Wildfire and Wildland-Urban Interface Readiness for Healthcare Facilities

Webinar Q&A **May 14, 2026**

1. **How does a designer determine if a hospital is classified as an essential facility (Risk IV)?**

   For OSHPD 1 and 4 facilities, see CBC Table 1604A.5; for OSHPD 2, 3 and 5 facilities, see CBC Table 1604.5.

2. **If an existing hospital is in a high hazard WUI zone, do WUI requirements apply to alterations or repairs, or do requirements impact alterations?**

   California Wildland Urban Interface Code (CWUIC) applies to new buildings and structures, and new buildings and accessory structures to those new buildings. It does not apply to alterations or repairs within the existing building area. It will apply to additions, and to new accessory structures and miscellaneous structures. If a roof covering is replaced or has 50% or greater replaced in a 12-month period, the roof covering must meet Class A fire protection, and airspace and voids are to be protected. Maintenance of defensible space, including vegetation and fuels and LPG tanks, is applicable to existing buildings. New vegetation is subject to review. Existing trees are required to be trimmed to maintain 10 feet or greater between trees and 10 feet or greater from structures. *Vegetation and defensible space requirements are under the purview of the local fire AHJ.