



Before the Storm

Building for High Wind Resistance

Presented by: Cathy Scarince, P.E.



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Course Description

This session will examine structural failures observed during storm damage assessments and the behavior of wood structures during high-wind events. Discussion will include an overview of how high wind forces work, the importance of a complete load path to building resiliency, and how good design and construction practices can improve the storm resistance of buildings. Both code requirements and APA's above-code recommendations, which contribute to improved overall performance in the structural shell, will be reviewed. These recommendations focus on good connection details and common failure modes seen in storm-damage assessments, and can help builders to cost-effectively build safer structures. By understanding key code requirements and lateral-load concepts, building damage in storms can be minimized.

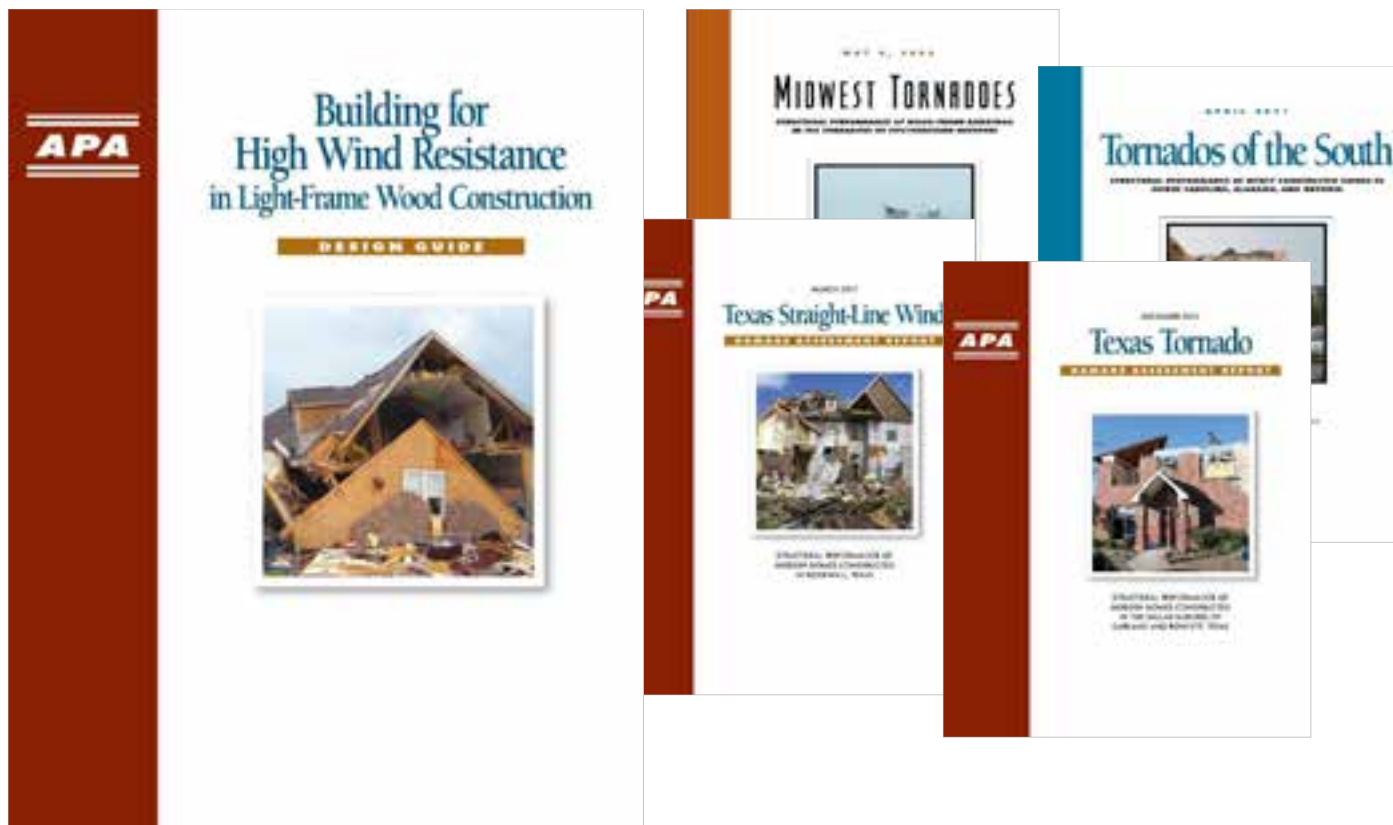
Learning Objectives

1. Identify common failure modes using photographs from post-disaster evaluations.
2. Understand the importance of a complete load path when designing and building for resiliency.
3. Recognize the fundamental behavior of wood structures especially as it pertains to lateral loads from high-wind events.
4. Discusses preventive methods that can reduce the damage that occurs during high-wind events utilizing additional connection detailing.

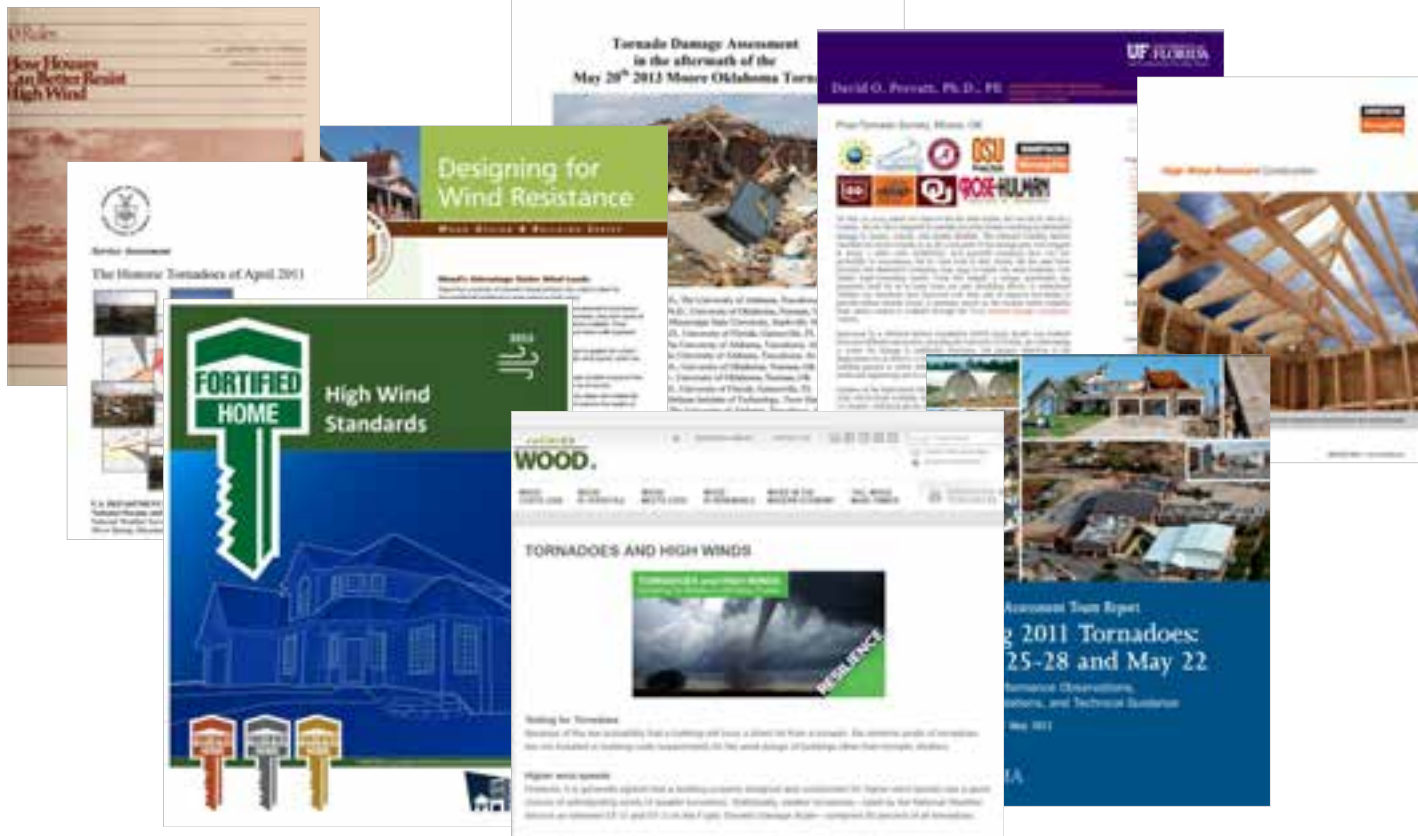
Agenda

- 1. Understand high wind events and classifications**
- 2. Discuss complete load paths.**
- 3. Identify common failure modes.**
- 4. Review APA suggested methods that can reduce damage due to high winds.**

APA Publications



Publications from Others



High Wind Events



Midwest Tornadoes – May 2003
Tornadoes of the South – April 2011
Texas Tornado – December 2015
Texas Straight Line Winds – March 2017
Nebraska Tornado – June 2017
Maryland Tornado – July 2017
Tennessee Tornado – March 2018

How are hurricanes different from tornadoes?



