

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES

BUILDING CODES DIVISION

MAPPING USES FOR WILDFIRE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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Wildfire Hazard Mitigation

- The terms “hardening” or “wildfire hazard mitigation” are broadly used to describe steps to prepare a home to increase its chance of survival in a wildfire
- In the building code context, it includes construction standards to make a building more fire resistant to both fire and embers (which can travel far, especially in wind events)

Current Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Building Code Standards

- Wildfire Hazard Mitigation - R327
 - ▣ Adopted January 2019 in Residential Specialty Code
 - ▣ Result of a workgroup including fire service, building officials, and builders; approved by Residential and Manufactured Structures Board with cost finding
 - ▣ Requires local adoption, based on ODF hazard criteria (local government determines the “map”/application)

R327 Provisions

- R327 includes fire resistant roof, gutters, exterior walls, eaves, and other mitigating construction techniques
- Balances effective fire hardening methods and cost, while maintaining design choices
- Valuable as a set of code requirements where adopted, and as a “best practices” document that can be used by consumers and builders

Fire Mapping

- Comprehensive wildfire risk mapping and identification of wildfire hazard zones throughout the state would remove need for local adoption in R327
- R327 provides the “what”- a map would provide the “where”

SB 248(-1)

- Section 12 would require adoption of R327 for high wildfire risk classes identified in the map created by Oregon Department of Forestry
- R327 fire hardening provisions would be included in each update of the residential code going forward
- Standards have been created; would update based on the map once the map is in place.

Conclusion

- ▣ Questions/feedback welcome

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