures erected for temporary uses, see Appendix A, Section A108.3, of this code.

When required by the code official, a permit shall be obtained for the following activities, operations, practices or functions within an wildland-urban interface area:

1. Automobile wrecking yard.
2. Candles and open flames in assembly areas.
3. Explosives or blasting agents.
4. Fireworks.
5. Flammable or combustible liquids.
6. Hazardous materials.
7. Liquefied petroleum gases.
8. Lumberyards.
9. Motor vehicle fuel-dispensing stations.
10. Open burning.

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11. Pyrotechnical special effects material.
12. Tents, canopies and temporary membrane structures.
13. Tire storage.
14. Welding and cutting operations.

105.3 Work exempt from permit. Unless otherwise provided in the requirements of the *International Building Code* or *International Fire Code,* a permit shall not be required for the following:

1. One-story detached accessory buildings used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 square feet (11.15 m^2) and the structure is located more than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from the nearest adjacent structure.
2. Fences not over 6 feet (1829 mm) high.

Exemption from the permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction.

The code official is authorized to stipulate conditions for permits. Permits shall not be issued when public safety would be at risk, as determined by the code official.

105.4 Permit application. To obtain a permit, the applicant shall first file an application therefor in writing on a form furnished by the code enforcement agency for that purpose. Every such application shall:

1. Identify and describe the work, activity, operation, practice or function to be covered by the permit for which application is made.
2. Describe the land on which the proposed work, activity, operation, practice or function is to be done by legal description, street address or similar description that will readily identify and definitely locate the proposed building, work, activity, operation, practice or function.
3. Indicate the use or occupancy for which the proposed work, activity, operation, practice or function is intended.
4. Be accompanied by plans, diagrams, computation and specifications and other data as required in Section 106 of this code.
5. State the valuation of any new building or structure or any addition, remodeling or alteration to an existing building.
6. Be signed by the applicant or the applicant's authorized agent.
7. Give such other data and information as may be required by the code official.

105.5 Permit approval. Before a permit is issued, the code official, or an authorized representative, shall review and approve all permitted uses, occupancies or structures. Where laws or regulations are enforceable by other agencies or departments, a joint approval shall be obtained from all agencies or departments concerned.

105.6 Permit issuance. The application, plans, specifications and other data filed by an applicant for a permit shall be reviewed by the code official. If the code official finds that the work described in an application for a permit and the plan, specifications and other data filed therewith conform to the requirements of this code, the code official is allowed to issue a permit to the applicant.

When the code official issues the permit, the code official shall endorse in writing or stamp the plans and specifications APPROVED. Such approved plans and specifications shall not be changed, modified or altered without authorization from the code official, and all work regulated by this code shall be done in accordance with the approved plans.

105.7 Validity of permit. The issuance or granting of a permit or approval of plans, specifications and computations shall not be construed to be a permit for, or an approval of, any violation of any of the provisions of this code or of any other ordinance of the jurisdiction. Permits presuming to give authority to violate or conceal the provisions of this code or other ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid.

105.8 Expiration. Every permit issued by the code official under the provisions of this code shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the building, use or work authorized by such permit is not commenced within 180 days from the date of such permit, or if the building, use or work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned at any time after the work is commenced for a period of 180 days.

Any permittee holding an unexpired permit may apply for an extension of the time within which work may commence under that permit when the permittee is unable to commence work within the time required by this section for good and satisfactory reasons. The code official may extend the time for action by the permittee for a period not exceeding 180 days on written request by the permittee showing that circumstances beyond the control of the permittee have prevented action from being taken. No permit shall be extended more than once.

105.9 Retention of permits. Permits shall at all times be kept on the premises designated therein and shall at all times be subject to inspection by the code official or other authorized representative.

