

2021 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code® and Commentary

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PREFACE

The principal purpose of the Commentary is to provide a basic volume of knowledge and facts relating to building construction as it pertains to the regulations set forth in the 2021 *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*. The person who is serious about effectively designing, constructing and regulating buildings and structures will find the Commentary to be a reliable data source and reference to almost all components of the built environment.

As a follow-up to the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*, we offer a companion document, the *IWUIC® Code and Commentary*. The basic appeal of the Commentary is thus: it provides in a small package and at reasonable cost thorough coverage of many issues likely to be dealt with when using the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*—and then supplements that coverage with historical and technical background. Reference lists, information sources and bibliographies are also included.

Throughout all of this, effort has been made to keep the vast quantity of material accessible and its method of presentation useful. With a comprehensive yet concise summary of each section, the Commentary provides a convenient reference for regulations applicable to the construction of buildings and structures. In the chapters that follow, discussions focus on the full meaning and implications of the code text. Guidelines suggest the most effective method of application, and the consequences of not adhering to the code text. Illustrations are provided to aid understanding; they do not necessarily illustrate the only methods of achieving code compliance.

The format of the Commentary includes the full text of each section, table and figure in the code followed immediately by the commentary applicable to that text. At the time of printing, the Commentary reflects the most up-to-date text of the 2021 *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*. Each section's narrative includes a statement of its objective and intent, and usually includes a discussion about why the requirement commands the conditions set forth. Code text and commentary text are easily distinguished from each other. All code text is shown as it appears in the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*, and all commentary is indented below the code text and begins with the symbol ❖.

Readers should note that the Commentary is to be used in conjunction with the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* and not as a substitute for the code. The Commentary is advisory only; the code official alone possesses the authority and responsibility for interpreting the code.

Comments and recommendations are encouraged, for through your input, we can improve future editions. Please direct your comments to the Codes and Standards Development Department at the Chicago District Office.

The International Code Council would like to extend its thanks to the following individuals for their contributions to the technical content of this commentary:

Kevin Scott: Kevin is president of KH Scott & Associates, LLC. He comes from a 30-year career with the Kern County (CA) Fire Department, where he worked up through the ranks in several different capacities including services in fire prevention, to the position of deputy chief at his retirement.

Don Oaks: Don started his career in the fire service in 1962 serving as fire chief or fire marshal in several California jurisdictions including the City of El Segundo, Santa Barbara County and the City of Buellton. A major portion of Don's life and career centered around wildland-urban interface problems. He was involved in developing solutions, actively participating in committees drafting the provisions for wildland-urban interface codes and writing articles on safety and hazard aspects of development in the wildland-urban interface. Sadly, Don passed away during the drafting of the 2018 edition of this commentary.

Doug Nickles, assistant fire marshal for the Glendale (CA) Fire Department;

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For the complete errata history of this code, please visit: <https://www.iccsafe.org/errata-central/>

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