

Southern Nevada Amendments to the 2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC)



SNFC / FPAN International Fire Code Committee

Revised February 6, 2025

Preface

This document was developed by the Southern Nevada Fire Chiefs (SNFC) / Fire Prevention Association of Nevada (FPAN) Fire Code Committee and presents amendments to the 2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code as published by the International Code Council and associated National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards.

Participation in the 2024 SNFC/FPAN IWUIC Committee (a subset of the Fire Code Committee) was open to all interested parties. However, voting on amendments proposals was limited to one vote each for seven of Southern Nevada municipalities (Clark County, Henderson, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Pahrump and Mesquite), the Clark County School District, and three industry representatives. All committee proceedings were conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

The recommended amendments contained herein are not code unless adopted and codified by governmental jurisdictions. These amendments are not intended to prevent the use of any material or method of construction not specifically prescribed herein, provided any alternates have been approved and their use authorized by the Building Official. This document may be copied and used in whole or in part without permission or approval from the organizations listed on the cover page.

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International Wildland-Urban Interface Code

101.2.1

Revise Section 101.2.1, as follows:

101.2.1 Appendices. Provisions in the appendices shall not apply unless specifically adopted. The following appendices are hereby adopted with this code:

Appendix A General Requirements

Appendix B Vegetation Management Plan

Appendix C Fire Hazard Severity Form

JUSTIFICATION: Adopting Appendix, A, B and C keeps the local adoption in line with the State of Nevada adoption of the IWUIC

302.2

Revise Section 302.2, as follows:

302.2 Mapping. The *wildland-urban interface areas* shall be recorded on maps available for inspection by the public or made available to the public through an electronic mapping format.

Exception: A jurisdiction is not required to record a map or make a map available for inspection when the jurisdictions community risk assessment (CRA) does not identify any *wildland-urban interface areas*.

JUSTIFICATION:

The proposal is necessary to facilitate consistent application of codes. The maps will be available to the public via the jurisdictions public facing webpage. This alternative method provides the same level of information to the public during normal business hours as intended by the current base code. Further, having the maps available online permits for access to the map information outside of normal business hours and remotely from the building department. The exception acknowledges that a map is not required for a jurisdiction that has not identified any wildland-urban interface areas.

302.3

Revise Section 302.3, as follows:

302.3 Review of wildland-urban interface areas. The *code official* shall reevaluate and recommend modification to the *wildland-urban interface areas* in accordance with Section 302.1 as deemed necessary by the code official. ~~on a 3-year basis or more frequently as deemed necessary by the legislative body.~~

JUSTIFICATION:

Revised to match the language found in NAC 477.283 (4)(c) which modifies this section “on a three-year basis or more frequently as deemed necessary by the legislative body” is deleted and replaced with “as deemed necessary by the code official.” In Clark County some jurisdictions adopt on a 3- and some on a 6-year basis per NRS 477.030 12(1) ...To maintain the exemption from the applicability of the regulations of the State Fire Marshal pursuant to this subsection, the code of the county must be at least as stringent as the most recently published edition of the *International Fire Code*, the *International Building Code* and the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* within 2 years after publication of such an edition. This impacts how frequently the wildland-urban interface areas are reevaluated.

Additionally, the proposal addresses climatic conditions in Clark County. The majority of land in Clark County is federally owned (approximately 4.45 million acres out of 5.15 million acres total) which limits the amount of land available for urban development. At the same time, Clark County is predominantly desert land with little annual rainfall, limiting the growth of wildland. These factors in combination indicate little expected annual change in the wildland-urban interface, may permit for a less frequent updating of the *wildland-urban interface areas*.

404.5

Revise Section 404.5, as follows:

404.5 Adequate water supply. Water supply shall be provided in accordance with the International Fire Code Appendix B as adopted. ~~Adequate water supply shall be determined for purposes of initial attack and flame front control as follows:~~

~~1. One- and two-family dwellings. The required water supply for one- and two-family dwellings having a fire flow calculation area that does not exceed 3,600 square feet (334 m²) shall be 1,000 gallons per minute (63.1 L/s) for a minimum duration of 30 minutes. The required water supply for one- and two-family dwellings having a fire flow calculation area in excess of 3,600 square feet (334 m²) shall be 1,500 gallons per minute (95 L/s) for a minimum duration of 30 minutes.~~

~~**Exception:** A reduction in required flow rate of 50 percent as approved by the code official, is allowed where the building is provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system~~

~~2. Buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings. The water supply required for buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings shall be as approved by the code official but shall be not less than 1,500 gallons per minute (95 L/s) for a duration of 2 hours.~~

~~**Exception:** A reduction in required flow rate of up to 75 percent, as approved by the code official, is allowed where the building is provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system. The resulting water supply shall be not less than 1,500 gallons per minute (94.6 L/s).~~

JUSTIFICATION:

This proposal is needed to maintain consistency in regional interpretation and application of codes. The Clark County jurisdictions adopt Appendix B with the IFC adoption to determine the required flow rate based on building size, construction type, and whether fire sprinkler protection is present. It is noteworthy that the application of these current codes cover current rural areas, including those in WUI areas. In many respects WUI code language is a reduction in the criteria from current codes and being proposed specifically for WUI areas that are actually some of the more sensitive fire areas. The purpose of this proposal is to utilize the criteria from the IFC Appendix B to WUI areas, the same as is required now, to maintain consistency with previous applications of code.

405.1

Revise Section 405.1, as follows:

405.1 General. Where project submittal includes a Vegetation Management Plan in accordance with Section 502.2 or otherwise where required by the code official, a fire protection plan shall be prepared.

JUSTIFICATION:

This proposal is to clarify code intent. The base code does not clarify the purpose for the fire protection plan to imply the intent of when such a plan is required. It is noted that one aspect of a fire protection plan is a vegetation management plan. The vegetation management plan is referenced in Section 502.2 when an applicant desires a reduction in the Fire Hazard Severity. Reduction in fire hazard severity leads to a less fire resistive construction type. This proposal requires a fire protection plan to be submitted to clarify all aspects of site characteristics and building construction when making this determination to reduce construction type, and clarifies the intent of Section 405.1.