105.10 Revocation of permits. Permits issued under this code may be suspended or revoked when it is determined by the code official that:

1. It is used by a person other than the person to whom the permit was issued.
2. It is used for a location other than that for which the permit was issued.
3. Any of the conditions or limitations set forth in the permit have been violated.
4. The permittee fails, refuses or neglects to comply with any order or notice duly served on him under the provisions of this code within the time provided therein.
5. There has been any false statement or misrepresentation as to material fact in the application or plans on which the permit or application was made.
6. When the permit is issued in error or in violation of any other ordinance, regulations or provisions of this code.

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The code official is allowed to, in writing, suspend or revoke a permit issued under the provisions of this code whenever the permit is issued in error or on the basis of incorrect information supplied, or in violation of any ordinance or regulation or any of the provisions of this code.

SECTION 106
PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

106.1 General. Plans, engineering calculations, diagrams and other data shall be submitted in at least two sets with each application for a permit. When such plans are not prepared by an architect or engineer, the code official may require the applicant submitting such plans or other data to demonstrate that state law does not require that the plans be prepared by a licensed architect or engineer. The code official may require plans, computations and specifications to be prepared and designed by an architect or engineer licensed by the state to practice as such even if not required by state law.

Exception: Submission of plans, calculations, construction inspection requirements and other data, if it is found that the nature of the work applied for is such that reviewing of plans is not necessary to obtain compliance with this code.

106.2 Information on plans and specifications. Plans and specifications shall be drawn to scale upon substantial paper or cloth and shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of the work proposed, and show in detail that it will conform to the provisions of this code and all relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations.

106.3 Site plan. In addition to the requirements for plans in the *International Building Code*, site plans shall include topography, width and percent of grade of access roads, landscape and vegetation details, locations of structures or building envelopes, existing or proposed overhead utilities, occupancy classification of buildings, types of ignition-resistant construction of buildings, structures and their appendages, roof classification of buildings, and site water supply systems.

106.4 Vegetation management plans. When utilized by the permit applicant pursuant to Section 502, vegetation management plans shall be prepared and shall be submitted to the code official for review and approval as part of the plans required for a permit. See Appendix B.

106.5 Fire protection plan. When required by the code official pursuant to Section 405, a fire protection plan shall be prepared and shall be submitted to the code official for review and approved as a part of the plans required for a permit.

106.6 Other data and substantiation. When required by the code official, the plans and specifications shall include classification of fuel loading, fuel model light, medium or heavy, and substantiating data to verify classification of fire-resistive vegetation.

106.7 Vicinity plan. In addition to the requirements for site plans, plans shall include details regarding the vicinity within 300 feet (91 440 mm) of property lines, including other structures, slope, vegetation, fuel breaks, water supply systems and access roads.

106.8 Retention of plans. One set of approved plans, specifications and computations shall be retained by the code official for a period of not less than 90 days from date of completion of the work covered therein; and one set of approved plans and specifications shall be returned to the applicant, and said set shall be kept on the site of the building, use or work at all times during which the work authorized thereby is in progress.

SECTION 107
INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

107.1 Inspection.

107.1.1 General. All construction or work for which a permit is required by this code shall be subject to inspection by the code official and all such construction or work shall remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes until approved by the code official.

It shall be the duty of the permit applicant to cause the work to remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes. Neither the code official nor the jurisdiction shall be liable for expense entailed in the removal or replacement of any material required to allow inspection.

Approval as a result of an inspection shall not be construed to be an approval of a violation of the provisions of this code or of other ordinances of the jurisdiction. Inspections presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this code or of other ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid.

A survey of the lot may be required by the code official to verify that the mitigation features are provided and the building or structure is located in accordance with the approved plans.

107.1.2 Authority to inspect. The code official shall inspect, as often as necessary, buildings and premises, including such other hazards or appliances designated by the code official for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions that could reasonably be expected to cause fire or contribute to its spread, or any violation of the purpose of this code and of any other law or standard affecting fire safety.

