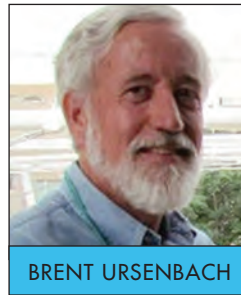


# MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

## P Clearances from Combustible Construction



**BRENT URSEBACH**

**SALT LAKE COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

bursenbach@slco.org  
385-468-6694

Section 308 of the International Mechanical code (IMc) and section 1306 of the International Residential code (IRC) address methods and allowances that may be used to reduce the required clearance from combustible materials; to chimneys, vents, kitchen exhaust equipment, mechanical devices, appliance and equipment. summarizing the requirements in the code:

- Manufacturers' installation instructions and requirements must take precedence.
- clearance reduction assemblies must include required air spaces, with edge openings providing circulation.
- Protective assemblies must be based on one of the methods outlined in tables 308.6/1306.2.
- clearance reduction methods may not be used on solid fuel appliance listed with a clearance of 12" or less.
- clearance reduction methods used on solid fuel appliances with listed clearances greater than 12" may not reduce clearances to less than 12".
- clearance reduction methods may not be used to reduce clearances on masonry chimneys, chimney



connector pass-throughs, masonry fireplaces or commercial kitchen grease

ducts. (listed grease duct wrap is the only reduction method allowed on grease ducts.)

A common violation to this section is the

assumption that non-combustible materials alone provide protection. For example, a couple of years ago, I was

called out in the middle of the night, to assess the fire damage to a cabin in the Guardsman Pass area. A free standing wood stove, installed without inspections, relied on natural stone masonry, installed directly on the sheetrock, for combustible materials protection. the stone and mortar certainly are non-combustible, with only the sealer showing signs of heat. the stone and mortar, without the necessary airspace, simply heated up, conducting the heat to the combustible materials behind the stone. the pictures tell the rest of the story. Please give me a call if you have questions on this critical set of requirements.

*Thanks for your suggestions, questions and comments — they are always welcome. —Brent*



Over 4.1 billion pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent refrigerant recovered in 2012.

**RAPID RECOVERY<sup>®</sup>**  
**AN AMERICAN COMPANY**

Call today to make an impact!

**801.364.6600**  
[www.raprec.com](http://www.raprec.com)