	Hurricanes	Tornadoes
Where they form	Hurricanes form over warm water in the tropical oceans and develop best when far from the jet stream.	Tornadoes form over land and form within storms that are often very close to the jet stream.
How big they are	Can be up to several hundred miles wide.	Usually no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide.
How long they last	Can last up to 3 weeks.	Usually last no more than an hour.
How strong the winds are	Usually less than 180 mph.	The most severe ones can be up to 300 mph.
Occurrences per year	An average of 10 tropical storms in the Atlantic Ocean.	In the United States, 800-1000.
Advance warning from forecasters	Several days.	Usually no more than 15-30 minutes.

A dramatic photograph of a lightning storm. A large, bright white lightning bolt strikes the ground from a dark, stormy cloud. To the left, a thick, vertical column of white smoke or steam rises from the ground. In the background, a radio tower is visible against the dark sky. The foreground shows the silhouettes of trees and a dark horizon. The text "HIGH WIND EVENTS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, blue, italicized font.

HIGH WIND EVENTS

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Category	Wind Speed (peak 1-min.)	Description of Expected Damage
1	74-95	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage. People, livestock, and pets struck by flying or falling debris could be injured or killed...
2	96-110	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage. There is a substantial risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris...
3	111-129	Devastating damage will occur. There is a high risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris...
4	130-156	Catastrophic damage will occur. There is a very high risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris...
5	157+	Catastrophic damage will occur. People, livestock, and pets are at very high risk of injury or death from flying or falling debris, even if indoors in mobile homes or framed homes...

Hurricane Facts

- 90% of hurricanes on US mainland are Cat. 3 or below (max. wind speed = 129 mph)
- The winds around the eye of a hurricane are usually the strongest.
- The eye of a hurricane is usually around 30 miles wide.
 - Can range from 2 miles – over 200 miles
- The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale provides examples of the type of damage and impacts to expect based on measured wind speed
 - Damage rises by about a factor of four for every category increase.

Enhanced Fujita Scale

EF-Scale	Tornado description	Wind Speed (3-sec gust)	Description of Expected Damage
EF-0	Gale tornado	65-85	Minor or no damage. Peels surface off some roofs; some damage to gutters or siding; branches broken off trees; shallow-rooted trees pushed over.
EF-1	Moderate tornado	86-110	Moderate damage. Roofs severely stripped; mobile homes overturned or badly damaged; loss of exterior doors; windows and other glass broken.
EF-2	Significant tornado	111-135	Considerable damage. <u>Roofs torn off well-constructed houses;</u> foundations of frame homes shifted; mobile homes completely destroyed; <u>large trees snapped or uprooted;</u> light-object missiles generated; cars lifted off ground.
EF-3	Severe tornado	136-165	Severe damage. Entire stories of well-constructed houses destroyed; trains overturned; trees debarked; heavy cars lifted off the ground and thrown.
EF-4	Devastating tornado	166-200	Extreme damage. Well-constructed and whole frame houses completely leveled; cars and other large objects thrown and small missiles generated.
EF-5	Incredible tornado	>200	Total Destruction. Strong framed, well built houses leveled off foundations and swept away;

Tornado Facts

- 96% of all tornados are EF2 and below (max wind speed = 135 mph)
- Unrealistic to protect against EF4, EF5, and some EF3
- Winds outside vortex are slower than maximum winds
- The Enhanced F-scale still is a set of wind estimates (not measurements) based on damage.
- Safe rooms are not a universal remedy
 - There is often little warning to those who are in the tornado path
 - Need recommendations to protect building shell

Damage Indicators

- Group of objects that can be used to evaluate a tornado severity
- EF scale currently has 28 damage indicators (DI) or types of structures and vegetation, each with varying number of degrees of damage (DoD)
- The larger the degree of damage, the higher the wind speed and corresponding tornado ratings
- Primary Damage Indicators used in this report
 - One- or two-family residences
 - Hardwood trees

Damage Indicator #2 (FR12)

One- And Two-Family Residences (FR12) (1000 – 5000 sq. ft.)

▪ Typical Construction

- Roof coverings
- Roof sheathing and framing
- Roof geometry
- Wall claddings
- Wall sheathing and framing
- Wall geometry and openings, including attached garages

Damage Indicator #2 (FR12)

DOD	Damage Description	EXP	LB	UB
1	Threshold of visible damage	65	53	80
2	Loss of roof covering material (<20%), gutters and/or awning; loss of vinyl or metal siding	79	63	97
3	Broken glass in doors and windows	96	79	114
4	Uplift of roof deck and loss of significant roof covering material (>20%); collapse of chimney; garage doors collapse inward; failure of porch or carport	97	81	116
5	Entire house shifts off foundation	121	103	141
6	Large sections of roof structure removed; most walls remain standing	122	104	142
7	Exterior walls collapsed	132	113	153
8	Most walls collapsed, except small interior rooms	152	127	178
9	All walls EF-3 to EF-4	170	142	198
10	Destruction of engineered and/or well constructed residence; slab swept clean	200	165	220

DOD = Degree of Damage

EXP = Expected Wind Speed

LB = Lower Bound Wind Speed

UB = Upper Bound Wind Speed

****Well Constructed Home****

Damage Indicator #27 (TH)

Hardwood: Oak, Maple, Birch, Ash

DOD	Damage Description	EXP	LB	UB
1	Small limbs broken (up to 1" diameter) EF-0	60	48	72
2	Large branches broken (1"-3" diameter)	74	61	88
3	Trees uprooted	91	76	118
4	Trunks snapped	110	93	134
5	Trees debarked with only stubs of largest branches remaining EF-3	143	123	167

DOD = Degree of Damage

EXP = Expected Wind Speed

LB = Lower Bound Wind Speed

UB = Upper Bound Wind Speed

EF-3 Severe damage. Entire stories of well-constructed houses destroyed; trains overturned; trees debarked; heavy cars lifted off the ground and thrown.

Texas Tornado – December 2015



**EF-1 Moderate damage. Roofs severely stripped;
mobile homes overturned or badly damaged;
loss of exterior doors; windows and other glass broken.**

