



Governor Kate Brown  
Wildfire Program

[Wildfire Programs  
Advisory Council](#)

# Reducing Wildfire Risk to Oregon's Homes and Communities

The wildland-urban interface (WUI) is where homes mix with flammable vegetation and people and property are at risk from wildfire. As a result of the 2021 Legislature's passage of Senate Bill 762, several state agencies are working together to reduce wildfire risk across Oregon. First, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in collaboration with Oregon State University (OSU) is mapping Oregon's WUI and establishing five classes of risk. Once this mapping is completed June 30, 2022, other agencies will use the map to:

**Make homes safer** through defensible space actions that will help firefighters better protect homes in the high and extreme risk classes, and building codes standards that help make new homes more fire-resistant.

**Make communities safer** through recommendations on statewide land use planning, local land use plans, and zoning codes to help reduce risk.

*Below are more details about this process, the involved agencies, and where to learn more.*

## Wildland-Urban Interface Timeline

July 19, 2021	Governor Brown signs <a href="#">Senate Bill 762</a>
August 2021 to February 2021	ODF received input from a Rulemaking Advisory Committee to guide establishing boundary criteria for the wildland-urban interface and creating the wildfire risk map.
February 2022 to August 2022	Defensible Space Code Committee work. The OSFM will be holding meetings to discuss Sections 603 and 604 of the International WUI Code to develop draft language for Oregon's Defensible Space Code. <a href="#">Each meeting</a> will have a public comment opportunity.
June 9, 2022	BCD held a <a href="#">Rules Advisory Committee</a> meeting on the Oregon Residential Specialty Code amendments.
June 30, 2022	ODF and OSU makes the map available to the public. ODF to notify property owners assigned to high and extreme risk classes. Property owners and local governments may begin <a href="#">appealing their risk classification</a> .
July 13, 2022	BCD will facilitate the <a href="#">Residential and Manufactured Structures Board</a> meeting and present proposed code amendments for review and approval.
August 29, 2022	BCD interactive tool identifying wildfire hazard mitigation construction standards based on the risk map becomes available.
September 15, 2022	Deadline for property owners to file <a href="#">appeals to ODF</a> on assignment of risk class.
October 1, 2022	Wildfire hazard mitigation construction provisions in the Oregon Residential Specialty Code will be adopted with an effective date of April 1, 2023.
December 2022	Defensible Space Code is finalized.
April 1, 2023	Wildfire hazard mitigation construction provisions in the Oregon Residential Specialty Code become effective.

## Mapping Risk

The [Oregon Department of Forestry](#) (ODF) and Oregon State University (OSU) have worked collaboratively to produce a statewide map of wildfire risk that is available on the [Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer](#). ODF is responsible for policy development and OSU is responsible for technical development.

- ODF has defined the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and boundary criteria necessary for OSU to build the map.
- ODF consulted with OSU to establish five wildfire risk classes and assigned wildfire risk classes at the property ownership level.
- ODF informed property owners in the high or extreme wildfire risk classes and provides a process for them to appeal their risk assignment.

The map must be publicly available by June 30, 2022. Property owners will be notified as soon as data is available. Three statewide maps are available from OSU:

- Wildfire risk to structures and other human development.
- Delineation of Oregon's wildland-urban interface.
- Quantifying social vulnerability.

### More Information

- ODF - [Wildfire risk webpage](#)
- OSU - [Oregon Explorer risk map](#)

## Preparing and Protecting Homes and Communities From Wildfire

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is responsible for developing a [defensible space code](#) applied to high and extreme risk classes inside the wildland-urban interface state-wide. Defensible space helps protect lives and homes in the event of a wildfire and creates resilient homes, people and communities. The OSFM has also launched two initiatives. [Response Ready Oregon](#) bolsters capacity and modernizes wildfire response within the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System. [Fire Adapted Oregon](#) is designed to help communities be prepared for wildfire through outreach, education, and community action.

### More Information

- OSFM - [SB762@osp.oregon.gov](mailto:SB762@osp.oregon.gov)

The [Department of Consumer and Business Services](#) (DCBS) is responsible for adopting fire hardening building code standards for new development and significant home updates in high and extreme risk areas in the wildland-urban interface, developing a tool based on the map to help identify where additional code requirements will apply and modifying the existing optional code standards of the 2021 Oregon Residential Specialty Code Chapter 3 Section R327. Code amendments will be adopted by October 1, 2022 and will become effective on April 1, 2023.

### Public Input

[BCD Rulemaking Advisory Committee](#)

### More Information

- [Oregon Defensible Space Code Development Committee](#)
- [Oregon Fire Code Advisory Board](#)
- [Residential and Manufactured Structures Board](#)

## The Future of Fire-Adapted Communities

The [Department of Land Conservation and Development](#) (DLCD) is responsible for recommending updates to statewide land use planning and local land use plans and zoning codes that will reduce wildfire risk to Oregon communities, including the appropriate levels of state and local resources necessary for effective implementation. DLCD's recommendations "may include but are not limited to provisions regarding sufficient defensible space, building codes, safe evacuation, and development considerations," allowing for regional differences.

DLCD's report must be submitted to the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council and Oregon Legislature by October 1, 2022. DLCD is currently conducting a community engagement process that will run through September 2022.

### Public Input

- [DLCD's Stakeholder Group for Wildfire Adapted Communities](#)
- [Upcoming presentations to Land Conservation and Development Commission](#)  
(written and in-person public comment welcome)

### More Information

- [DLCD Wildfire email list sign up](#)