

# WILDFIRE MITIGATION BUILDING CODE

## VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

### Proposed Adoption of Wildfire Mitigation Building Code R327.4

In 2018, the Oregon Building Codes Division (BCD) engaged stakeholders from the fire service, local government, and homebuilders to develop wildfire mitigation code standards that have a consistent and predictable application. The City of Ashland participated in this process at the state level and in January 2019, BCD amended Oregon Residential Specialty Code section R327 (Wildfire Hazard Mitigation) and made it available for local adoption.

A Community Stakeholder Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 1 PM.

<https://zoom.us/j/99498149804>

Local contractors, builders, developers, and design professionals are encouraged to attend.

Staff will be providing an overview of the code requirements and holding a Q&A session.



The City of Ashland has a comprehensive approach to addressing the threat and potential consequences of wildfire, including public education, a city-wide wildfire hazard zone designation, comprehensive vegetation/fuels management, and individual neighborhood FireWise certifications. The final piece of the City's Fire Adapted Strategy is to adopt Wildfire Mitigation Building Code R327.4 as permitted by the State of Oregon.



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The intent of R327.4 is to provide minimum standards that reduce or eliminate ignition potential of new homes built within wildfire hazard zones. This is accomplished using exterior products that resist ignition and protect specific vulnerable areas including rain gutters, roofing, ventilation, exterior walls, and eaves from ember ignition threat.

The 2020 Alameda Fire caused significant destruction to the Rogue Valley. Building and fire departments have a responsibility to their communities to ensure that new and existing structures in wildfire hazard areas are protected against wildfires. One of the best ways to accomplish this is through adoption and enforcement of building codes and standards that aim to reduce the potential ignition of homes through the use of ignition-resistant building materials, screens to prevent embers from penetrating into eaves and under foundations, and creating and maintaining defensible space around structures within the community. The City of Medford recently embraced a similar effort and implemented R327.4 within their jurisdiction in October 2019.

The Ashland Fire & Rescue and Community Development departments are seeking community input from stakeholders in preparation for local adoption of R327.4. by the City of Ashland.

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**Additional Information is available at:**

[www.ashland.or.us/R327](http://www.ashland.or.us/R327)

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