Texas Tornado – December 2015



Damage Indicators

Texas Tornado – December 2015

House – EF-4/5

Trees – EF-0/1



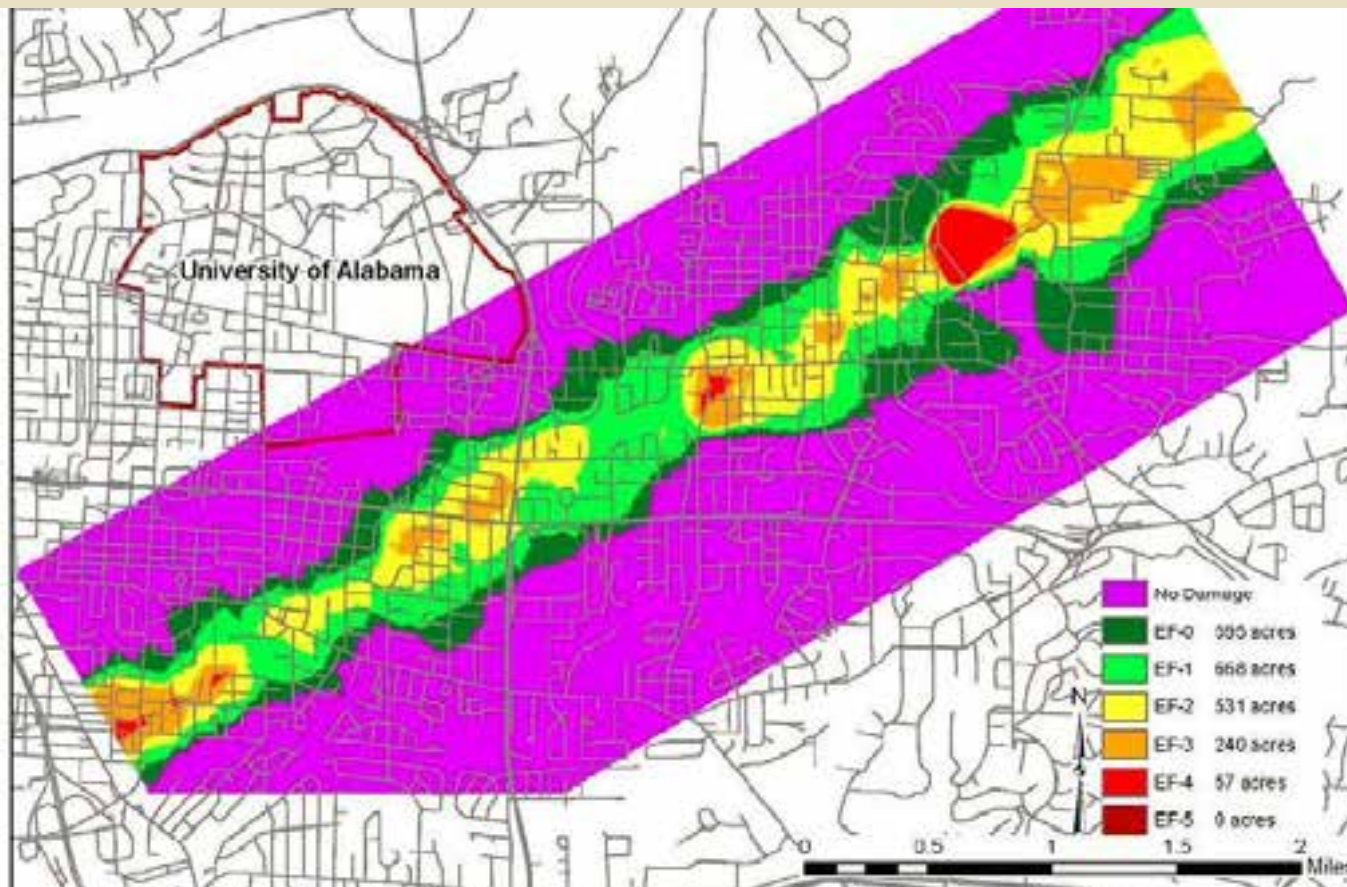
Nebraska Tornado – June 2017



Nebraska Tornado – June 2017



Tornado Intensity Along Path



Hurricane Katrina

21:00 Tue August 23, 2005 to 21:00 Wed August 31, 2005 UTC



Percentage of Occurrence

EF-Scale	Wind Speed (3-sec gust)	Relative Frequency	Cumulative Percentage	Examples of Damage
EF-0	65-85	53.5 %	53.5 %	
EF-1	86-110	31.6 %	85.1	
EF-2	111-135	10.7 %	95.8	
EF-3	136-165	3.4 %	99.2	
EF-4	166-200	0.7 %	99.9	
EF-5	>200	< 0.1	100	

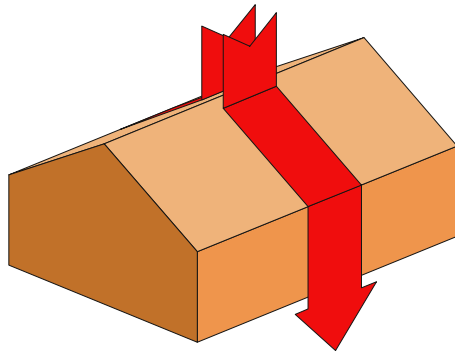
A photograph of a lightning storm. A bright, jagged lightning bolt strikes down from a dark, cloudy sky towards a line of trees on the horizon. Another lightning bolt is visible to the left, striking a tree. The text "LOAD PATH" is overlaid in the center of the image.

LOAD PATH

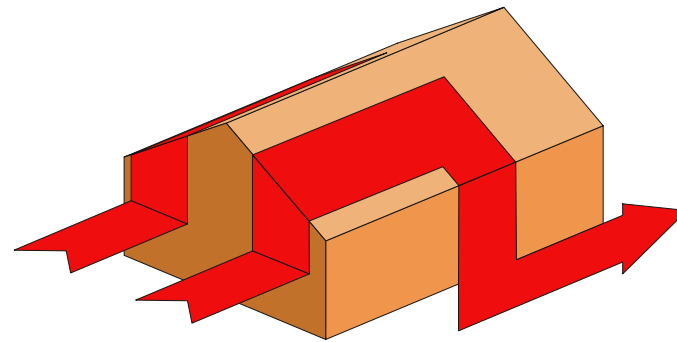
Load Path

A load path takes a load on the structure from the point of origin to the foundation.

There are 2 types of load paths:



