

## What is High Intensity Residential Fire (HIRF)?

High-intensity residential fires (HIRF) are fires involving rapid heat release and fire spread beyond the point of origin that usually involved adjacent buildings. These fires also typically include the early exposure of large amount of combustible materials.

HIRF's can occur in any of the following groups:

- occupied residential buildings;
- unoccupied residential buildings that are under construction; and
- a mix of occupied and under construction residential buildings.

## MORE HELP....

Further assistance is available from:

Contact Superior Safety Codes at:

Phone: 403-717-2344

Toll Free Ph: 1-888-717-2344

Web Site: [www.superiorsafetycodes.com](http://www.superiorsafetycodes.com)

Or Safety Services Branch

Phone: 1-866-421-6929

This brochure is for information purposes only and is intended to assist applicants. It is neither an authoritative nor complete statement of law and is not legally binding. Further reference to the Intermunicipal Development Plan, Municipal Development Plan, Area Structure Plans and/or Area Redevelopment Plans, Redesignation, Town of Sundre Land Use Bylaw 705, and/or planning documents is necessary to ensure compliance with their provisions.

**Note:** When you apply, personal information may be collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 642 of the Municipal Government Act and/or Section 63 of the Safety Codes Act. The information will be used to process your application(s), and your name and address may be included on reports that are available to the public. If you have any questions on the collection and use of this information, please contact our office.



# HIGH INTENSITY RESIDENTIAL FIRES (HIRF)

For more information, please contact:



Town of Sundre: 403-638-3551

e-mail: [townmail@sundre.com](mailto:townmail@sundre.com)

Website: [www.sundre.com](http://www.sundre.com)

Planning & Development Department

Town of Sundre

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## What is HIRF all about?

Fire Department response time as a condition of building construction requirements has existed in Alberta since the introduction of the Alberta Building Code 1981. This recognizes the positive effects of fire suppression in preventing fire spread to adjacent buildings where the fire department arrives on scene in ten minutes or less.

Where a fire department in a municipality cannot respond to a fire in less than 10 minutes, buildings must be located farther away from the property line or provided with additional fire protection, such as noncombustible siding, no side-yard window and/or sprinkler systems.

## Why is this important?

Additional fire protection measure slow the spread of fire by either containing it or suppressing it and giving the fire department vital extra minutes to arrive before the fire spreads out of control or becomes a high intensity residential fire.



## If I am building a new home, how does this affect me?

This Minister of Municipal Affairs has allowed a transitory period to allow developers and municipalities time to adapt to the HIRF requirements. The exemption applies to all buildings on lots registered with Alberta Land Titles before December 31, 2010 provided a permit to construct has been issued before January 1, 2015.

The exemption applies only to the calculation of allowable window areas in side-walls. All other safety requirements, such as gypsum board under vinyl siding and non-vented soffits, were not exempted.

## What if my lot was registered after December 31, 2010?

Three options are available if you lot was registered after December 31, 2010

-If you plan to have windows on the side of your house; the houses need to be 4.87 meters apart (16 feet) from house to house or 2.4 meters (8 feet) from your property line

-The side of your house can be fire rated with no openings (windows)

-The home can be sprinklered