

CHAPTER 5

SPECIAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

SECTION 501 GENERAL

501.1 Scope. Buildings and structures shall be constructed in accordance with the *International Building Code* and this code.

Exceptions:

1. Accessory structures not exceeding 120 square feet (11 m²) in floor area when located at least 50 feet (15 240 mm) from buildings containing habitable spaces.
2. Agricultural buildings at least 50 feet (15 240 mm) from buildings containing habitable spaces.

501.2 Objective. The objective of this chapter is to establish minimum standards to locate, design and construct buildings and structures or portions thereof for the protection of life and property, to resist damage from wildfires, and to mitigate building and structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels. The minimum standards set forth in this chapter vary with the critical fire weather, slope and fuel type to provide increased protection, above the requirements set forth in the *International Building Code*, from the various levels of hazards.

SECTION 502 FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY

The fire hazard severity of building sites for all buildings hereafter constructed, modified or relocated into urban-wildland

interface areas shall be established in accordance with Table 502. See also Appendix C.

The fire hazard severity identified in Table 502 is allowed to be reduced by implementing a vegetation management plan in accordance with Appendix B.

SECTION 503 IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION

503.1 General. Buildings and structures hereafter constructed, modified or relocated into or within urban-wildland interface areas shall meet the construction requirements in accordance with Table 503.1. Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 ignition-resistant construction shall be in accordance with Sections 504, 505 and 506, respectively.

SECTION 504 CLASS 1 IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION

504.1 General. Class 1 ignition-resistant construction shall be in accordance with Section 504.

504.2 Roof covering. Roofs shall have a Class A roof covering or a Class A roof assembly. For roof coverings where the profile allows a space between the roof covering and roof decking, the space at the eave ends shall be firestopped to preclude entry of flames or embers.

**TABLE 502
FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY**

FUEL MODEL ^b	CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER FREQUENCY								
	≤ 1 Day ^a			2 to 7 Days ^a			≥ 8 Days ^a		
	Slope (%)			Slope (%)			Slope (%)		
	≤ 40	41-60	≥ 61	≤ 40	41-60	≥ 61	≤ 40	41-60	≥ 61
Light fuel	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Medium fuel	M	M	H	H	H	H	E	E	E
Heavy fuel	H	H	H	H	E	E	E	E	E

a. Days per annum.

b. When required by the code official, fuel classification shall be based on the historical fuel type for the area.

- E = Extreme hazard.
H = High hazard.
M = Moderate hazard.

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TABLE 503.1
IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION^a

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ^c	FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY					
	Moderate Hazard		High Hazard		Extreme Hazard	
	Water Supply ^b		Water Supply ^b		Water Supply ^b	
	Conforming ^d	Nonconforming ^e	Conforming ^d	Nonconforming ^e	Conforming ^d	Nonconforming ^e
Nonconforming	IR 2	IR 1	IR 1	IR 1 N.C.	IR 1 N.C.	Not Permitted
Conforming	IR 3	IR 2	IR 2	IR 1	IR 1	IR 1 N.C.
1.5 x Conforming	Not Required	IR 3	IR 3	IR 2	IR 2	IR 1

a. Access shall be in accordance with Section 402.

b. Subdivisions shall have a conforming water supply in accordance with Section 402.1.

IR 1 = Ignition-resistant construction in accordance with Section 504.

IR 2 = Ignition-resistant construction in accordance with Section 505.

IR 3 = Ignition-resistant construction in accordance with Section 506.

N.C. = Exterior walls shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1-hour and the exterior surfaces of such walls shall be noncombustible. Usage of log wall construction is allowed.

c. Conformance based on Section 603.

d. Conformance based on Section 404.

e. A nonconforming water supply is any water system or source that does not comply with Section 404, including situations where there is no water supply for structure protection or fire suppression.

504.3 Protection of eaves. Eaves and soffits shall be protected on the exposed underside by materials approved for a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction. Fascias are required and must be protected on the backside by materials approved for a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or 2-inch (51 mm) nominal dimension lumber.