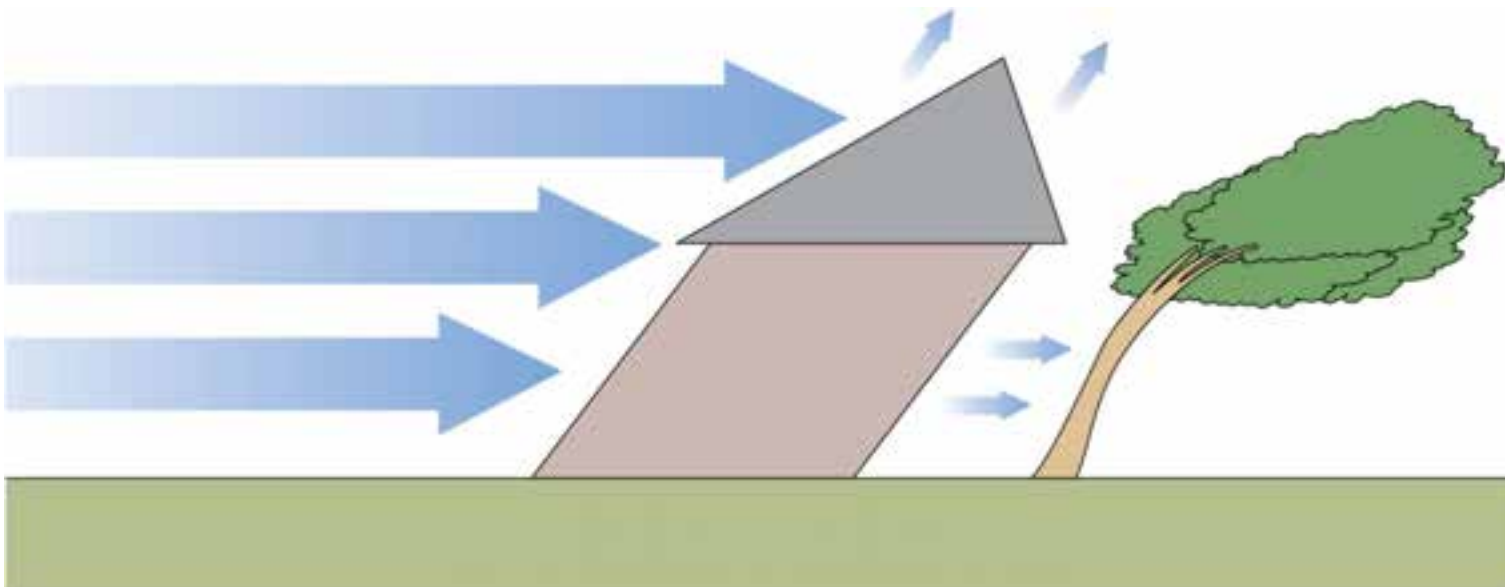
Vertical Load Path
- fairly intuitive



Lateral Load Path
- not as intuitive

Load Path

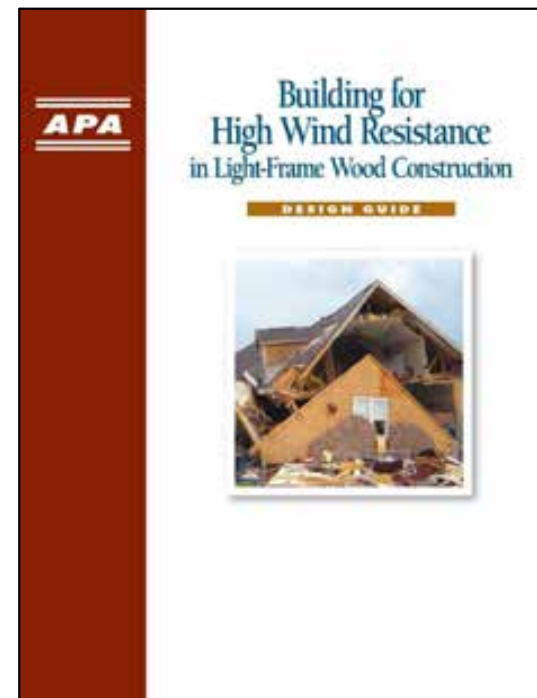
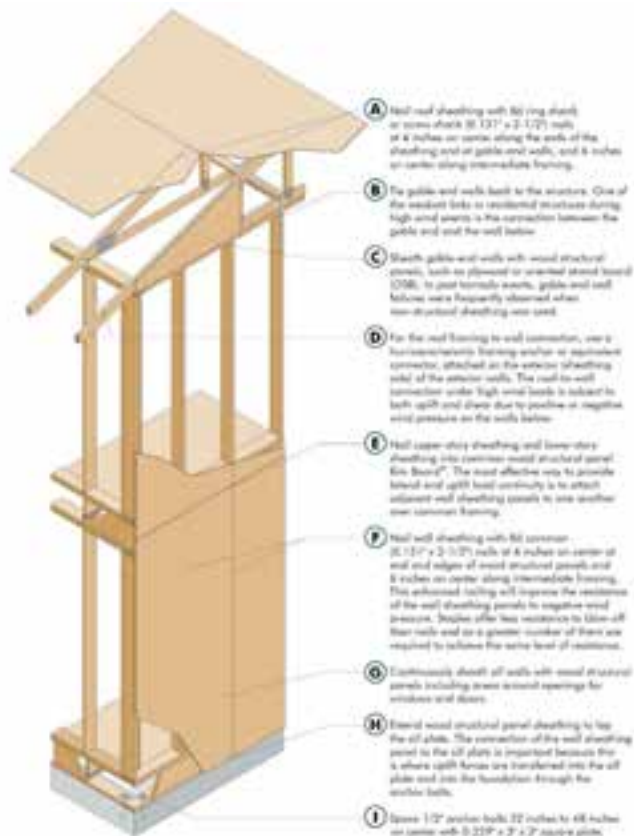
Wind is a complex load...



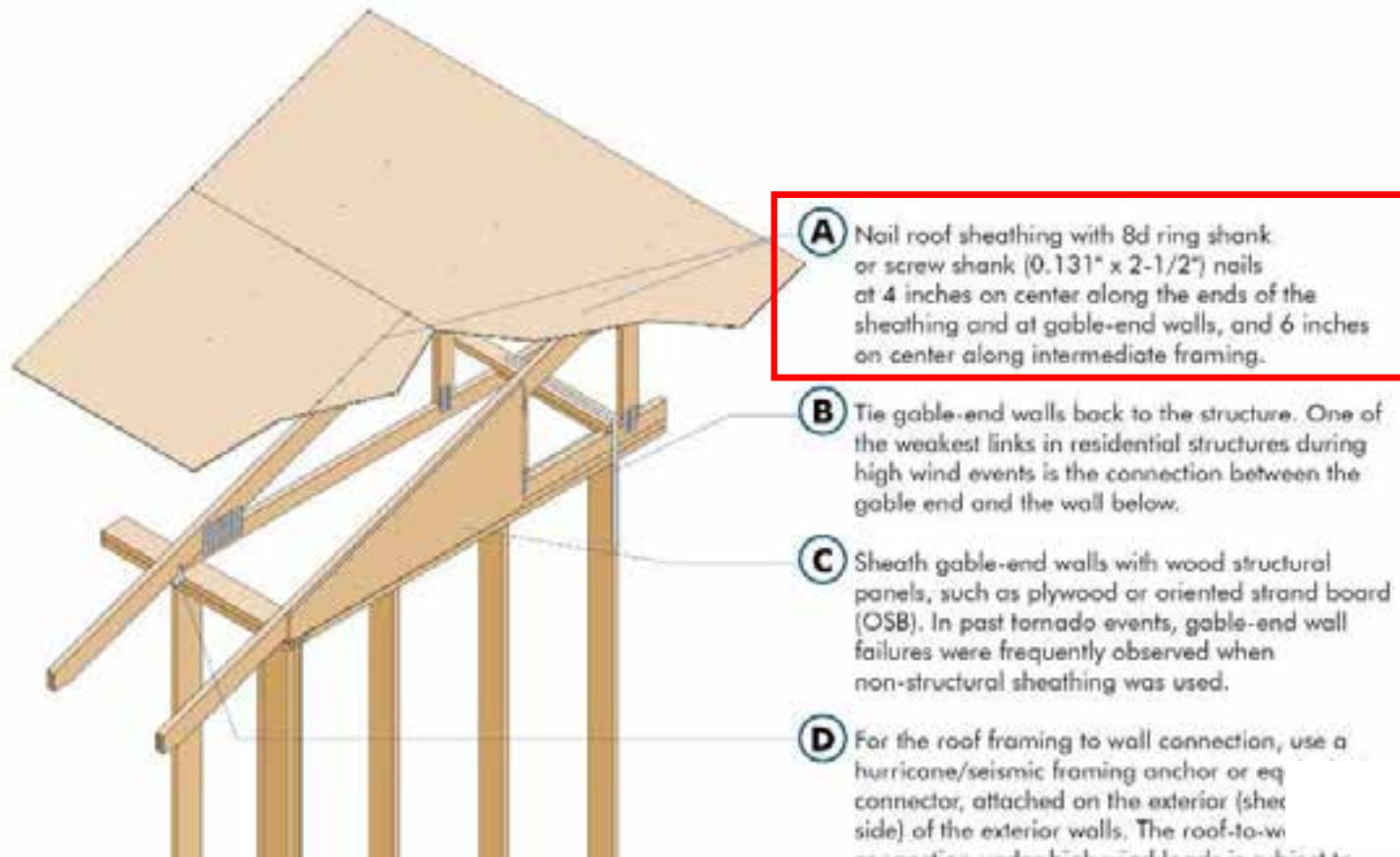
A dramatic, grayscale photograph of a stormy sky. Two bright, jagged lightning bolts are visible, one on the left and one on the right, striking down from dark, heavy clouds. The bottom of the image shows a dark silhouette of a treeline and a tall, thin antenna or tower on the right side. The entire image is framed by a thick, light-brown border.

