



10420 N. Jordanelle Blvd. Heber City, UT 84032
435-940-9636

International Wildland Urban Interface Code

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

603.1 Objective. Provisions of this section are intended to modify the fuel load in areas adjacent to structures to create a *defensible space*.

Development and maintenance of a defensible space are critical to the survivability of a structure during a wildland fire. The defensible space is an area where the natural vegetation is modified either through thinning and maintenance or removal. The removal does not necessarily mean it is bare dirt. An asphalt or gravel driveway creates a space that is usable, but also creates a buffer to the wildfire as it approaches the structure. A similar buffer can be created by mowing or removing some of the vegetation.

603.2 Fuel modification. Buildings or structures, constructed in compliance with the conforming *defensible space* category of Table 503.1, shall comply with the *fuel modification* distances contained in Table 603.2. For all other purposes the fuel modification distance shall be not less than 30 feet (9144 mm) or to the lot line, whichever is less. Distances specified in Table 603.2 shall be measured on a horizontal plane from the perimeter or projection of the building or structure as shown in Figure 603.2. Distances specified in Table 603.2 are allowed to be increased by the *code official* because of a site-specific analysis based on local conditions and the *fire protection plan*.

The intent of fuel modification is to create a defensible space so that an approaching wildland fire cannot easily move through the defensible space and ignite the structure. The defensible space also provides fire fighters an area to set up hose lines between the structure and the approaching fire. A continuous path of fuel will carry the fire right up to the structure. Reducing the density of brush and undergrowth is necessary to reduce the intensity of the fire, reduce flame lengths and reduce radiant heat.

603.2.2 Trees. Trees are allowed within the *defensible space*, provided that the horizontal distance between crowns of adjacent trees and crowns of trees and structures, overhead electrical facilities or unmodified fuel is not less than 10 feet

It is not the intent for the defensible space to be void of vegetation; the vegetation must be thinned and maintained. Trees are allowed within the defensible space, but they are to be removed or trimmed to provide a clear separation of 10 feet from the tree crown to other trees and to the structure.

603.2.3 Ground cover. Deadwood and litter shall be regularly removed from trees. Where ornamental vegetative fuels or cultivated ground cover, such as green grass, ivy, succulents or similar plants are used as ground cover, they are allowed to be within the designated *defensible space*, provided that they do not form a means of transmitting fire from the native growth to any structure.

Dead material is easily ignited. This would include any dead branches that have not yet fallen, pine needles, leaves and any other combustible material. These dead materials, even pine needles, can carry fire to a structure

604.1 General. Defensible spaces required by Section 603 shall be maintained in accordance with Section 604.

After a defensible space has been established in accordance with Section 603, it must then be maintained for the life of the building.

WASATCH FIRE DISTRICT

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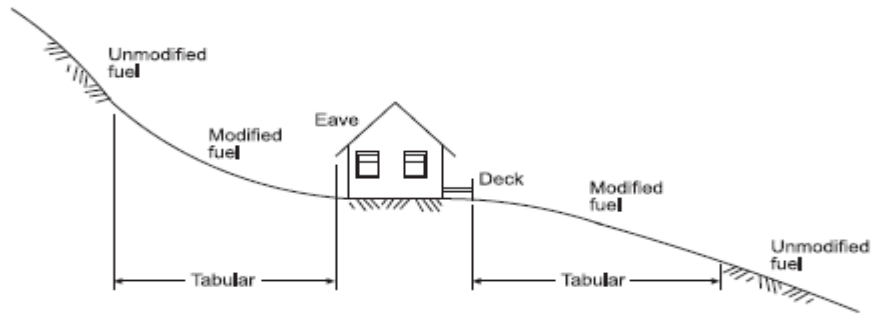
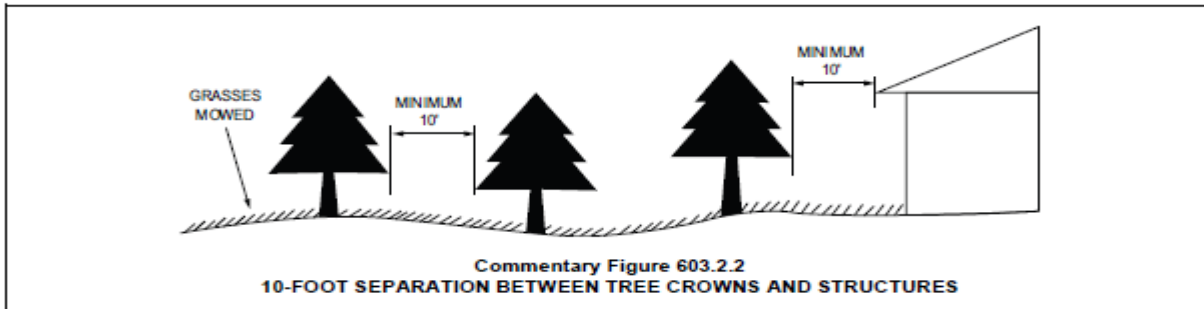
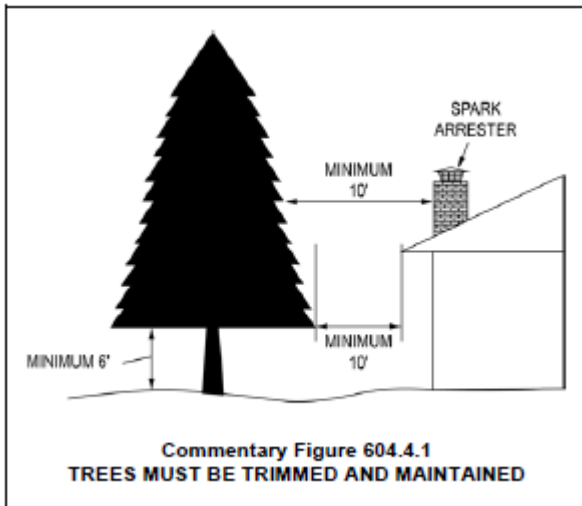


