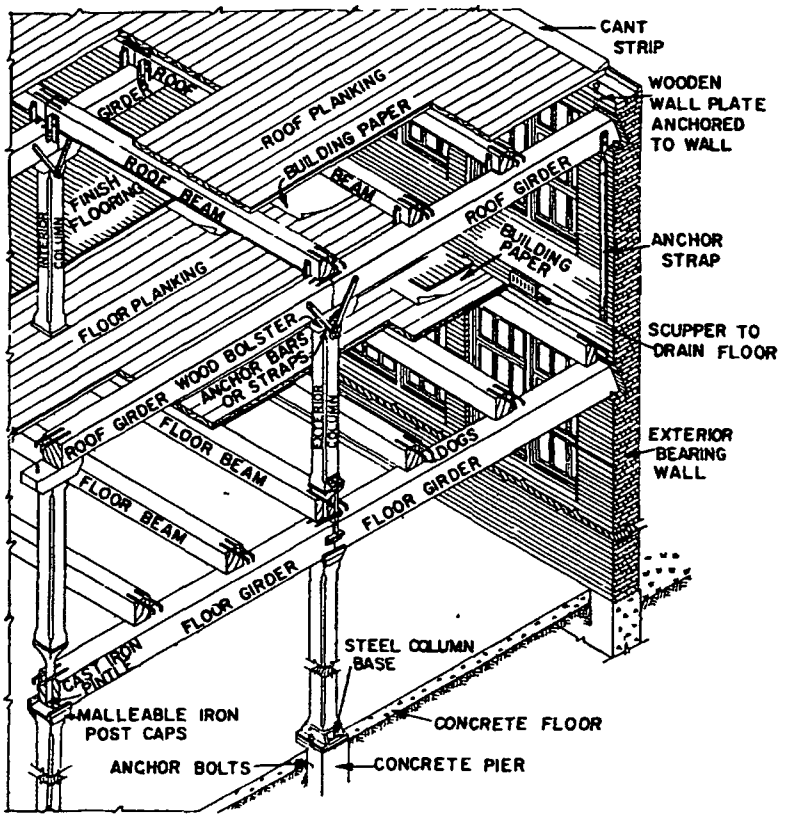


FIG 43–3 —Components of heavy timber building showing floor framing and identifying components of semimill-type framing

Courtesy National Fire Protection Association

Fire-safe construction

There are five common types of building construction, but many buildings are variations of these fire-resistive, heavy timber, noncombustible, ordinary, and wood frame

Fire-resistive construction. Although the term "fire resistive" is sometimes mistakenly taken to mean "fire proof," it actually describes a broad range of structural systems capable of withstanding fires of specified intensity and duration without failure

The term "fire proof" is misleading *No* material is immune to the effects of a fire having sufficient intensity and duration

Common fire-resistive components include masonry load-bearing walls, reinforced concrete or protected steel columns, and poured or precast concrete floors and roofs

Although fire-resistive structures do not, in themselves, contribute fuel to a fire, combustible trim, ceilings, and other interior finish and furnishings may produce an intense fire and pose a serious threat to life safety Use approved building materials with low flame-spread ratings and limit those that can contribute to available fuel, especially in nonsprinklered buildings

Control and limit the amount of combustible materials in any one portion of a building This includes control of the use, handling, and storage of flammable and combustible liquids

Heavy timber construction is characterized