

Alternate standards

If you are unable to follow either the Default or Optional standards because of unique circumstances on your property, you may choose to develop an Alternate standards plan. This may also be the preferred course of action if an Alternate plan would provide better fuel-reduction results than if you had applied either the Default or Optional standards.

Alternate standards may be applied regardless of fire-risk classification.

It is recommended that you work with an accredited assessor or other wildland fire protection professional on developing the Alternate standards plan.

The Alternate standards plan must be written on an Alternate Standards form, which may be obtained from a Department of Forestry office, or may be downloaded from the department's World Wide Web site at www.odf.state.or.us. Before a plan can be used, it must be approved by the district forester. To be approved, the plan must provide equal or better protection from wildfire than the Default standards or the Optional standards. The Alternate standards plan must also provide better protection than the roadside and property line fuel break standards required on properties classified as High-Density Extreme. The final plan must be signed by both the district forester and the property owner.

An important component of an Alternate standards plan is a map of the property. Use the following conventions and illustrate essential elements:

- Orient the map so north is at the top of the page
- Mark the property's boundary lines

- Give dimensions of property
- Show locations of structures
- Illustrate locations of driveways, walkways and roads

The map needs to show the arrangement of plants. Highlight those that are particularly vulnerable to wildfire (such as juniper, bitterbrush and manzanita). Also, illustrate fire-resistant features such as driveways, rock formations and water bodies.

Note the direction of prevailing wind during summer months. Briefly describe the property's general topography. It is also important to

show or note other elements, such as property easements, public utilities, reliable water sources, and established debris-burning sites.

Describe how your Alternate standards plan provides wildfire protection for structures, and reduces wildfire potential on the property. What steps must be taken to achieve these goals? Draw a map to illustrate what the property will look like after the Alternate standards plan is put into effect.

