

# FAQ\*: Wind Borne Debris Regions

**Question:** I understand that the BBRS has added some clarity to the definition of Wind Borne Debris Regions. Can you tell me where this can be found?

**Answer:** A code change approved on December 11, 2007 changed the definition to read as shown on the next slide. Per the definition, a survey of the building site may be necessary in some cases to determine if a new home is in a wind borne debris region. But in those cases where a structure is clearly within, or outside of, a wind borne debris region a survey is not required. Also, this change and other code changes can be found at the Department of Public Safety website [www.mass.gov/dps](http://www.mass.gov/dps)

\* Answers to FAQs are opinions of the BBRS Staff and do not reflect official positions or code interpretations of the BBRS.

# Wind Borne Debris Definition Code Change

In Chapter 52 DEFINITIONS add

WIND BORNE DEBRIS REGION. Areas within hurricane-prone regions within one mile of the coastal mean high water line where the basic wind speed is 110 miles per hour (177 km/h) or greater; or where the basic wind speed is equal to or greater than 120 miles per hour (193 km/h); or Hawaii. The coastal mean high water line, in the Massachusetts 110 mph wind zones, forms the outer edge of the red bands overlaid onto the satellite images found on the MA Department of Public Safety website at [www.mass.gov/dps](http://www.mass.gov/dps). For estimating purposes only, the inner edge of the red bands is approximately one mile inland from coastal mean high water. To determine whether a building is in a wind borne debris region, the building official shall use a survey, provided with the permit application and the building plan, which indicates the distance, in feet, from the location of the proposed building to the closest location of the coastal mean high water line as described above.

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