General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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October 2019

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# Purpose and Background

Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element is required to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3).)

The safety element is required to include:

* Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
* Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found.
* Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey.
* The general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities. The location and distribution of planned uses of land shall not require defensible space compliance measures required by state law or local ordinance to occur on publicly owned lands or open space designations of homeowner associations.
* The local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(A).)

Based on that information, the safety element shall include goals, policies, and objectives that protect the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B).) To carry out those goals, policies, and objectives, feasible implementation measures shall be included in the safety element, which include but are not limited to:

* Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.
* Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in the SRA or VHFHSZ.
* Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in the SRA or VHFHSZ, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.
* Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(C).)

The safety element shall also attach or reference any fire safety plans or other documents adopted by the city or county that fulfill the goals and objectives or contains the information required above. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(D).) This might include Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, Unit Fire Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or other plans.

There are several reference documents developed by state agencies to assist local jurisdictions in updating their safety elements to include wildfire safety. The Fire Hazard Planning, General Plan Technical Advice Series from the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR), referenced in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and available at

1400 Tenth Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 322-2318

The Technical Advice Series is also available from the OPR website ([Technical Advice Series link](https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf)).\*

The Technical Advice Series provides policy guidance, information resources, and fire hazard planning examples from around California that shall be considered by local jurisdictions when reviewing the safety element of its general plan.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) utilizes this Safety Element Assessment in the Board’s review of safety elements under Government Code section 65302.5. At least 90 days prior to the adoption or amendment of their safety element, counties that contain SRAs and cities or counties that contain VHFHSZs shall submit their safety element to the Board. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b).) The Board shall review the safety element and respond to the city or county with its findings regarding the uses of land and policies in SRAs or VHFHSZs that will protect life, property, and natural resources from

unreasonable risks associated with wildfires, and the methods and strategies for wildfire risk reduction and prevention within SRAs or VHFHSZs. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3).)

The CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team provides expert fire protection assistance to local jurisdictions statewide. Fire captains are available to work with cities and counties to revise their safety elements and enhance their strategic fire protection planning.

# Methodology for Review and Recommendations

Utilizing stafffrom the CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team, the Board has established a standardized method to review the safety element of general plans. The methodology includes

1. reviewing the safety element for the requirements in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3)(A),
2. examining the safety element for goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that mitigate the wildfire risk in the planning area (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B) & (C)), and
3. making recommendations for methods and strategies that would reduce the risk of wildfires (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3)(B)).

The safety element will be evaluated against the attached Assessment, which contains questions to determine if a safety element meets the fire safety planning requirements outlined in Government Code, section 65302. The reviewer will answer whether or not a submitted safety element addresses the required information, and will recommend changes to the safety element that will reduce the wildfire risk in the planning area. These recommended changes may come from the list of sample goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that is included in this document after the Assessment, or may be based on the reviewer’s knowledge of the jurisdiction in question and their specific wildfire risk. By answering the questions in the Assessment, the reviewer will determine if the jurisdiction’s safety element has adequately addressed and mitigated their wildfire risk. If it hasn’t, any specific recommendations from the reviewer will assist the jurisdiction in revising the safety element so that it does.

Once completed, the Assessment should provide clear guidance to a city or county regarding any areas of deficiency in the safety element as well as specific goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures the Board recommends adopting in order to mitigate or reduce the wildfire threat in the planning area.

# General Plan Safety Element Assessment

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction: Murrieta | Notes: Formal Assessment | CAL FIRE Unit: Riverside | Date Received: 05/18/2020 |
| County: Riverside | LUPP Reviewer: Marcus Hernandez | UNIT CONTACT: DC Bratcher | Date Reviewed: 05/19/2020 |

## Background Information Summary

The safety element must contain specific background information about fire hazards in each jurisdiction.

