

James Hardie siding within a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area

Technical Brief

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JAMES HARDIE SIDING WITHIN A CALIFORNIA WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREA

"Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas are places where built structures bump up against or intermingle with undeveloped natural areas. WUI land is sought after for new houses and other development due to its proximity to unspoiled natural settings. Located all over the U.S., WUI areas are especially vulnerable to wildfires.

Reference: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/fire/wui/>

The purpose of 2016 California Building Code Chapter 7A State Fire Marshall [SFM], "Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure," is to "establish minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the ability of a building located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within State Responsibility Areas or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area to resist the intrusion of flames or burning embers projected by a vegetation fire and contributes to a systematic reduction in conflagration losses."

Section 707A, "Exterior Coverings," describes the provisions that "govern describes the provisions that dictate materials and methods used to resist structure fire and guard against small ember intrusion, and short-term direct flame exposure. Relevant portions of the 2016 California Building Code Section that govern exterior walls, eaves and soffits are excerpted below:

707A.3 Exterior walls. The exterior wall covering or wall assembly shall comply with one of the following requirements:

- 1: Noncombustible material
- 2: Ignition-resistant material

707A.5 Enclosed roof eaves and roof eave soffits. The exposed underside of enclosed roof eaves having either a boxed-in roof eave soffit with a horizontal underside, or sloping rafter tails with an exterior covering applied to the underside of the rafter tails, shall be protected by one of the following:

- 1: Noncombustible material
- 2: Ignition-resistant material

California Building Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 7A (2016)

A "noncombustible material" is defined in California Building Code Section 202, "Definitions," and is excerpted below:

NONCOMBUSTIBLE. [SFM] Noncombustible as applied to building construction material means a material which, in the form in which it is used, is either one of the following:

- 1: Material of which no part will ignite and burn when subjected to fire. Any material passing ASTM E 136 shall be considered noncombustible.*
- 2: Material having a structural base of noncombustible material as defined in Item 1 above, with a surfacing material not over 1/8 inch (3.2mm) thick which has a flame-spread index of 50 or less.*

California Building Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations, §202 (2016)