***BUILDING FOR HIGH
WIND RESISTANCE***

Building for High Wind Resistance



A - Roof Sheathing Connection



A - Roof Sheathing Connection

Texas Tornado – December 2015



Springfield, IL March 16, 2006





Hartford, WI – Multi-Family Garage Structure – 2006

Texas Tornado – December 2015

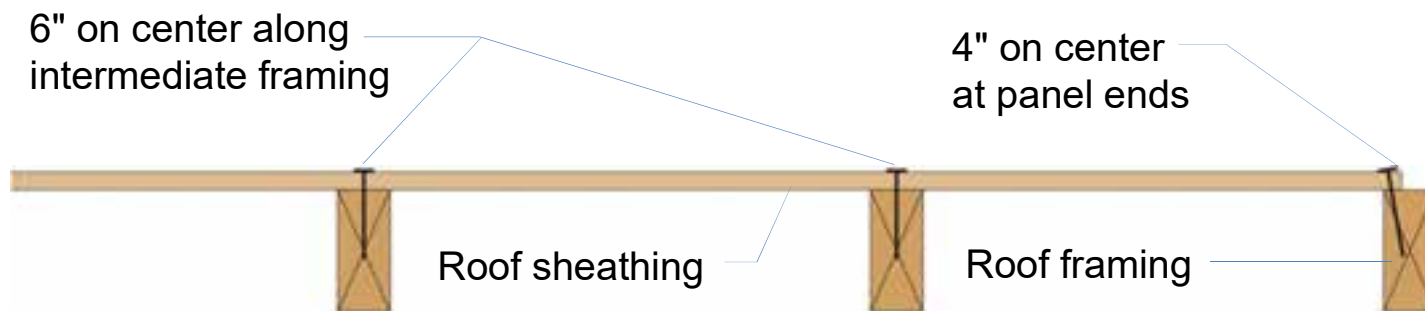




Nebraska Tornado – June 2017

A - Roof Sheathing Attachment

Nail roof sheathing with at 4" on center at panel ends and edges and 6" on center in the intermediate framing