504.4 Gutters and downspouts. Gutters and downspouts shall be constructed of noncombustible material.

504.5 Exterior walls. Exterior walls of buildings or structures shall be constructed with materials approved for a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction on the exterior side or constructed with approved noncombustible materials.

Exception: Heavy timber or log wall construction.

Such material shall extend from the top of the foundation to the underside of the roof sheathing.

504.6 Unenclosed underfloor protection. Buildings or structures shall have all underfloor areas enclosed to the ground with exterior walls in accordance with Section 504.5.

Exception: Complete enclosure may be omitted where the underside of all exposed floors and all exposed structural columns, beams and supporting walls are protected as required for exterior 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or heavy timber construction.

504.7 Appendages and projections. Unenclosed accessory structures attached to buildings with habitable spaces and projections, such as decks, shall be a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction, heavy timber construction or constructed of approved noncombustible materials.

When the attached structure is located and constructed so that the structure or any portion thereof projects over a de-

scending slope surface greater than 10 percent, the area below the structure shall have all underfloor areas enclosed to within 6 inches (152 mm) of the ground, with exterior wall construction in accordance with Section 504.5.

504.8 Exterior glazing. Exterior windows, window walls and glazed doors, windows within exterior doors, and skylights shall be tempered glass, multilayered glazed panels, glass block or have a fire protection rating of not less than 20 minutes.

504.9 Exterior doors. Exterior doors shall be approved noncombustible construction, solid core wood not less than 1³/₄ inches thick (45 mm), or have a fire protection rating of not less than 20 minutes. Windows within doors and glazed doors shall be in accordance with Section 504.8.

Exception: Vehicle access doors.

504.10 Vents. Attic ventilation openings, foundation or underfloor vents, or other ventilation openings in vertical exterior walls and vents through roofs shall not exceed 144 square inches (0.0929 m²) each. Such vents shall be covered with noncombustible corrosion-resistant mesh with openings not to exceed 1/4 inch (6.4 mm).

Attic ventilation openings shall not be located in soffits, in eave overhangs, between rafters at eaves, or in other overhang areas. Gable end and dormer vents shall be located at least 10 feet (3048 mm) from property lines. Underfloor ventilation openings shall be located as close to grade as practical.

504.11 Detached accessory structures. Detached accessory structures located less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from a building containing habitable space shall have exterior walls constructed with materials approved for a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction, heavy timber, log wall construction or constructed with approved noncombustible materials on the exterior side.

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When the detached structure is located and constructed so that the structure or any portion thereof projects over a descending slope surface greater than 10 percent, the area below the structure shall have all underfloor areas enclosed to within 6 inches (152 mm) of the ground, with exterior wall construction in accordance with Section 504.5 or underfloor protection in accordance with Section 504.6.

Exception: The enclosure may be omitted where the underside of all exposed floors and all exposed structural columns, beams and supporting walls are protected as required for exterior 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or heavy-timber construction.

See Section 504.2 for roof requirements.

SECTION 505 CLASS 2 IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION

505.1 General. Class 2 ignition-resistant construction shall be in accordance with Section 505.

505.2 Roof covering. Roofs shall have at least a Class B roof covering, Class B roof assembly or an approved noncombustible roof covering. For roof coverings where the profile allows a space between the roof covering and roof decking, the space at the eave ends shall be firestopped to preclude entry of flames or embers.

505.3 Protection of eaves. Combustible eaves, fascias and soffits shall be enclosed with solid materials with a minimum thickness of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (19 mm). No exposed rafter tails shall be permitted unless constructed of heavy timber materials.

505.4 Gutters and downspouts. Gutters and downspouts shall be constructed of noncombustible material.

505.5 Exterior walls. Exterior walls of buildings or structures shall be constructed with materials approved for a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction on the exterior side or constructed with approved noncombustible materials.

Exception: Heavy timber or log wall construction.

