Attic Members

Last month’s Quick Response dealt with the new requirements for the protection of sloped combustible attic spaces with construction members spaced three feet or less on center and a pitch of 4/12 or greater. Unfortunately NFPA 13 does not clearly define the term member.

Consider the figure below. Are the wood trusses considered as members? Are the 2x4 wood “purlins” considered as members?

After extensive research, the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's office has determined the term “member” as any permanently attached element that is part of the roof structure. As such, in the figure above, both the trusses and the purlins are to be considered as members.

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