



KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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F-001
BULLETIN

BUILDING PERMIT SUBMITTAL-WUIC REQUIREMENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE CDS WEBSITE AT: WWW.CO.KITTITAS.WA.US

Within the unincorporated areas of Kittitas County, all properties have been designated as a Wildland Urban Interface area. As such, specific building construction and property maintenance requirements apply to any structures built on your property. Construction in Type II and Type I Ignition Resistant WUIC areas must meet certain requirements, such as non-combustible or 1-hr exterior siding materials, enclosed non-combustible soffits, a fire suppression sprinkler system and defensible space requirements, which will be determined after staff has identified the classification of your property. This process will clearly establish the conditions necessary to ensure the structure meets the requirements of the WUIC.

SUBMITTAL OF PLANS: Submit two sets of building construction plans. A site plan showing defensible space and management of the property shall be required as well. The WUI application fee is \$130.00.

PERMIT ISSUED AND SITE VISIT: After your permit is issued and during the construction process, a site visit will be conducted to inspect the property to determine if the defensible space plan, as well as the building construction requirements have been met.

Research has shown that the most important factors influencing building survival during a wildfire are fire intensity, vegetation characteristics, building materials and maintaining defensible space. Strategies for protecting homes from wildfires have been developed with these factors in mind.

Wildland Urban Interface Code Question and Answers

Where are the wildland urban interface areas?

All of Kittitas County is designated as a wildland urban interface areas. A map indicating county designation of WUIC areas is available online at www.co.kittitas.wa.us. There are four WUI designations in the county;

Ignition Resistant 1-A—A site assessment may be conducted at the request of the property owner. The site assessment fee is \$130.00.

Ignition Resistant 1-B—No site assessment is allowed for any property in this designation. This area is shown in red on the map.

Ignition Resistant 2—A site assessment may be conducted at the request of the property owner. The site assessment fee is \$130.00.

Ignition Resistant 3—N/A

What is the main objective of the WUIC?

The WUIC mitigates damage and risk to life and property and reduces the risk of forest fires due to structure fires in hazard areas (and vice versa). Fuel reduction at the interface between natural lands and developments can reduce the intensity of the fires before they enter populated areas within the urban wild-land interface.

How does WUIC affect construction?

Any building constructed on, or moved to property in an urban wild-land area must meet the WUIC requirements for the zone classification (hazard rating). The class of fire resistant materials will depend upon the hazard rating for that particular property.

- ❖ Any new structure built in an IR1-A or IR1-B fire area must have a sprinkler system installed.
 - Exception: If the property is in an IR1-A designation, the property owner may provide 2.5x the defensible space in lieu of the sprinkler system.
- ❖ Defensible space plans must be submitted to the Kittitas County Fire Marshal along with the building plans.
- ❖ All chimneys must be provided with spark arresters.
- ❖ LPG tanks shall be located within the defensible space listed for that property.
- ❖ Storage of firewood and combustible materials shall be stored within defensible space, but no closer than 20 feet to any structure.

FIRE RATINGS FOR EXTERIOR SIDING IN IRI-A, IR1-B & IR11 CLASSIFICATIONS

APPROVED MATERIALS

- * Fiber-Cement Siding
 - Hazard Rating: Non-combustible.

- * Vinyl Siding over Fire-Rated Gypsum Board (*UL Listed and approved)
 - Hazard Rating: 1-Hour Fire Resistance.—**An additional inspection will be required to determine that the 1-hr requirement has been met.**

- * Aluminum Siding over Fire-Rated Gypsum Board. (*UL Listed and approved)
 - Hazard Rating: Non-combustible, not rated. .—**An additional inspection will be required to determine that the 1-hr requirement has been met.**

- * Brick
 - Hazard Rating: 2-Hour Fire Resistance.

- * Concrete Block
 - Hazard Rating: 2-Hour Fire Resistance.