*Instructions for this table: Indicate whether the safety element includes the specified information. If YES, indicate in the comments where that information can be found; if NO, provide recommendations to the jurisdiction regarding how best to include that information in their revised safety element.*

| Required Information | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Are Fire Hazard Severity Zones Identified?*CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps* | Yes | Exhibit 12-8: High Fire Hazard Zones. (Page 12-42)Exhibit 12-10: Recent and Historic Fires. (Page 12-44)SAF-7.8 Update General Plan Exhibit 12-8, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, to maintain consistency with CAL FIRE’s recommendations. (Page 12-30) |
| Is historical data on wildfires or a reference to where the data can be found, and information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey, included? | Yes | “The undeveloped hillside areas in and adjacent to the City present a potentially serious hazard due to the high potential for large scale wildland fires, as shown in Exhibit 12-8, Very High Fire Hazard Zones.” (Page 12-8)SAF-1.3 Collect and maintain current information on local hazards, and make it available for public use. (Page 12-25)Exhibit 12-10: Recent and Historic Fires. (Page 12-44)Riverside Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) – Table 20: Riverside County Large Fires 300 Acres and Greater (2001-2017). (LHMP Page 221) “The City of Murrieta has experienced the following Incidents since 2012…”(Murrieta LHMP Annex Page 24) |
| Has the general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities, been identified? | Yes | Exhibit 12-10: Recent and Historic Fires. (Page 12-44) |
| Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified? | Yes | “Murrieta Fire & Rescue is the primary provider of fire suppression and fire prevention services in the City of Murrieta, while the Sphere of Influence is served by the Riverside County Fire Department. However, Murrieta Fire & Rescue participates in an Automatic Aid Agreement with the County Fire Department to expedite service delivery to the eastern portion of the City.” (Page 12-9)“MFR participates in the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement. In the event of a major fire, outside resources can be brought into the City as needed.” (Page 12-9)SAF-5.3 Continue to coordinate emergency services with Riverside County, CAL FIRE, and all other agencies and districts with fire protection powers through automatic and mutual aid agreements. (Page 12-27)SAF-12.7 Continue to participate in maintaining the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and incorporate it into City planning efforts as appropriate. (Page 12-34) |
| Are other fire protection plans, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, CAL FIRE Unit or Contract County Fire Plans, referenced or incorporated into the Safety Element? | Yes | SAF-12.1 Maintain an effective, coordinated and up-to-date Emergency Operations Plan in partnership with the Riverside County and other agencies. (Page 12-33)SAF-12.7 Continue to participate in maintaining the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and incorporate it into City planning efforts as appropriate. (Page 12-34) |

| Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs? |
| --- |
| No |

## Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Feasible Implementation Measures

The safety element must contain a set of goals, policies, and objectives based on the above information to protect the community from unreasonable risk of wildfire and implementation measures to accomplish those stated goals, policies, and objectives.

*Instructions for this table: Critically examine the submitted safety element and determine if it is adequate to address the jurisdiction’s unique fire hazard. Answer YES or NO appropriately for each question below. If the recommendation is irrelevant or unrelated to the jurisdiction’s fire hazard, answer N/A. For NO, provide information in the Comments/Recommendations section to help the jurisdiction incorporate that change into their safety element revision. This information may utilize example recommendations from Sample Safety Element Recommendations and**Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan**below, may indicate how high of a priority this recommendation is for a jurisdiction, or may include other jurisdiction-specific information or recommendations.*

