

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREAS

User notes:

About this chapter: Chapter 3 provides for the fundamental aspect of applying the code—the legal declaration and establishment of wildland-urban interface areas within the adopting jurisdiction by the local legislative body. The provisions cover area analysis and declaration based on findings of fact (located in Appendix E), mapping of the area, legal recordation of the maps with the local keeper of records and the periodic review and reevaluation of the declared areas on a regular basis. If needed, revisions can be directed by the legislative body of the jurisdiction.

SECTION 301—GENERAL

301.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter provide methodology to establish and record *wildland-urban interface areas* based on the findings of fact: high temperatures, low relative humidity, breezy/windy conditions, low fuel moistures, weather-related ignition potential, human-related ignition potential, historical fire data, natural fire- adapted ecosystem, ember lofting and carrying potential, tree densities, crown closure, ladder fuels, surface fuels, and other fire risk factors.

301.2 Objective. The objective of this chapter is to provide simple baseline criteria for determining *wildland-urban interface areas*.

SECTION 302—WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREA DESIGNATIONS

302.1 Declaration. The legislative body shall declare the *wildland-urban interface areas* within the jurisdiction. The *wildland-urban interface areas* shall be based on the findings of fact. The *wildland-urban interface area* boundary shall correspond to natural or manmade features.

302.2 Mapping. The *wildland-urban interface areas* shall be recorded on maps available for inspection by the public.

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 on a 3-year basis or more frequently as deemed necessary by the legislative body.

All of Flagstaff City Limits is considered Wildland Urban Interface. This is due to fire receptive vegetation surrounding and within the City, and ember lofting and carrying potential.

Wildfire embers, often referred to as firebrands, are the primary cause of home destruction in wildfires, capable of traveling massive distances through the air to ignite new, unexpected spot fires. While they typically travel one mile or more ahead of the main fire front, extreme conditions can carry them much further. Under extreme, high-wind conditions, embers have been documented traveling 6 to 12+ miles, particularly with burning, buoyant material like bark. Recognizing this potential, we must acknowledge that every part of the City of Flagstaff is at risk due to a wildfire.