- * Heavy Timber or Log Construction
 - Hazard Rating: 1-Hour Fire Resistance.

- * Ship-lap Cedar siding with Fire Retardant Treatment
 - This option requires that the home-owner provide a statement that the fire retardant treatment will be re-applied per the manufacturer's specifications. Additionally, a copy of the UL listed Fire Retardant must be submitted along with the application.

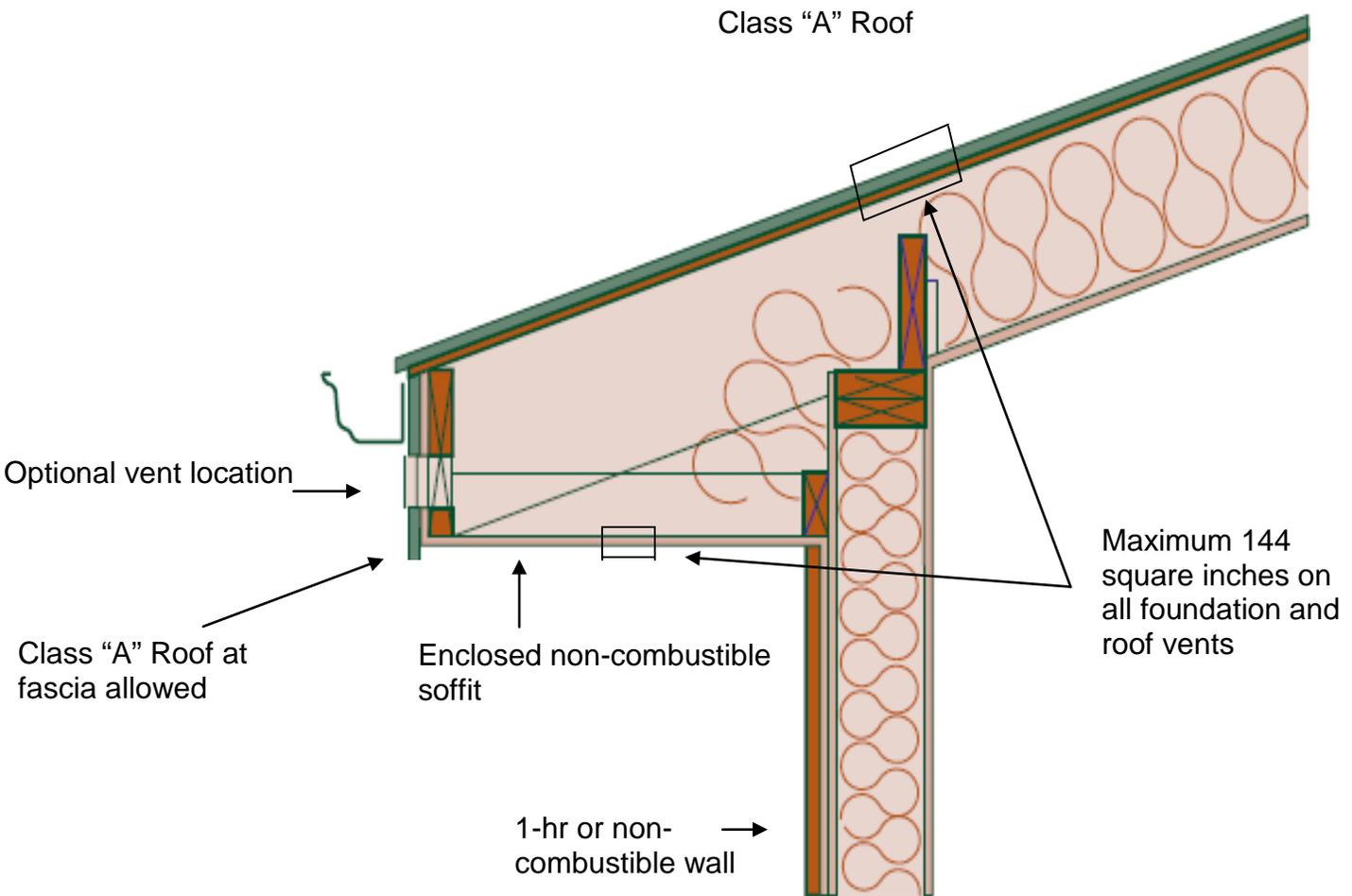
Alternative materials will be considered individually based on ICC Evaluation Reports, UL Testing Reports, Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) information, and other documentation provided by a third party testing agency. Documentation from manufacturers only will not be approved for use.