### Section 1 Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land

| Questions | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does local ordinance require development standards that meet or exceed title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (**SRA Fire Safe Regulations**) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (**Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations**) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs? | Yes | Murrieta Municipal Code Chapter 15.24 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE AND CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE STANDARDS“MFR in activities that are aimed at preventing fires and compliance with California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and the California Fire Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24).” (Page 12-10)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30)“The City must follow State and Federal laws and abide by County plans. The City coordinates with agencies from the County to Federal level in planning, enforcement, and emergency response.” (Page 12-34) |
| Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs? | No | Recommendation: Create a policy to avoid or minimize new development in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.SAF-1.1 Encourage that areas be dedicated as open space when necessary and appropriate to protect property, minimize impacts to public health, and to provide safety from hazards such as wildland fires, earthquake fault zones or flood plains. (Page 12-25)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements? | Yes | “MFR in activities that are aimed at preventing fires and compliance with California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and the California Fire Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24).” (Page 12-10)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.10 Review the adequacy and accessibility of the fire protection infrastructure annually relative to growth and development. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.12 Monitor and evaluate evacuation routes when new roads are constructed, improved or connected through the region in coordination with other agencies, such as adjacent cities and WRCOG. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.2 Require all new development to be located in or adjacent to wildland areas to assess its vulnerability to fire and its potential as a source of fire through a Fire Protection Plan analysis. (Page 12-29).SAF-7.3 Encourage the use of development features such as roads and irrigated/landscaped open space to buffer homes from wildland fire. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.5 Continue to implement a proactive vegetation management program to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties and where applicable, require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel breaks and roadside fuel reduction within the Very High Fire Zones. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-29)SAF-11.4 Continue to ensure that each development or neighborhood in the City has adequate emergency ingress and egress. (Page 12-29) |
| Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible? | Yes | SAF-7.7 Locate essential public facilities outside Very High Fire Zones when feasible with consideration that the local surrounding cities are also growing and development may fill in between and essential public facilities may be necessary in these areas. (Page 12-30) |
| Are there plans or actions identified to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard? | Yes | SAF-5.1 Continue efforts to reduce fire hazards associated with older buildings, multi-family housing, and fire-prone industrial facilities throughout the City. (Page 12-27)SAF-5.5 Require that all dedicated open space or undeveloped areas meet specifications for wildland fire safety. (Page 12-27)SAF-6.12 Monitor and evaluate evacuation routes when new roads are constructed, improved or connected through the region in coordination with other agencies, such as adjacent cities and WRCOG. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.5 Continue to implement a proactive vegetation management program to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties and where applicable, require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel breaks and roadside fuel reduction within the Very High Fire Zones. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30)SAF-11.4 Continue to ensure that each development or neighborhood in the City has adequate emergency ingress and egress. (Page 12-33) |
| Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire? | Yes | SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.13 Expedite reviews for building permits for the reconstruction of fire damaged structures. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | Yes | SAF-5.5 Require that all dedicated open space or undeveloped areas meet specifications for wildland fire safety. (Page 12-27)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.13 Expedite reviews for building permits for the reconstruction of fire damaged structures. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.3 Encourage the use of development features such as roads and irrigated/landscaped open space to buffer homes from wildland fire. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.5 Continue to implement a proactive vegetation management program to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties and where applicable, require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel breaks and roadside fuel reduction within the Very High Fire Zones. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | SAF-7.2 Require all new development to be located in or adjacent to wildland areas to assess its vulnerability to fire and its potential as a source of fire through a Fire Protection Plan analysis. (Page 12-29) |
| Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance? | Yes | SAF-5.5 Require that all dedicated open space or undeveloped areas meet specifications for wildland fire safety. (Page 12-27)SAF-7.5 Continue to implement a proactive vegetation management program to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties and where applicable, require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel breaks and roadside fuel reduction within the Very High Fire Zones. (Page 12-29) |
| Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.11 Coordinate with CAL FIRE, California’s Office of Emergency Services and other local fire districts to identify strategies that ensure the capacity and resilience of escape routes potentially compromised by wildfire, including emergency evacuation and supply transportation routes. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.12 Monitor and evaluate evacuation routes when new roads are constructed, improved or connected through the region in coordination with other agencies, such as adjacent cities and WRCOG. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30)SAF-11.4 Continue to ensure that each development or neighborhood in the City has adequate emergency ingress and egress. (Page 12-33) |
| Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined? | Yes | SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified? | Yes | SAF-6.11 Coordinate with CAL FIRE, California’s Office of Emergency Services and other local fire districts to identify strategies that ensure the capacity and resilience of escape routes potentially compromised by wildfire, including emergency evacuation and supply transportation routes. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.12 Monitor and evaluate evacuation routes when new roads are constructed, improved or connected through the region in coordination with other agencies, such as adjacent cities and WRCOG. (Page 12-29)SAF-11.4 Continue to ensure that each development or neighborhood in the City has adequate emergency ingress and egress. (Page 12-33) |
| Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations? | Yes | SAF-1.7 Prioritize community education as an essential part of creating a safe community. (Page 12-25)SAF-5.2 Provide public safety education programs through MFR to reduce accidents, injuries and fires, as well as to train members of the public to respond to emergencies. (Page 12-27)SAF-7.4 Promote community education about preventing wildfire ignition, using fire-resistant building features, creating defensible space around homes, evacuation routes, and legal brush clearance requirements. (Page 12-29)SAF-12.5 Provide public outreach, presentations, and information that prepares residents and businesses to safeguard life and property during and immediately after emergencies. (Page 12-33) |
| Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs? | Yes | SAF-1.4 Review public safety infrastructure and staff resources as new development is planned or proposed in Murrieta and the Sphere of Influence. (Page 12-25)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.10 Review the adequacy and accessibility of the fire protection infrastructure annually relative to growth and development. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| Does new development have adequate fire protection? | Yes | SAF-1.4 Review public safety infrastructure and staff resources as new development is planned or proposed in Murrieta and the Sphere of Influence. (Page 12-25)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.1 Provide a total response time within the city of 6:04 minutes for medical emergencies and an effective response force (all resources dispatched to arrive at scene) for fire incidents of 10:24 minutes as measured by NFPA 1710 Standards and the Community Risk Assessment - Standards of Cover. (12-28)SAF-6.2 Ensure that each Paramedic Engine Company provides the capability to treat moderate or greater injuries, advance a hose line for fire control, and to effect a rescue of trapped occupants among other emergency operation tasks. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.3 Provide adequate levels of emergency response personnel for all areas of the City. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.5 Locate, staff, and equip MFR apparatus to provide service to all areas within the City within a maximum of 10:24 minutes total response time for 90 percent of all large scale emergency incidents which include structure fires, mass casualty, hazardous materials or natural or man-made disasters. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.8 Maintain and monitor a MFR Strategic Plan to address staffing and facility needs, service goals, deployment strategies, and other department goals. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.9 Strive to achieve an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification of 3 in areas with fire hydrants and 9 in areas that are not connected to an existing water district distribution system. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.10 Review the adequacy and accessibility of the fire protection infrastructure annually relative to growth and development. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.11 Coordinate with CAL FIRE, California’s Office of Emergency Services and other local fire districts to identify strategies that ensure the capacity and resilience of escape routes potentially compromised by wildfire, including emergency evacuation and supply transportation routes. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.12 Monitor and evaluate evacuation routes when new roads are constructed, improved or connected through the region in coordination with other agencies, such as adjacent cities and WRCOG. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.3 Encourage the use of development features such as roads and irrigated/landscaped open space to buffer homes from wildland fire. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.5 Continue to implement a proactive vegetation management program to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties and where applicable, require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel breaks and roadside fuel reduction within the Very High Fire Zones. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-29) |