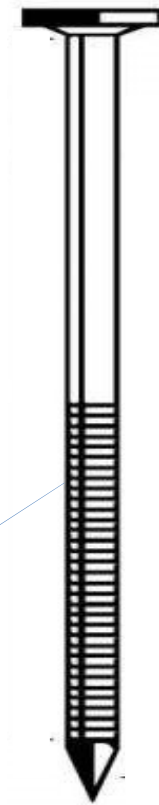


2015 IRC Code Minimum: 6" on center at panel ends and edges and 12" on center in the intermediate framing

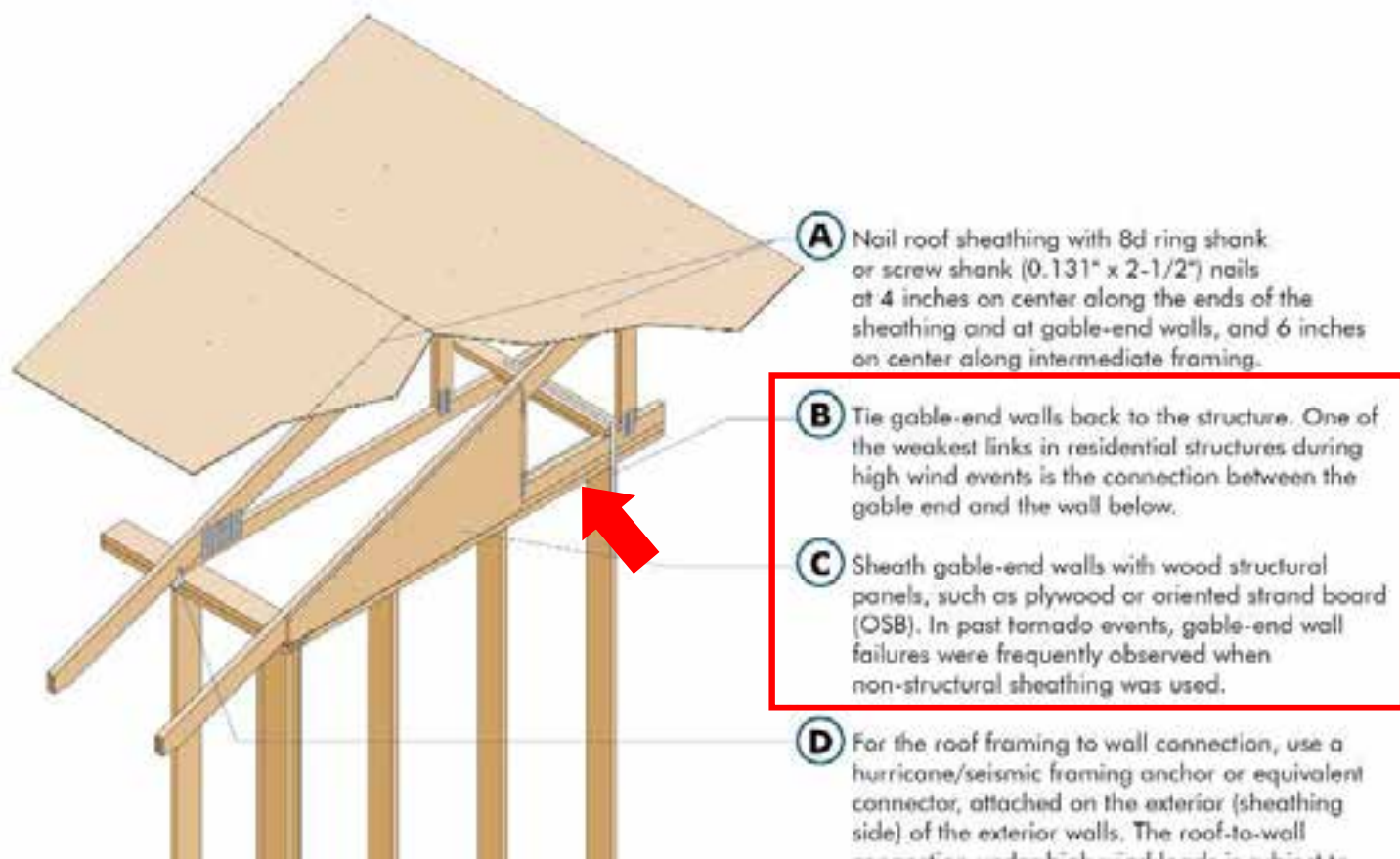
A - Roof Sheathing Attachment

**Fastener Recommendation:
8d (0.131" x 2-1/2") screw or
ring shank nails**

Enhanced withdrawal strength is
achieved with the deformed shank



B and C - Gable Ends



Nebraska Tornado – June 2017



Fayetteville, North Carolina – 2011 Tornados





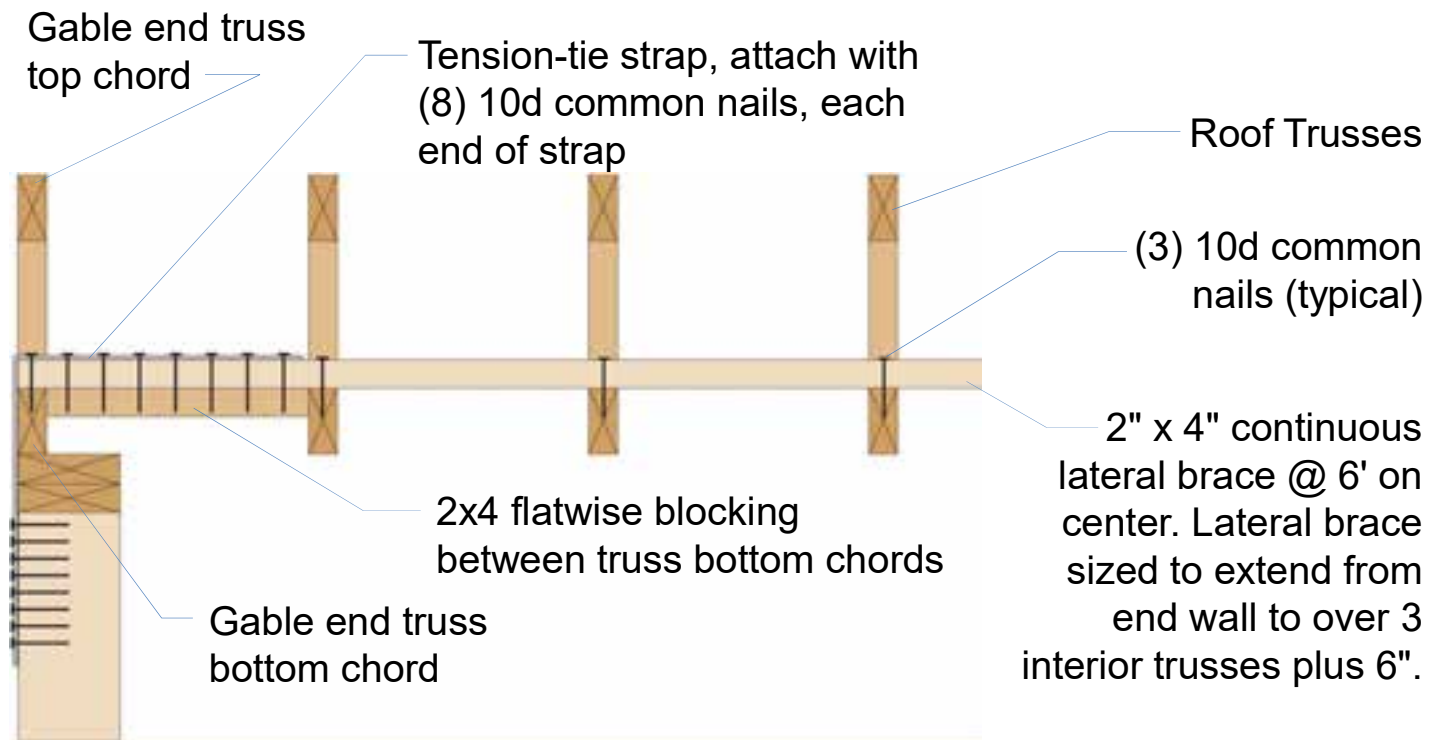
Nebraska Tornado – June 2017



Nebraska Tornado – June 2017

B and C - Gable Ends

Tie gable end walls back to the structure

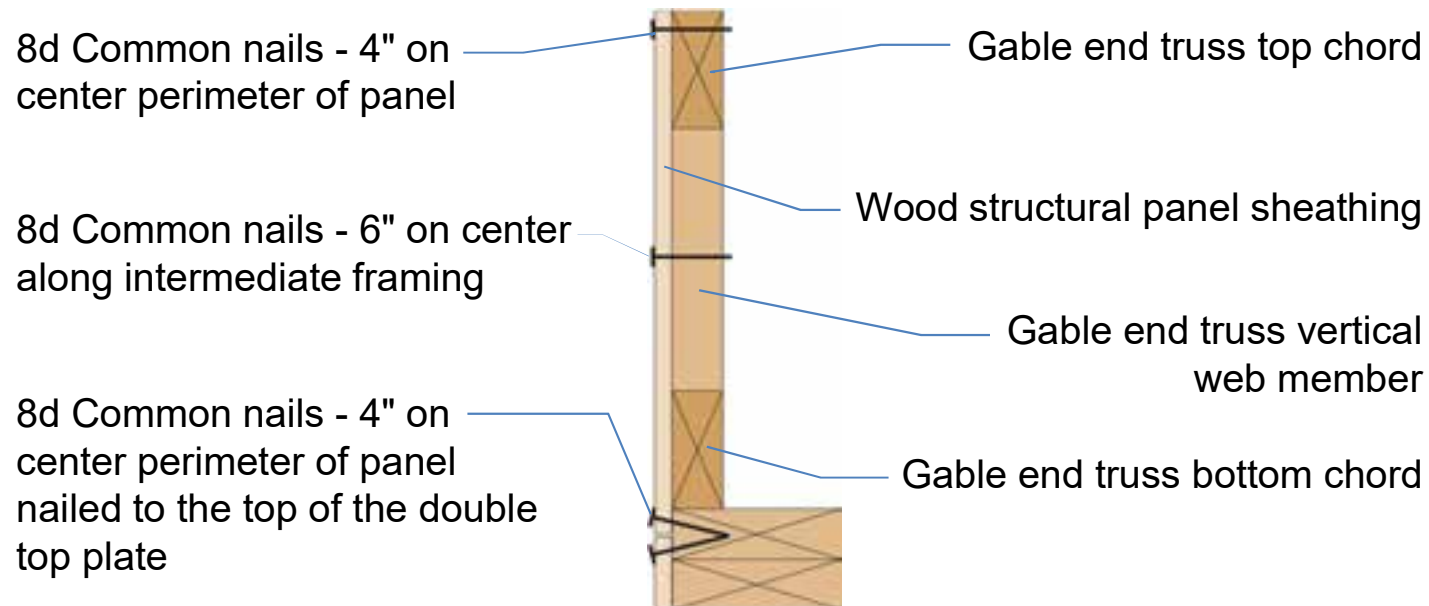


B and C - Gable Ends

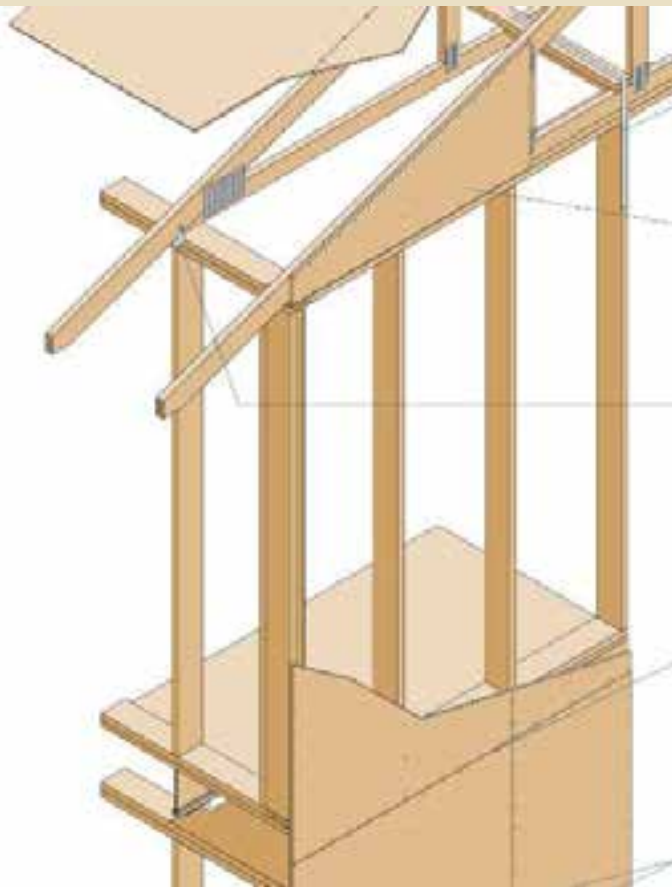


B and C - Gable Ends

**Resisting Pressure on Components and Cladding:
Sheath gable end walls with wood structural panels
such as plywood or oriented strand board (OSB)**



D - Top Plates



on center along intermediate framing.

- B** Tie gable-end walls back to the structure. One of the weakest links in residential structures during high wind events is the connection between the gable end and the wall below.
- C** Sheath gable-end walls with wood structural panels, such as plywood or oriented strand board (OSB). In past tornado events, gable-end wall failures were frequently observed when non-structural sheathing was used.
- D** For the roof framing to wall connection, use a hurricane/seismic framing anchor or equivalent connector, attached on the exterior (sheathing side) of the exterior walls. The roof-to-wall connection under high wind loads is subject to both uplift and shear due to positive or negative wind pressure on the walls below.
- E** Nail upper-story sheathing and lower-story sheathing into common wood structural panel Rim Board®. The most effective way to provide lateral and uplift load continuity is to attach adjacent wall sheathing panels to one another over common framing.
- F** Nail wall sheathing with 8d common (0.1316" x 2.125") nails at 12" on center.

D - Top Plates

Garland, Texas – 2015



Battlefield, MO Fire Station – 2003



Missouri Tornado – 2003



Missouri Tornado – 2003

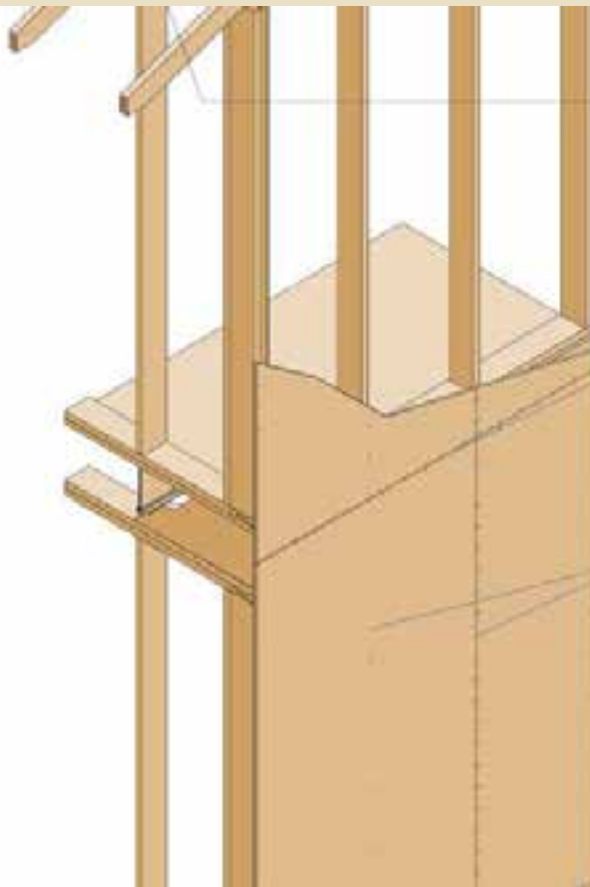


D - Top Plates

Pre-engineered Connectors



E - Rim Board Connections



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- F** Nail wall sheathing with 8d common (0.131" x 2-1/2") nails at 4 inches on center at end and edges of wood structural panels and 6 inches on center along intermediate framing. This enhanced nailing will improve the resistance of the wall sheathing panels to negative wind pressure. Staples offer less resistance to blow-off than nails and so a greater number of them are required to achieve the same level of resistance.
- G** Continuously sheath all walls with wood structural