107.1.3 Reinspections. To determine compliance with this code, the code official may cause a structure to be reinspected. A fee may be assessed for each inspection or reinspection when such portion of work for which inspection is called is not complete or when corrections called for are not made.

Reinspection fees may be assessed when the approved plans are not readily available to the inspector, for failure to provide access on the date for which inspection is requested or for deviating from plans requiring the approval of the code official.

To obtain a reinspection, the applicant shall pay the reinspection fee as set forth in the fee schedule adopted by the jurisdiction. When reinspection fees have been assessed, no additional inspection of the work will be performed until the required fees have been paid.

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107.2 Enforcement.

107.2.1 Authorization to issue corrective orders and notices. When the code official finds any building or premises that are in violation of this code, the code official is authorized to issue corrective orders and notices.

107.2.2 Service of orders and notices. Orders and notices authorized or required by this code shall be given or served on the owner, operator, occupant or other person responsible for the condition or violation either by verbal notification, personal service, or delivering the same to, and leaving it with, a person of suitable age and discretion on the premises; or, if no such person is found on the premises, by affixing a copy thereof in a conspicuous place on the door to the entrance of said premises and by mailing a copy thereof to such person by registered or certified mail to the person's last known address.

Orders or notices that are given verbally shall be confirmed by service in writing as herein provided.

107.3 Right of entry. Whenever necessary to make an inspection to enforce any of the provisions of this code, or whenever the code official has reasonable cause to believe that there exists in any building or on any premises any condition that makes such building or premises unsafe, the code official is authorized to enter such building or premises at all reasonable times to inspect the same or to perform any duty authorized by this code, provided that if such building or premises is occupied, the code official shall first present proper credentials and request entry; and if such building or premises is unoccupied, the code official shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other persons having charge or control of the building or premises and request entry.

If such entry is refused, the code official shall have recourse to every remedy provided by law to secure entry. Owners, occupants or any other persons having charge, care or control of any building or premises, shall, after proper request is made as herein provided, promptly permit entry therein by the code official for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to this code.

107.4 Compliance with orders and notices.

107.4.1 General compliance. Orders and notices issued or served as provided by this code shall be complied with by the owner, operator, occupant or other person responsible for the condition or violation to which the corrective order or notice pertains.

If the building or premises is not occupied, such corrective orders or notices shall be complied with by the owner.

107.4.2 Compliance with tags. A building or premises shall not be used when in violation of this code as noted on a tag affixed in accordance with Section 107.4.1.

107.4.3 Removal and destruction of signs and tags. A sign or tag posted or affixed by the code official shall not be mutilated, destroyed or removed without authorization by the code official.

107.4.4 Citations. Persons operating or maintaining an occupancy, premises or vehicle subject to this code who allow a hazard to exist or fail to take immediate action to abate a hazard on such occupancy, premises or vehicle when ordered or notified to do so by the code official shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

107.4.5 Unsafe conditions. Buildings, structures or premises that constitute a fire hazard or are otherwise dangerous to human life, or which in relation to existing use constitute a hazard to safety or health or public welfare, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence, fire hazard, disaster damage or abandonment as specified in this code or any other ordinance, are unsafe conditions. Unsafe buildings or structures shall not be used. Unsafe buildings are hereby declared to be public nuisances and shall be abated by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or removal, pursuant to applicable state and local laws and codes.

SECTION 108
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

108.1 General. No building, structure or premises shall be used or occupied, and no change in the existing occupancy classification of a building, structure, premise or portion thereof shall be made until the code official has issued a certificate of completion therefor as provided herein. The certificate of occupancy shall not be issued until the certificate of completion indicating that the project is in compliance with this code has been issued by the code official.

108.2 Certificate of occupancy. Issuance of a certificate of occupancy shall not be construed as an approval of a violation of the provisions of this code or of other pertinent laws and ordinances of the jurisdiction. Certificates presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this code or other laws or ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid.

