

**STATEMENT OF PROGRESS
FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS OF
THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CODE,
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 7
(SFM 01-25)**

Section 1-419(f) of the California Administrative Code, Part 1 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations states that a state proposing or adopting agency requesting approval for re adoption of an emergency building standard shall provide a written statement providing specific facts demonstrating by substantial evidence that the agency has made substantial progress and proceeded with diligence to comply with Government Code Section 11346.1(e); and either a statement that the emergency circumstances are unchanged since the initial adoption or prior re adoption; or an updated finding of emergency required by Government Code Section 11346.1(b) to reflect circumstances that have changed since the initial adoption or re adoption.

STATEMENT ON PROGRESS TO COMPLY WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11346.1(e)

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has made substantial progress towards making its emergency regulations permanent.

Following the initial adoption of the emergency building standards, SFM proceeds to complete the certifying rulemaking process through the regular rulemaking process during the 2025 Intervening Code Adoption Cycle to make the emergency building standards permanent in accordance with Government Code Section 11346.1 and Health and Safety Code Section 18938.

The CAL FIRE—Office of the State Fire Marshal’s CWUI work group was established to support Cal FIRE’s mission and strategic plan, which serves and safeguards the people and protects California’s resources. The purpose of the work group is to evaluate and recommend improvements to building codes, standards, materials, and communication strategies that reduce wildfire risk in WUI communities while ensuring regulatory changes remain practical, cost-effective, and science based. The work group continues to meet regularly to accomplish the following goals and objectives. Meetings are open to the public, with agendas and minutes posted on the Office of the State Fire Marshal website.

WORK GROUP GOALS:

1. To improve the safety and survivability of structures and communities in the WUI area.
2. To promote statewide consistency and clarity in WUI regulations and communications.
3. To ensure that regulatory changes are cost-effective, attainable, and based on sound science.

4. To foster innovation by allowing new, proven materials and technologies to be readily available in California.
5. Create a shared understanding and common messaging around WUI risk, mitigation strategies, and regulatory requirements.

WORK GROUP OBJECTIVES:

1. Enhancements of Code and Standards

- a. Evaluate current CWUI code and standards for effectiveness and clarity.
- b. Propose revisions that enhance fire resistance without creating undue burden.
- c. Encourage alignment with emerging best practices and lessons learned from a recent wildfire.
- d. Collaborate with stakeholders to align regulations with emerging technology.

2. Cost of Compliance

- a. Analyze the economic impact of existing and proposed regulations on homeowners, builders, and local jurisdictions.
- b. Identify areas where costs can be reduced without compromising safety.
- c. Identify financial impacts on the construction, renovation, and maintenance of structures in the WUI.

3. Cost-Effective Enhancements without Overregulation

- a. Develop recommendations that balance risk reduction with feasibility.
- b. Avoid duplicative or unnecessarily complex requirements that discourage compliance.
- c. Promote streamlined permitting and review processes when appropriate.

4. Innovation and Material Availability

- a. Create a clear pathway for the evaluation and approval of new construction materials and systems
- b. Ensure that approved products are cost-effective and broadly available within California.
- c. Support pilot projects and partnerships that test new technologies in real-world wildfire conditions.

5. Consistent Messaging

- a. Ensure that clear, evidence-based justification supports all recommendations and code change proposals.

WORK GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Members of the work group shall be open to all interested parties, including but not limited to state and local fire agencies, building officials, planners, industry experts, academic researchers, material manufacturers, insurance representatives, and community stakeholders.

STATEMENT THAT EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES REMAIN UNCHANGED

Since the initial adoption of amendments to the 2025 California Wildland-Interface Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 7 via emergency regulations filed with the Secretary of State on November 4, 2025, the emergency circumstances have not changed.

ITEM 1

Chapter 1 Administration, Division I California Administration, Section 1.1.2 Purpose

Adoption of these regulations is necessary to effectuate HSC section 13108.5.

ITEM 2

Chapter 1 Administration, Division II Scope and Administration, Sections 101.3.1 Application and 101.3.1.1 Application date and where required

Combining two application sections 101.3.1 and 101.3.1.1 into one clear section on where the wildland urban interface building standards will be applied.

Deleting the application date or “trigger date” exceptions to comply with the 2025 California Wildland-Urban interface regulations is to effectuate HSC section 17922(d). The removal of the “trigger dates” and exceptions closes the gap on the existing building and structure stock and aligns with the mission and objectives of CALFIRE/ Office of the State Fire Marshal on campaigning home hardening, retrofits, Firewise communities, access to grants, and expands the overall safety of the built environment in the identified FHSZ’s.

ITEM 3

Chapter 2 Definitions, Home-Hardening

The proposed definition was included in the Emergency Regulations approved on October 15, 2025. The emergency circumstances have not changed.

ITEM 4

Chapter 5 Special Building Construction Regulations, Section 503.1 General

The proposed deletion of exception 2 and renumbering was included in the Emergency Regulations approved on October 15, 2025. The emergency circumstances have not changed.

ITEM 5

Chapter 5 Special Building Construction Regulations, Section 504.3.1 Protection of open eaves

This proposal was included in the Emergency Regulations approved on October 15, 2025. The emergency circumstances have not changed.