

Senate Bill 762 wildfire risk map

SB 762 tasked the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to create a statewide map of wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). ODF worked with stakeholders and the public, and released a preliminary map in June. Based on public feedback and more information gained through the appeals process, ODF withdrew the map on Aug. 4. ODF is now working on revising the map, which will result in a final map when their revisions are complete and appeals have concluded. The [ODF website](#) has more information about its process and status.

The Building Codes Division (BCD) was tasked with updating existing code standards to apply statewide based on the risk map created by ODF. The timeline for BCD's implementation will now be based on when ODF has a final map.

Fire hardening code standards

As it relates to building code standards, three questions have to be answered:

Where do codes apply? The statewide map is intended to create a standard set of criteria, which can be applied statewide, to identify wildfire risk. Codes will apply to the high and extreme areas in the map that are in the wildland urban interface.

What are the code requirements? In 2019, BCD worked with stakeholders to create additional residential wildfire hardening construction standards that would be available for local adoption in areas with higher wildfire risk. SB 762 provided a uniform methodology in the form of a statewide map to answer the question of where the codes should apply.

When do the code requirements apply? BCD wildfire hardening code standards are applicable in the WUI only for areas classified as high or extreme risk. These standards are not retroactively applied, and will impact property owners only when they are initiating new construction or replacing an exterior

building element covered by the wildfire hardening code standard. Examples of covered exterior elements include:

- Roofing
- Siding

The timeline for adopting the code standards will be based on when the wildfire risk map is finalized. There will be a phase-in period between when the codes go into effect and when they become required. This will allow for training and education. Once the standards become mandatory, they will apply to new permits pulled after that date.

BCD wildfire hardening codes

BCD will continue to gather input and provide information on how the existing wildfire hardening code provisions can help make homes more resistant to ember intrusion and wildfire.

Home hardening is most effective when combined with defensible space. The website of the [Office of the State Fire Marshal](#) has information on its implementation work on defensible space.

Visit BCD's [SB 762 implementation](#) webpage for more information.