PROHIBITED MATERIALS

1. Wood Siding- Traditional solid wood siding.
 - a. Exception: the fire code official may approve wood siding when it has been treated with an approved fire retardant treatment and a plan is submitted by the homeowner indicating reapplication timelines.
2. Hardboard Siding- Multi-fiber or pressed wood type siding.
3. Engineered Wood Siding- Plywood panel siding.

*** Plans must include approved UL-listed exterior wall assembly construction details.**

Roof Diagram- Example Soffits, Fascia, Vents



1-hr wall, soffit and fascia required, OR approved ignition resistant or non-combustible materials.

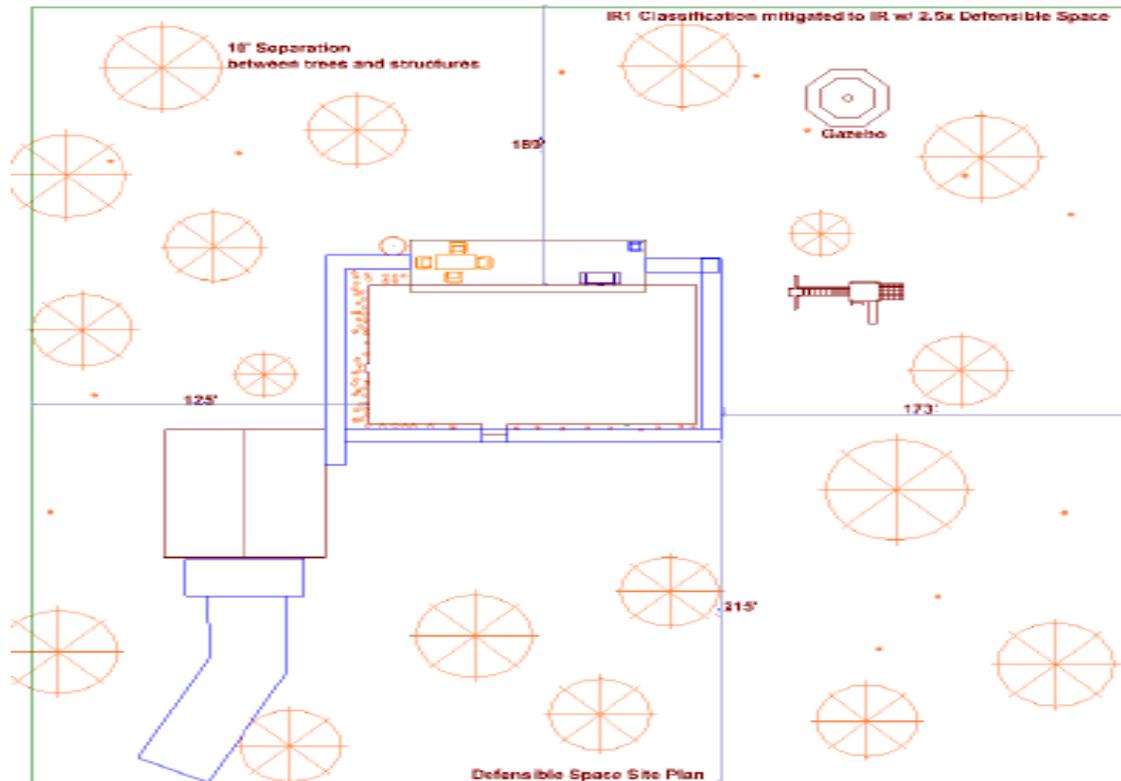
Defensible Space Plan

A defensible space plan should include a site plan indicating;