### Section 2 Develop adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in SRAs or VHFHSZs.

| Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to: |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Water supply and fire flow? | Yes | SAF-1.4 Review public safety infrastructure and staff resources as new development is planned or proposed in Murrieta and the Sphere of Influence. (Page 12-25)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.9 Strive to achieve an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification of 3 in areas with fire hydrants and 9 in areas that are not connected to an existing water district distribution system. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.10 Review the adequacy and accessibility of the fire protection infrastructure annually relative to growth and development. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| Location of anticipated water supply? | Yes | SAF-1.4 Review public safety infrastructure and staff resources as new development is planned or proposed in Murrieta and the Sphere of Influence. (Page 12-25)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.9 Strive to achieve an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification of 3 in areas with fire hydrants and 9 in areas that are not connected to an existing water district distribution system. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.10 Review the adequacy and accessibility of the fire protection infrastructure annually relative to growth and development. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies? | Yes | SAF-1.4 Review public safety infrastructure and staff resources as new development is planned or proposed in Murrieta and the Sphere of Influence. (Page 12-25)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.9 Strive to achieve an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification of 3 in areas with fire hydrants and 9 in areas that are not connected to an existing water district distribution system. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.10 Review the adequacy and accessibility of the fire protection infrastructure annually relative to growth and development. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29) |
| Evacuation and emergency vehicle access? | Yes | SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.10 Review the adequacy and accessibility of the fire protection infrastructure annually relative to growth and development. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.12 Monitor and evaluate evacuation routes when new roads are constructed, improved or connected through the region in coordination with other agencies, such as adjacent cities and WRCOG. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30)SAF-11.4 Continue to ensure that each development or neighborhood in the City has adequate emergency ingress and egress. (Page 12-33) |
| Fuel modification and defensible space? | Yes | SAF-5.5 Require that all dedicated open space or undeveloped areas meet specifications for wildland fire safety. (Page 12-27)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.3 Encourage the use of development features such as roads and irrigated/landscaped open space to buffer homes from wildland fire. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.5 Continue to implement a proactive vegetation management program to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties and where applicable, require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel breaks and roadside fuel reduction within the Very High Fire Zones. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads? | Yes | SAF-5.5 Require that all dedicated open space or undeveloped areas meet specifications for wildland fire safety. (Page 12-27)SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-5.7 Involve MFR in the early design stage of all projects requiring review to ensure MFR input and appropriate modifications and fire safe design is incorporated in future development. (Page 12-28)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.3 Encourage the use of development features such as roads and irrigated/landscaped open space to buffer homes from wildland fire. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.5 Continue to implement a proactive vegetation management program to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties and where applicable, require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel breaks and roadside fuel reduction within the Very High Fire Zones. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| Visible home and street addressing and signage? | Yes | SAF-5.6 Require that all structures and facilities in the City adhere to City, State and National regulatory standards such as the International Building and Fire Codes and other applicable fire safety standards. (Page 12-28)SAF-7.1 Continue to require development in very high fire hazard areas to use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping, and to meet the required codes, standards and specifications for fuel modification, access, and water facilities. (Page 12-29)SAF-7.6 MFR will consider different forms of mitigation for new residential development in Very High Fire Zones to minimize potential fire hazards through feasible project design, including but not limited to designing development to meet or exceed compliance with current Public Resources Code 4290 & Government Code 51175-51189. (Page 12-30) |
| Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained? | Yes | There are so identified community fire breaks in the City of Murrieta.SAF-5.5 Require that all dedicated open space or undeveloped areas meet specifications for wildland fire safety. (Page 12-27)SAF-7.5 Continue to implement a proactive vegetation management program to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties and where applicable, require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel breaks and roadside fuel reduction within the Very High Fire Zones. (Page 12-29) |