Texas Tornado – December 2015



Nebraska Tornado – June 2017



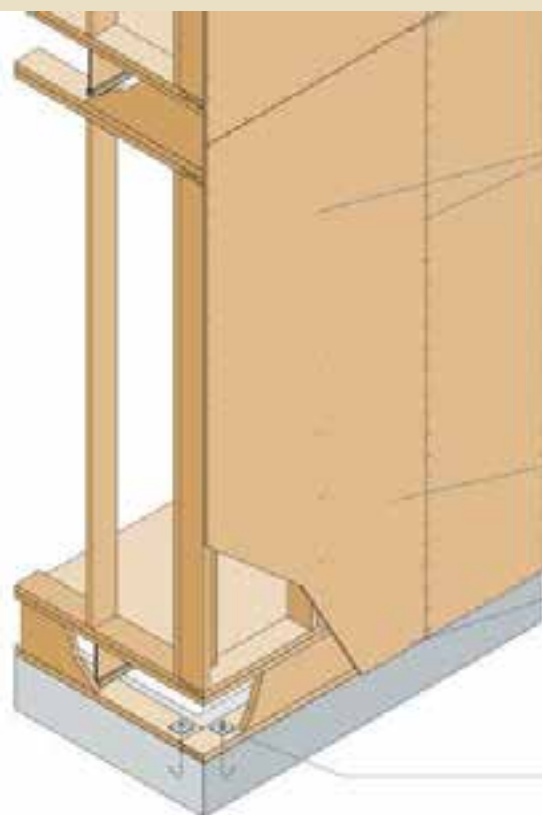
E - Rim Board Connections



E - Rim Board Connections



F and G - Wall Sheathing



lateral and uplift load continuity is to attach adjacent wall sheathing panels to one another over common framing.

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- G** Continuously sheath all walls with wood structural panels including areas around openings for windows and doors.
- H** Extend wood structural panel sheathing to lap the sill plate. The connection of the wall sheathing panel to the sill plate is important because this is where uplift forces are transferred into the sill plate and into the foundation through the anchor bolts.
- I** Space 1/2" anchor bolts 32 inches to 48 inches on center with 0.229" x 3" x 3" square plate.

Springfield, IL – Fairfield Inn – 2006



Missouri Tornado – 2003



Missouri Tornado – 2003



Nebraska Tornado – June 2017



Missouri Tornado – 2003

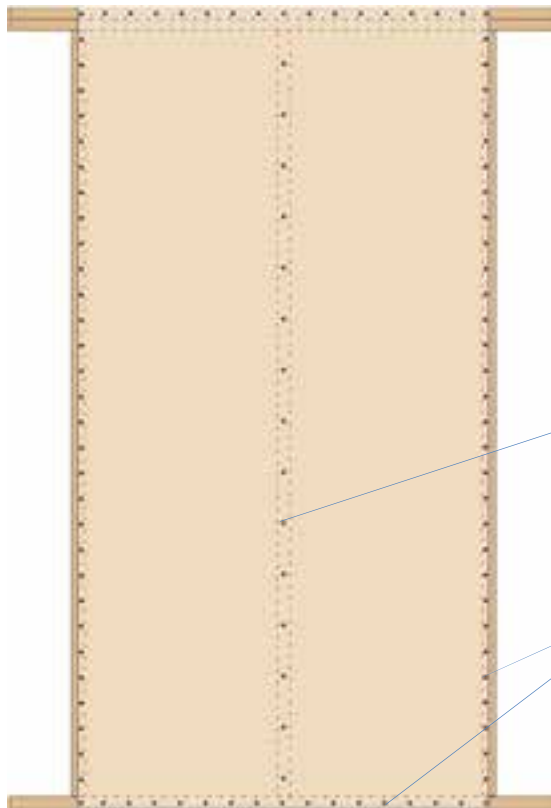


F and G - Wall Sheathing

Texas Straight Line Wind – March 2017



F and G - Wall Sheathing Attachment

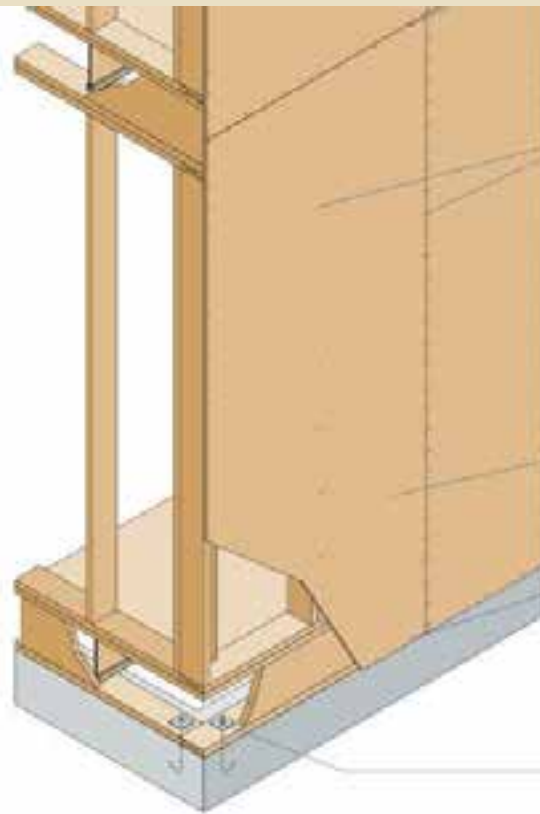


Nail wall sheathing with 8d common (0.131" x 2-1/2") nails at 4" on center on the perimeter of wood structural panel wall sheathing and 6" on center in the field

8d Common nails at 6" on center at intermediate supports

8d Common nails at 4" on center at panel ends and edges

H and I - Sill Plates and Anchor Bolts



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H and I - Sill Plates and Anchor Bolts

Garland, Texas – 2015



H and I - Sill Plates and Anchor Bolts



Nebraska Tornado – June 2017

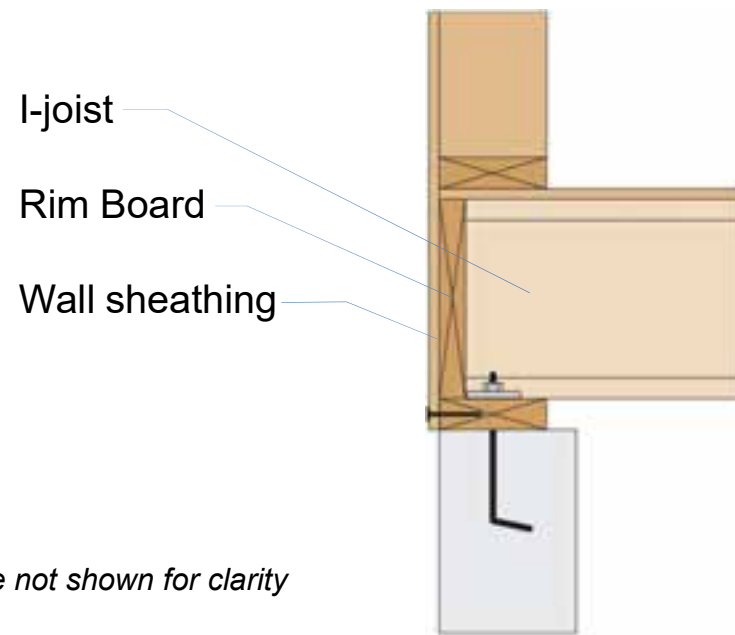
H and I - Sill Plates and Anchor Bolts

Tennessee Tornado – March 2017



Wall Framing to Sill Plate Connection

Extend wood structural panel sheathing at bottom of wall to sill plate intersection