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CHAPTER 2
DEFINITIONS

SECTION 201
GENERAL

201.1 Scope. Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this code, have the meanings shown in this chapter.

201.2 Interchangeability. Words stated in the present tense include the future; words stated in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter, and the singular number includes the plural and the plural the singular.

201.3 Terms defined in other codes. Where terms are not defined in this code and are defined in other *International Codes*, such terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them as in those codes.

201.4 Terms not defined. Where terms are not defined through the methods authorized by this section, such terms shall have their ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies.

SECTION 202
DEFINITIONS

ACCESSORY STRUCTURE. A building or structure used to shelter or support any material, equipment, chattel or occupancy other than a habitable building.

APPROVED. Approval by the code official as the result of review, investigation or tests conducted by the code official or by reason of accepted principles or tests by national authorities, or technical or scientific organizations.

BUILDING. Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

BUILDING OFFICIAL. The officer or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of the *International Building Code*, or the building official's duly authorized representative.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION. Written documentation that the project or work for which a permit was issued has been completed in conformance with requirements of this code.

CODE OFFICIAL. The official designated by the jurisdiction to interpret and enforce this code, or the code official's authorized representative.

CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER. A set of weather conditions (usually a combination of low relative humidity and wind) whose effects on fire behavior make control difficult and threaten fire fighter safety.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE. An area either natural or man-made, where material capable of allowing a fire to spread unchecked has been treated, cleared or modified to slow the rate and intensity of an advancing wildfire and to create an area for fire suppression operations to occur.

DRIVEWAY. A vehicular ingress and egress route that serves no more than two buildings or structures, not including accessory structures, or more than five dwelling units.

FIRE AREA. The floor area, in square feet (square meters), used to determine the adequate water supply.

FIRE CHIEF. The chief officer or the chief officer's authorized representative of the fire department serving the jurisdiction.

FIRE PROTECTION PLAN. A document prepared for a specific project or development proposed for the wildland-urban interface area. It describes ways to minimize and mitigate the fire problems created by the project or development, with the purpose of reducing impact on the community's fire protection delivery system.

FIRE WEATHER. Weather conditions favorable to the ignition and rapid spread of fire. In wildfires, this generally includes high temperatures combined with strong winds and low humidity. See "Critical fire weather."

FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED CONSTRUCTION. The use of materials and systems in the design and construction of a building or structure to safeguard against the spread of fire within a building or structure and the spread of fire to or from buildings or structures to the wildland-urban interface area.

FLAME SPREAD RATING. As used herein refers to rating obtained according to tests conducted as specified by a nationally recognized standard.

FUEL BREAK. An area, strategically located for fighting anticipated fires, where the native vegetation has been permanently modified or replaced so that fires burning into it can be more easily controlled. Fuel breaks divide fire-prone areas into smaller areas for easier fire control and to provide access for fire fighting.

FUEL, HEAVY. Vegetation consisting of round wood 3 to 8 inches (76 to 203 mm) in diameter. See Fuel Models G, I, J, K and U described in Appendix D.

FUEL, LIGHT. Vegetation consisting of herbaceous plants and round wood less than $^1/_4$ inch (6.4 mm) in diameter. See Fuel Models A, C, E, L, N, P, R and S described in Appendix D.

FUEL, MEDIUM. Vegetation consisting of round wood $^1/_4$ to 3 inches (6.4 mm to 76 mm) in diameter. See Fuel Models B, D, F, H, O, Q and T described in Appendix D.

FUEL MODIFICATION. A method of modifying fuel load by reducing the amount of nonfire-resistive vegetation or altering the type of vegetation to reduce the fuel load.

FUEL MOSAIC. A fuel modification system that provides for the creation of islands and irregular boundaries to reduce the visual and ecological impact of fuel modification.

FUEL-LOADING. The oven-dry weight of fuels in a given area, usually expressed in pounds per acre (lb/a) (kg/ha). Fuel

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loading may be referenced to fuel size or timelag categories, and may include surface fuels or total fuels.