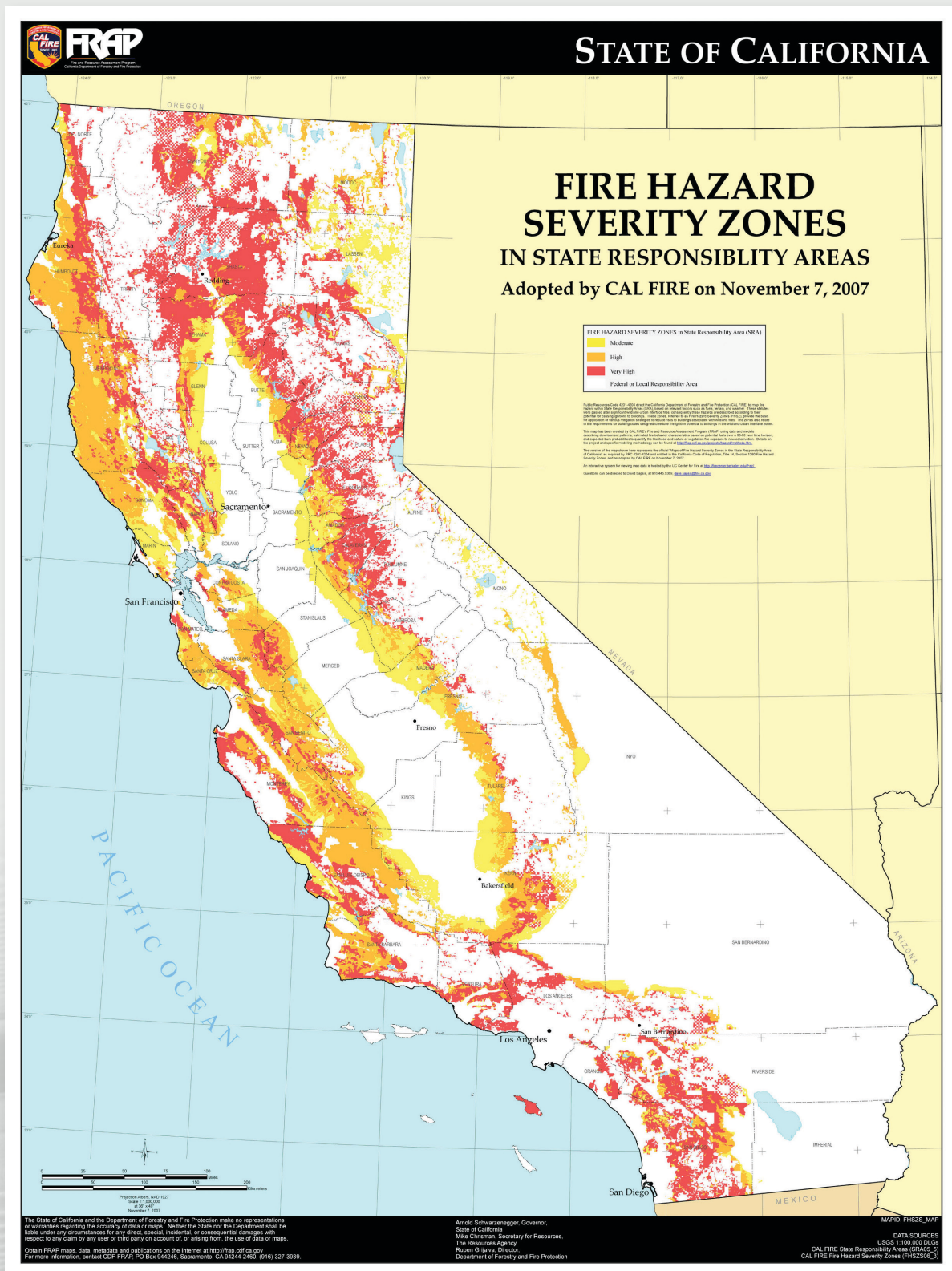
James Hardie fiber cement siding products listed below are classified as noncombustible in accordance with ASTM E136, as shown in the linked documents:

- Artisan®, HardiePlank®, HardieShingle®, Cemplank®, Prevail® Lap Siding
http://www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf_files/esr-2290.pdf
- Artisan® Siding with Lock Joint System
<http://bpdirectory.intertek.com/Pages/Report.aspx?ReportName=Listing&SpecID=39643>
- HardieBacker® Cement Board
http://www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf_files/esr-2280.pdf
- HardiePanel®, Cempanel®, Prevail® Panel Siding
http://www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf_files/esr-1844.pdf
- HardieSoffit® Panel
https://icc-es.org/reports/pdf_files/esr-2273.pdf
- Hardie Reveal® Panel System
<http://bpdirectory.intertek.com/Pages/Report.aspx?ReportName=Listing&SpecID=39761>

<https://spec-direct.com/Pages/Report.aspx?ReportName=Listing&Type=Single>

NOTE

Other States and jurisdictions have adopted WUI fire codes. Check with your local jurisdiction for complete information. The James Hardie product listings above will provide necessary information on non-combustibility for compliance to any State or local WUI Code.



Map Source: Fire Management Environments. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

P2



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Additional Installation Information, Warranties,
and Warning are available at JamesHardie.com

1 866 442 7343 | www.jameshardie.com

IMPORTANT: Failure to install and finish this product in accordance with applicable building codes and James Hardie written application instructions may affect system performance, violate local building codes, void the product-only warranty and lead to personal injury.

DESIGN ADVICE: Any information or assistance provided by James Hardie in relation to specific projects must be approved by the relevant specialists engaged for the project eg. builder, architect or engineer. James Hardie will not be responsible in connection with any such information or assistance.

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