FIGURE 603.2
MEASUREMENTS OF FUEL MODIFICATION DISTANCE



Commentary Figure 603.2.2
10-FOOT SEPARATION BETWEEN TREE CROWNS AND STRUCTURES



Commentary Figure 604.4.1
TREES MUST BE TRIMMED AND MAINTAINED

TABLE 603.2
REQUIRED DEFENSIBLE SPACE

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREA	FUEL MODIFICATION DISTANCE (feet) ^a
Moderate hazard	30
High hazard	50
Extreme hazard	100

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

a. Distances are allowed to be increased due to site-specific analysis based on local conditions and the fire protection plan.

WASATCH FIRE DISTRICT

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Ignition Resistant Construction

FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY

502.1 General. The fire hazard severity of building sites for buildings hereafter constructed, modified, or relocated into *wildland-urban interface areas* shall be established in accordance with Table 502.1. See also Appendix C.

❖ This section and the accompanying table classify the level of fire hazard based on the following criteria: These three criteria determine the fire hazard severity for the site. It should be noted that two properties, one on each side of the street, could result in different fire hazard severity because the slope is different, or vegetation is modified on one property and not the other. See Commentary Figure 502.1. Appendix C provides an alternative to the application of Table 502.1. If Appendix C is adopted, it replaces Table 502.1 with a slightly different methodology of classifying fire hazard severity. The decision to use Appendix C is up to each jurisdiction and, if desired, Appendix C must be specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance

- **CLASS 1 IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION**

504.1 General. Class 1 ignition-resistant construction shall be in accordance with Sections 504.2 through 504.11.

Section 504 establishes the provisions for Class 1 ignition-resistant construction and identifies the specific building components that must meet the ignition-resistance criteria specified in Section 503.2. Class 1 ignition-resistant construction is the highest level of fire protection required in the code. This level of protection is designed to withstand an onslaught of flame and embers presenting an extreme fire hazard.

- **CLASS 2 IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION**

505.1 General. Class 2 ignition-resistant construction shall be in accordance with Sections 505.2 through 505.11.

Section 505 establishes the provisions for Class 2 ignition-resistant construction and identifies the specific building components that must meet ignition-resistance criteria. Class 2 ignition-resistant construction is the next step down in the level of fire protection in the code. Class 2 ignition-resistant construction is designed to protect against a lesser magnitude of fire impact than Class 1 ignition-resistant construction. This level of protection is designed to withstand an onslaught of flame and embers presenting a high fire

- **CLASS 3 IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION**

506.1 General. Class 3 ignition-resistant construction shall be in accordance with Sections 506.2 through 506.4.

Section 506 establishes the provisions for Class 3 ignition-resistant construction and identifies the specific building components that must meet ignition-resistance criteria. Class 3 ignition-resistant construction is the minimum level of fire protection in the code. This level of protection is designed to withstand an onslaught of flame and embers presenting a moderate fire hazard.

Vegetation management plans shall be submitted to the *code official* for review and approval as part of the plans required for a permit.

For a vegetation management plan to be considered as a long-term improvement on the natural vegetative growth, it must be approved. The vegetation management plan is submitted to the code official for approval. This submittal must occur at the time the construction plans are submitted if it is intended to modify the fuel classification utilized in Table 502.1.