

assembly	two or more interconnected structural components combined to meet a specific function or design requirement
attic	an open space between the roof and ceiling of a building
balloon frame	a type of wood frame construction in which the studs in exterior walls extend from the basement or foundation to the roof
bar joist	a joist constructed of steel with bars in the verticle web space
beam	a horizontal structural component subjected to vertical loads

bowstring truss	a roof assembly with a curved (arched) top chord and a horizontal bottom chord
butterfly roof	a V-shaped roof in which the two sides slope toward a valley in the middle
Cantilever Walls	Walls that extend beyond the structure that supports them.
chord	the main structural members of a truss as distinguished from diagonals
cockloft	an open space between the roof and ceiling of a commercial or industrial building, usually found under flat roofs

Collapse Zone

The area extending horizontally from the base of the wall to one and one-half times the height of the wall.

column

a vertical supporting member

Compression

Those vertical and/or horizontal forces that tend to push the mass of a material together. For example, the force exerted on the top chord of a truss.

course

horizontal layer of masonry units

curtain board

nonload-bearing interior wall extending down from a roof or ceiling to limit the horizontal spread of fire or heat

curtain wall	nonload-bearing exterior wall used as a weather barrier but not for structural support
decking	planks or panels of plywood or OSB that form the substrate of a roof assembly
drywall	gypsum wall board. a fire resistive wall covering known as sheetrock
eave	the edge of a pitched roof that overhangs an outside wall
engineered I-Beam	a wooden I-beam consisting of continuous wooden upper and lower chords separated by a web of OSB or similar sheetrock

fire door	a rated assembly consisting of a solid-core door, frame, and hardware used to confine a fire to one room or section of a building
fire load	total potential heat release if a building and its contents burn
Fire-Resistive Construction	Another term for Type I construction; construction that maintains its structural integrity during a fire.
Fire Wall	Fire-rated wall with a specified degree of fire resistance, built of fire-resistive materials and usually extending from the foundation up to and through the roof of a building, that is designed to limit the spread of a fire within a structure or between adjacent structures.
flat roof	a roof that is flat or nearly flat relative to the horizon

gable roof	a pitched roof characterized by square cut ends and sides that slope down from the ridge line to the eaves
gable wall	a wall rising to meet a gable roof at the end of a building
gambrel roof	a roof characterized by a single ridge line from which roof sections on both sides of the ridge descend at two different pitches
Gang Nail	Form of gusset plate. These thin steel plates are punched with acutely V-shaped holes that form sharp prongs on one side that penetrate wooden members to fasten them together.
girder	a horizontal structural member used to support beams or joists

glue-Lam beam

a wooden structural member composed of relatively short pieces of lumber glued and laminated together under pressure to form a long, extremely strong beam

Green Wood

Wood with high moisture content.

Gusset Plates

Metal or wooden plates used to connect and strengthen the intersections of metal or wooden truss components roof or floor components into a load-bearing unit.

gypsum board

interior finish material consisting of calcinated gypsum, starch, water and other additives sandwiched between two sheets of specially treated paper. drywall.

header course

course of bricks laid with the ends facing outward

Heavy Fire Loading

Presence of large amounts of combustible materials in an area or a building.

hip roof

a pitched roof in which the ends are all beveled so that there are no gable walls

HVAC

abbreviation for heating, ventilation and air conditioning

interstitial space

an accessible or inaccessible space between layers of building materials, such as an attic or cockloft

joists

horizontal structural members used to support a ceiling or floor

lamella arch	an arch constructed of short wooden members connected in a specific geometric pattern
Lightweight Steel Truss	Structural support made from a long steel bar that is bent at a 90-degree angle with flat or angular pieces welded to the top and bottom.
Lightweight Wood Truss	Structural supports constructed of 2- x 3-inch or 2- x 4-inch (50 mm by 75 mm or 50 mm by 100 mm) members that are connected by gusset plates.
Load-Bearing Wall	Wall that is used for structural support.
mansard roof	a roof characterized by steeply sloped facets surrounding a flat or nearly flat center section

Masonry	Bricks, blocks, stones, and unreinforced and reinforced concrete products.
mortar	a mixture of sand, cement, and water used to bond masonry units into a solid mass
Noncombustible Construction	Another term for Type II construction; construction made of the same materials as fire-resistive construction except that the structural components lack the insulation or other protection of Type I construction.
Nonload-Bearing Wall	Wall, usually interior, that supports only its own weight.
open web joist	a joist constructed with a web composed of materials such as bars or tubes that do not fill the entire web space

Ordinary Construction

Another term for Type III construction; construction that requires that exterior walls and structural members be made of noncombustible or limited combustible materials.

oriented strand board
(OSB)

a wooden structural panel formed by gluing and compressing wood strands together under pressure

parallel chord truss

a truss constructed with the top and bottom chords parallel

parapet

a wall at the edge of some roofs

Partition Wall

Interior non-load bearing wall that separates a space into rooms.

party wall	a wall shared by two adjoining buildings, usually a load-bearing wall and a fire wall
pitch	the ratio of rise to span of a roof assembly
pitched roof	a roof that is sloped to facilitate runoff
plate	the top or bottom horizontal member of a frame wall
platform construction	frame type construction in which each floor interrupts the exterior studs forming an effective fire stop at every floor

plywood	a wooden structural panel formed by gluing and laminating very thin sheets of wood together under pressure
rafters	beams that span from a ridge board to an exterior wall plate to support roof decking
Rain Roof	A second roof constructed over an older roof.
rated assembly	two or more construction components combined to form an assembly that has a specific fire-resistance rating
rebar	short for reinforcing bar. placed in concrete forms before cement is poured to add strength

reinforced concrete	concrete that has been poured into forms that contain an interconnected network of steel rebar
Roof Covering	Final outside cover that is placed on top of a roof deck assembly.
sawtooth roof	a roof with a profile of vertical and sloping surfaces that resemble a saw blade. Common in older industrial buildings
sheathing	plywood, OSB, or wooden planking applied to a wall or roof over which a weather resistant covering is applied
shed roof	a pitched roof that slopes in one direction only from the ridge

Situational Awareness	Awareness of immediate surroundings.
spalling	degradation of concrete due to prolonged exposure to high heat.
stud	a vertical structural member in a frame wall
Tension	Those vertical or horizontal forces that tend to pull things apart; for example, the force exerted on the bottom chord of a truss.
truss	a wooden or metal structural unit made up of one or more triangles in a flat plane.

Veneer Walls

Walls with a surface layer of attractive material laid over a base of common material.

Wood-Frame Construction

Another term for Type V construction; construction that has exterior walls, bearing walls, floors, roofs, and supports made completely or partially of wood or other approved materials of smaller dimensions than those used for heavy-timber construction.