Other connections are not shown for clarity

Tennessee - 2018



Missouri Tornado – 2003



H and I - Sill Plates and Anchor Bolts

Texas Tornado – December 2015



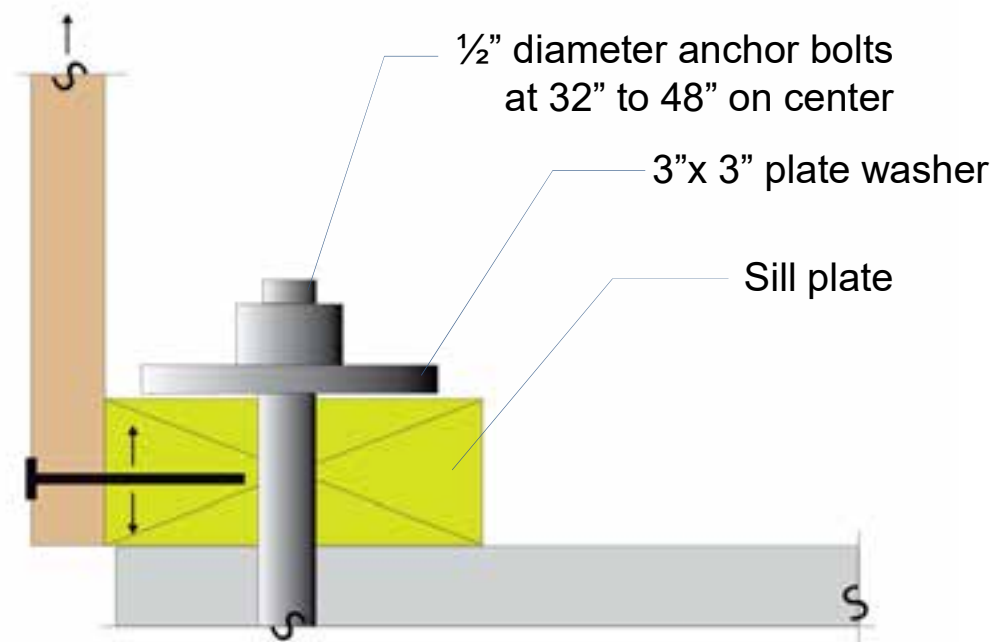
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Texas Tornado – December 2015

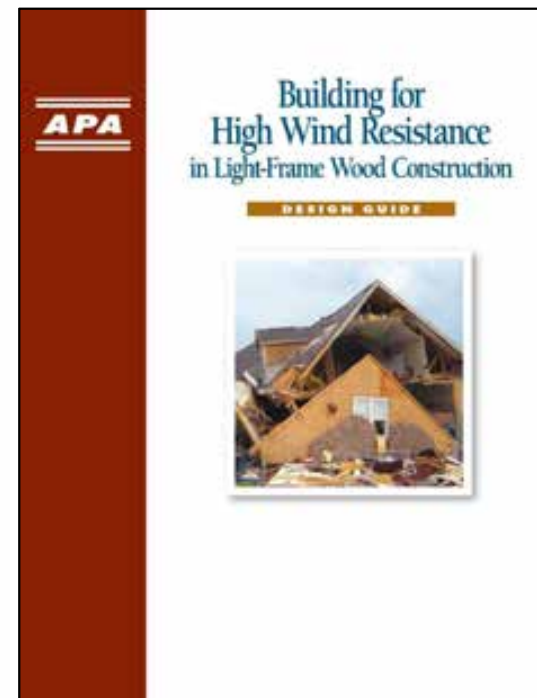
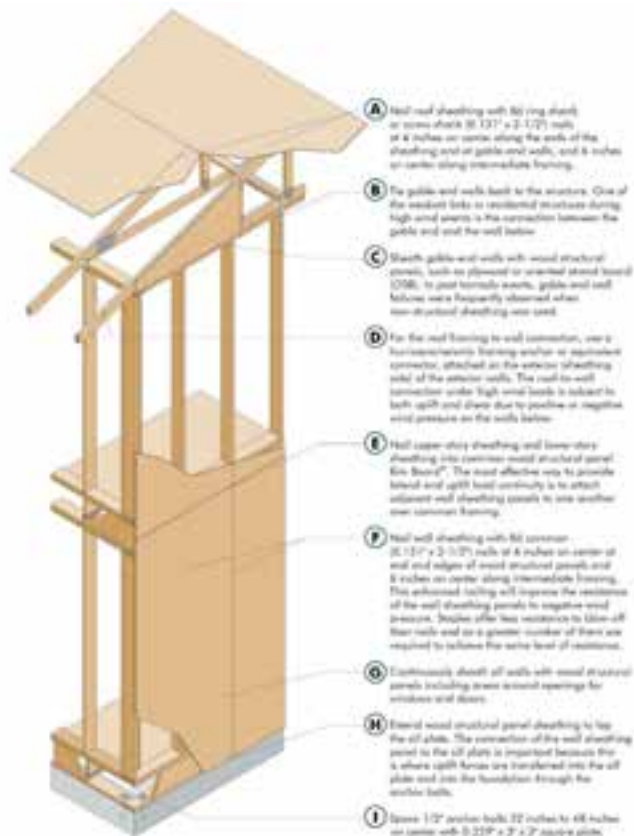


Anchor Bolt Installation

Large plate washers (3"x3"x0.229") prevent pull through of sill plate



Building for High Wind Resistance



www.apawood.org/wind-weather-seismic



The leading resource for information about engineered wood products

TECHNICAL RESEARCH MANUFACTURER DIRECTORY CONTACT

PRODUCTS RESOURCE LIBRARY DESIGN & BUILD ABOUT US FEATURED SITES MEMBERS ONLY MY APA

Design & Build > Design Solutions > Wind, Weather & Seismic

Resilient Construction

Resilient Wood Construction Resists Wind, Weather, Seismic Forces & Moisture

Wood is the resilient choice for construction. Wood's strength combined with its ability to absorb stresses or impacts without weakening or degrading make wood a superior building material, especially in areas susceptible to severe weather conditions or seismic activity. While regionalized building codes address the necessary design requirements, APA provides additional resources detailing construction practices that help structures perform even better against hurricanes, high winds, severe moisture and earthquakes.

Plywood and OSB Sheathing Boost Structural Strength

The overall strength of a building is the function of all of the components—walls, floors, roof, and foundation—working together as a unit. When an earthquake or high wind strikes the house, the walls and roof bear the brunt of these forces. A fully sheathed wall of plywood or OSB, properly connected to the foundation below and roof above, is a strong barrier that resists the persistent forces of wind and earthquakes. Laboratory tests and field evaluations show that sheathing with plywood or OSB can help make a house two to three times more able to withstand high winds and earthquakes.

For more information on wall sheathing, visit the [Walls](#) section.

Resilience in High-Wind Events

Recommendations for Wind-Resistant Construction

Impacts of the most common high-wind events are easily mitigated by a few wind-resistant construction techniques. A wind-resistant home costs a little more than a code-minimum home, but it can be several times stronger at resisting wind forces.



Building for High-Wind Resistance in Light Frame Wood Construction
Practice recommendations for wood-frame high-wind construction to improve overall performance in the structural

WATER DAMAGE RESOURCES

Resources for homeowners and builders dealing with water and storm damage

Assessing Water Damage After A Flood

Tips for drying wood structural panels after a flood

Download [APA Customer Service: The Assessing Water Damage After A Flood Form XSP1](#)



Other Resources

- [American Flood Corps: Restoring Your Flooded Home](#)
- [FEMA: The ABC's of Returning to Flooded Buildings](#)

Thanks for Attending!



QUESTIONS?

Cathy Scarince, PE

Cathy.Scarince@apawood.org

469-247-1885

www.apawood.org