Such material shall extend from the top of the foundation to the underside of the roof sheathing.

505.6 Unenclosed underfloor protection. Buildings or structures shall have all underfloor areas enclosed to the ground, with exterior walls in accordance with Section 505.5.

Exception: Complete enclosure may be omitted where the underside of all exposed floors and all exposed structural columns, beams and supporting walls are protected as required for exterior 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or heavy timber construction.

505.7 Appendages and projections. Unenclosed accessory structures attached to buildings with habitable spaces and projections, such as decks, shall be a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction, heavy timber construction or constructed with approved noncombustible materials.

When the attached structure is located and constructed so that the structure or any portion thereof projects over a descending slope surface greater than 10 percent, the area below the structure shall have all underfloor areas enclosed to within 6 inches (152 mm) of the ground, with exterior wall construction in accordance with Section 505.5.

505.8 Exterior glazing. Exterior windows, window walls and glazed doors, windows within exterior doors, and skylights shall be tempered glass, multilayered glazed panels, glass block or have a fire-protection rating of not less than 20 minutes.

505.9 Exterior doors. Exterior doors shall be approved non-combustible construction, solid core wood not less than $1\frac{3}{4}$ -inches thick (45 mm), or have a fire protection rating of not less than 20 minutes. Windows within doors and glazed doors shall be in accordance with Section 505.8.

Exception: Vehicle access doors.

505.10 Vents. Attic ventilation openings, foundation or underfloor vents or other ventilation openings in vertical exterior walls and vents through roofs shall not exceed 144 square inches (0.0929 m²) each. Such vents shall be covered with noncombustible corrosion-resistant mesh with openings not to exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6.4 mm).

Attic ventilation openings shall not be located in soffits, in eave overhangs, between rafters at eaves, or in other overhang areas. Gable end and dormer vents shall be located at least 10 feet (3048 mm) from property lines. Underfloor ventilation openings shall be located as close to grade as practical.

505.11 Detached accessory structures. Detached accessory structures located less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from a building containing habitable space shall have exterior walls constructed with materials approved for a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction, heavy timber, log wall construction, or constructed with approved noncombustible material on the exterior side.

When the detached structure is located and constructed so that the structure or any portion thereof projects over a descending slope surface greater than 10 percent, the area below the structure shall have all underfloor areas enclosed to within 6 inches (152 mm) of the ground, with exterior wall construction in accordance with Section 505.5 or underfloor protection in accordance with Section 505.6.

Exception: The enclosure may be omitted where the underside of all exposed floors and all exposed structural columns, beams and supporting walls are protected as required for exterior 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or heavy-timber construction.

See Section 505.2 for roof requirements.

SECTION 506 CLASS 3 IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION

506.1 General. Class 3 ignition-resistant construction shall be in accordance with Section 506.

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506.2 Roof covering. Roofs shall have at least a Class C roof covering, Class C roof assembly or an approved noncombustible roof covering. For roof coverings where the profile allows a space between the roof covering and roof decking, the space at the eave ends shall be firestopped to preclude entry of flames or embers.

506.3 Unenclosed underfloor protection. Buildings or structures shall have all underfloor areas enclosed to the ground with exterior walls.

Exception: Complete enclosure may be omitted where the underside of all exposed floors and all exposed structural columns, beams and supporting walls are protected as required for exterior 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or heavy timber construction.

506.4 Vents. Attic ventilation openings, soffit vents, foundation or underfloor vents or other ventilation openings in vertical exterior walls and vents through roofs shall not exceed 144 square inches (0.0929 m²) each. Such vents shall be covered with noncombustible corrosion-resistant mesh with openings not to exceed 1/4 inch (6.4 mm).

SECTION 507 REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR OF ROOF COVERINGS

The roof covering on buildings or structures in existence prior to the adoption of this code that are replaced or have 25 percent or more replaced in a 12-month period shall be replaced with a roof covering required for new construction based on the type of ignition-resistant construction specified in accordance with Section 503.