- * The property dimensions
- * Location of any structures on the property, as well as decks, patios, etc.
- * A cleared space of at least 30' around the structures (see attached diagram). This does not mean that there cannot be natural vegetation in this area, only that the trees, shrubs, etc. should be mostly deciduous, spaced far apart (10' minimum between branches) and pruned to 10' above ground level. No trees and/or tree limbs are to be located within 10' of the structures.
- * Any noncombustible surfaces, i.e. gravel, cement sidewalks, driveways, etc.
- * Slope or grade on property
- * Dimensions of the defensible space to be created and maintained
- * Natural vegetation location and placement in the defensible space
- * A brief, written statement of property owner's plan to maintain the defensible space on the property, e.g. removal of dead limbs, continued pruning of trees (crowns), etc.

Your site plan diagram should show that moving away from the building out into the wild-land interface, the features gradually shift from man-made to more natural elements.

Example-Not to Scale



Zone 1-A—The area directly adjacent to the building(s). This area should contain mostly noncombustible or fire resistant surfaces. Any planting in this area should be deciduous and well trimmed and irrigated. Ground cover should be of flower beds and cut grass.

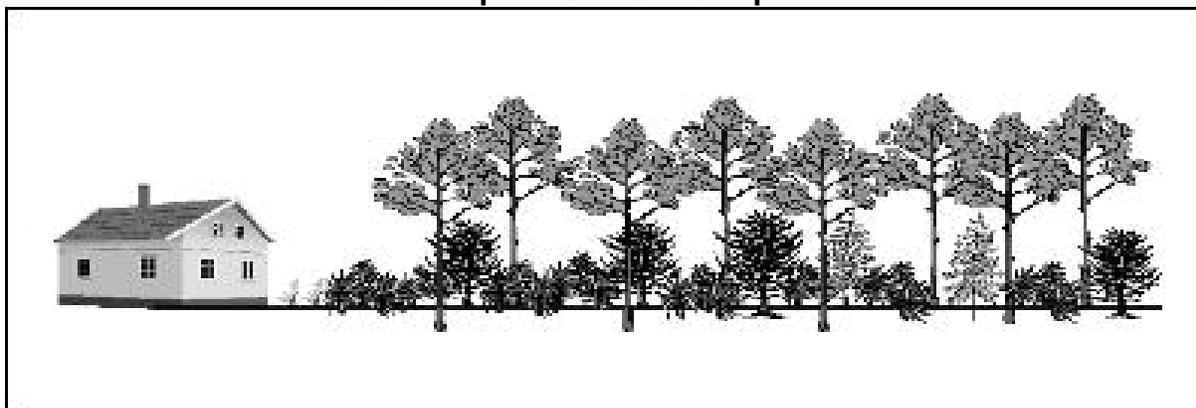
Zone 1-B—This area can have more landscaping and less man-made surfaces. Vegetation should still be deciduous, and the native grasses should be trimmed to approximately 6 inches tall.

Zone 1-C—This area should change from introduced deciduous trees to the natural vegetation found in the area, including evergreens. These trees should still be maintained far apart (minimum 10' limb to limb) and trimmed to 10' above the ground.

Zone 2—The landscape is entirely natural vegetation, but should still be intensely managed. Trim and remove dead material from natural vegetation and the ground. All limbs must be pruned to 10' of the ground, and trim the trees to a minimum of 10' between the crowns of the trees.

Zone 3—Vegetation management is much less intense. Trees only need to be pruned to 4'-5' above the ground. Dead material should be removed from natural vegetation and the ground.

Inadequate Defensible Space



Adequate Defensible Space

