



# **TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

## **PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

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### ***Reuse of Charred Wood***

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In damaged structures reuse of fire damaged wood is possible if the damage does not significantly reduce its load bearing capacity. Verification of loads may require an engineering analysis. Contact the manufacturer of engineered wood products for specific guidelines for the product.

#### **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

- a. Full dimension Douglas Fir that has been discolored to black but not pitted or cracked by flames may be reused without alteration on one and two story single family dwellings if originally built under the conventional provisions of the California Building Code.
- b. Douglas Fir that has been burned sufficiently to begin to crack or pit due to fire must be brushed and inspected. If the member is carrying near the maximum loads allowed by the present codes, no significant change in dimensions may be allowed.
- c. In cases where the load is far less than permitted by the present code, **any loss of wood dimensions must be inspected by the field building inspector who will make a judgment on a case by case basis.**
- d. Where the damage is significant, members should be brushed, inspected and sistered before reuse, or completely replaced.
- e. Engineered wood products such as glu-lam beams, floor joists and roof trusses, etc. must be replaced if any damage is visible. The manufacturer of the particular product should be contacted for further information.

#### **REFERENCES**

2001 California Building Code, Section 102

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