GREEN BELT. A fuel break designated for a use other than fire protection.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. As defined in the *International Fire Code*.

HEAVY TIMBER CONSTRUCTION. As described in the *International Building Code*.

IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION, CLASS 1. A schedule of additional requirements for construction in wildland-urban interface areas based on extreme fire hazard.

IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION, CLASS 2. A schedule of additional requirements for construction in wildland-urban interface areas based on high fire hazard.

IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION, CLASS 3. A schedule of additional requirements for construction in wildland-urban interface areas based on moderate fire hazard.

LOG WALL CONSTRUCTION. A type of construction in which exterior walls are constructed of solid wood members and where the smallest horizontal dimension of each solid wood member is at least 6 inches (152 mm).

MULTILAYERED GLAZED PANELS. Window or door assemblies that consist of two or more independently glazed panels installed parallel to each other, having a sealed air gap in between, within a frame designed to fill completely the window or door opening in which the assembly is intended to be installed.

NONCOMBUSTIBLE. As applied to building construction material means a material that, in the form in which it is used, is either one of the following:

1. Material of which no part will ignite and burn when subjected to fire. Any material conforming to ASTM E 136 shall be considered noncombustible within the meaning of this section.
2. Material having a structural base of noncombustible material as defined in Item 1 above, with a surfacing material not over $^{1}/_{8}$ inch (3.2 mm) thick, which has a flame spread rating of 50 or less. Flame spread rating as used herein refers to rating obtained according to tests conducted as specified in ASTM E 84.

"Noncombustible" does not apply to surface finish materials. Material required to be noncombustible for reduced clearances to flues, heating appliances or other sources of high temperature shall refer to material conforming to Item 1. No material shall be classed as noncombustible that is subject to increase in combustibility or flame spread rating, beyond the limits herein established, through the effects of age, moisture or other atmospheric condition.

NONCOMBUSTIBLE ROOF COVERING. One of the following:

1. Cement shingles or sheets.
2. Exposed concrete slab roof.
3. Ferrous or copper shingles or sheets.
4. Slate shingles.
5. Clay or concrete roofing tile.
6. Approved roof covering of noncombustible material.

SLOPE. The variation of terrain from the horizontal; the number of feet (meters) rise or fall per 100 feet (30 480 mm) measured horizontally, expressed as a percentage.

STRUCTURE. That which is built or constructed, an edifice or building of any kind, or any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some manner.

TREE CROWN. The primary and secondary branches growing out from the main stem, together with twigs and foliage.

UNENCLOSED ACCESSORY STRUCTURE. An accessory structure without a complete exterior wall system enclosing the area under roof or floor above.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREA. That geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels.

WILDFIRE. An uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, exposing and possibly consuming structures.

WILDLAND. An area in which development is essentially nonexistent, except for roads, railroads, power lines and similar facilities.

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CHAPTER 3

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREAS

SECTION 301
GENERAL

301.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter provide methodology to establish and record wildland-urban interface areas based on the findings of fact.

301.2 Objective. The objective of this chapter is to provide simple baseline criteria for determining wildland-urban interface areas.

SECTION 302
WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREA DESIGNATIONS

302.1 Declaration. The legislative body shall declare the wildland-urban interface areas within the jurisdiction. The wildland-urban interface areas shall be based on the findings of fact (see Appendix E). The wildland-urban interface area boundary shall correspond to natural or man-made features and include a minimum of 640 acres (259 ha) unless a smaller area is approved by the legislative body through an assessment of fuel types and physical characteristics affecting wildland fire behavior.

302.2 Mapping. The wildland-urban interface areas shall be recorded on maps and filed with the clerk of the jurisdiction. These areas shall become effective immediately thereafter.

302.3 Review of wildland-urban interface areas. The code official shall reevaluate and recommend modification to the wildland-urban interface areas in accordance with Section 302.1 on a three-year basis or more frequently as deemed necessary by the legislative body.

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