### Section 3Working cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection.

| Question | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Is there a map or description of existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking service, specifically noting any areas in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | Yes | “MFR has five stations located to optimize response times throughout the City of Murrieta, listed in Table 12-1, Murrieta Fire & Rescue Stations, with a proposed sixth station in the eastern Sphere of Influence area (refer to Exhibit 12-9, Fire Station Service Areas).” (Page 12-9)“Stations in the outlying regions experience longer average response times, such as the eastern portion of the City along Winchester Road and in the area between Winchester and the I-215 north of Clinton Keith. A sixth fire station in this area is contemplated to help achieve the target response time.” (Page 12-9)Table 12-1 Murrieta Fire & Rescue StationsExhibit 12-9: Fire Station Service Areas (Page 12-43)Exhibit 12-10: Recent and Historic Fires. (Page 12-44) |
| Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs? | Yes | SAF-1.4 Review public safety infrastructure and staff resources as new development is planned or proposed in Murrieta and the Sphere of Influence. (Page 12-25)SAF-5.4 Ensure that outlying areas in the City can be adequately served by the fire communication systems as new development occurs. (Page 12-27)SAF-6.1 Provide a total response time within the city of 6:04 minutes for medical emergencies and an effective response force (all resources dispatched to arrive at scene) for fire incidents of 10:24 minutes as measured by NFPA 1710 Standards and the Community Risk Assessment - Standards of Cover. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.3 Provide adequate levels of emergency response personnel for all areas of the City. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.5 Locate, staff, and equip MFR apparatus to provide service to all areas within the City within a maximum of 10:24 minutes total response time for 90 percent of all large scale emergency incidents which include structure fires, mass casualty, hazardous materials or natural or man-made disasters. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.8 Maintain and monitor a MFR Strategic Plan to address staffing and facility needs, service goals, deployment strategies, and other department goals. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.9 Strive to achieve an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification of 3 in areas with fire hydrants and 9 in areas that are not connected to an existing water district distribution system. (Page 12-29)SAF-6.10 Review the adequacy and accessibility of the fire protection infrastructure annually relative to growth and development. (Page 12-29)Exhibit 12-9: Fire Station Service Areas (Page 12-43) |
| Are goals or standards for emergency services training described? | Yes | SAF-6.7 Strategically cross-train MFR personnel in special operations including Urban Search and Rescue, swift water rescue, and hazardous materials decontamination, wildland fire and disaster management. (Page 12-28)SAF-6.9 Strive to achieve an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification of 3 in areas with fire hydrants and 9 in areas that are not connected to an existing water district distribution system. (Page 12-29)SAF-12.4 Provide training to maintain City staff proficiency in implementation of the Emergency Operations Plan, for all staffing levels. (Page 12-33)SAF-12.6 Participate in regularly scheduled disaster exercises to better prepare Police, Fire, Public Works and other City employees with disaster responsibilities. (Page 12-33) |
| Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements? | Yes | “MFR participates in the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement.” (Page 12-9)“The City of Murrieta is part of Mutual Aid Region VI. Inter-agency, multi-agency, and discipline-specific mutual aid system coordination is used by the City of Murrieta and other member jurisdictions of the Riverside County for coordinating mutual aid. MFR is also part of the standard Countywide and Statewide mutual aid systems.” (Page 12-20)SAF-1.2 Coordinate emergency responses and planning for hazards with agencies at the County, regional, state, and federal levels. (Page 12-25)SAF-5.3 Continue to coordinate emergency services with Riverside County, CAL FIRE, and all other agencies and districts with fire protection powers through automatic and mutual aid agreements. (Page 12-27)SAF-12.1 Maintain an effective, coordinated and up-to-date Emergency Operations Plan in partnership with the Riverside County and other agencies. (Page 12-33)SAF-12.3 Review and test the City's Emergency Operations Plan periodically to note any deficiencies or practices requiring modification. (Page 12-33)SAF-12.6 Participate in regularly scheduled disaster exercises to better prepare Police, Fire, Public Works and other City employees with disaster responsibilities. (Page 12-33)SAF-12.7 Continue to participate in maintaining the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and incorporate it into City planning efforts as appropriate. (Page 12-34) |

# Sample Safety Element Recommendations

These are examples of specific policies, objectives, or implementation measures that may be used to meet the intent of Government Code sections 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and 65302.5, subdivision (b). Safety element reviewers may make recommendations that are not included here.

## A. Maps, Plans and Historical Information

1. Include or reference CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps or locally adopted wildfire hazard zones.
2. Include or reference the location of historical information on wildfires in the planning area.
3. Include a map or description of the location of existing and planned land uses in SRAs and VHFHSZs, particularly habitable structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.
4. Identify or reference a fire plan that is relevant to the geographic scope of the general plan, including the Unit/Contract County Fire Plan, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and any applicable Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
5. Align the goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures for fire hazard mitigation in the safety element with those in existing fire plans, or make plans to update fire plans to match the safety element.
6. Create a fire plan for the planning area.

## B. Land Use

1. Develop fire safe development codes to use as standards for fire protection for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs that meet or exceed the statewide minimums in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
2. Adopt and have certified by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection local ordinances which meet or exceed the minimum statewide standards in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
3. Identify existing development that do not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances.
4. Develop mitigation measures for existing development that does not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances or identify a policy to do so.

## C. Fuel Modification

1. Develop a policy to communicate vegetation clearance requirements to seasonal, absent, or vacation rental owners.
2. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of vegetation clearance on public and private roads.
3. Include fuel breaks in the layout/siting of subdivisions.
4. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of existing or proposed fuel breaks.
5. Identify and/or map existing development that does not conform to current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance in SRAs or VHFHSZs.

6. Identify plans and actions for existing non-conforming development to be improved or mitigated to meet current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance.

## D. Access

1. Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps and tentative maps in SRAs or VHFHSZs is conditional based on meeting the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations, particularly those regarding road standards for ingress, egress, and fire equipment access. (See Gov. Code, § 66474.02.)

2. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with an adequate road network and associated infrastructure.

3. Identify multi-family housing, group homes, or other community housing in SRAs or VHFHSZs and develop a policy to create evacuation or shelter in place plans.

4. Include a policy to develop pre-plans for fire risk areas that address civilian evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans.

5. Identify road networks in SRAs or VHFHSZs that do not meet title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 2 and 3 (commencing with section 1273.00) or certified local ordinance and develop a policy to examine possible mitigations.

## E. Fire Protection

1. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with adequate water supply infrastructure.
2. Plan for the ongoing maintenance and long-term integrity of planned and existing water supply infrastructure.
3. Map existing emergency service facilities and note any areas lacking service, especially in SRAs or VHFHSZs.
4. Project future emergency service needs for the planned land uses.
5. Include information about emergency service trainings or standards and plans to meet or maintain them.
6. Include information about inter-agency preparedness coordination or mutual aid agreements.

# Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan

When updating the General Plan, here are some ways to incorporate fire hazard planning into other elements. Wildfire safety is best accomplished by holistic, strategic fire planning that takes advantage of opportunities to align priorities and implementation measures within and across plans.

## Land Use Element

Goals and policies include mitigation of fire hazard for future development or limit development in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Disclose wildland urban-interface hazards, including fire hazard severity zones, and/or other vulnerable areas as determined by CAL FIRE or local fire agency.

Design and locate new development to provide adequate infrastructure for the safe ingress of emergency response vehicles and simultaneously allow citizen egress during emergencies.

Describe or map any Firewise Communities or other fire safe communities as determined by the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Safe Council, or other organization.

## Housing Element

Incorporation of current fire safe building codes.

Identify and mitigate substandard fire safe housing and neighborhoods relative to fire hazard severity zones.

Consider diverse occupancies and their effects on wildfire protection (group housing, seasonal populations, transit-dependent, etc).

## Open Space and Conservation Elements

Identify critical natural resource values relative to fire hazard severity zones.

Include resource management activities to enhance protection of open space and natural resource values.

Integrate open space into fire safety planning and effectiveness.

Mitigation for unique pest, disease and other forest health issues leading to hazardous situations.

## Circulation Element

Provide adequate access to very high fire hazard severity zones.

Develop standards for evacuation of residential areas in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Incorporate a policy that provides for a fuel reduction maintenance program along roadways.