General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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Fresno County 2022

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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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction: Fresno County | Notes: | CAL FIRE Unit: FKU | Date Received: Draft |
| County: Fresno | LUPP Reviewer: | UNIT CONTACT: DC ~~McDougald~~ Hail | Date Reviewed: Draft |

## 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 | Figure HS-5 Wilfire Hazard Severity Zones, SE pg 2-18 |
| 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 | HMP, pg. 4.149 – 4.154 |
| 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 ? | HMP, pg. 4.161 - 4.164 |
| Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-13 |
| 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 | SE, pg. 2-11, Policy HS-A.1  **HS-A.1 Operational Area Master Emergency Service Plan**  The County shall, through the Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan and the Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, maintain the capability to effectively respond to emergency incidents, including maintenance of an emergency operations center. *(PSP/SO)*  SE, pg. 2-11, Policy HS-A.2  **HS-A.2 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**  In coordination with cities, special districts, and other State and Federal agencies, the County shall maintain the Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify and mitigate, to the extent feasible, natural and human-made hazards within the county. *(PSP)*  SE, pg. 2-12, Policy HS-A.6,  **HS-A.6 Emergency Preparedness Public Awareness Programs**  The County shall support local fire agencies in promoting the education of County residents concerning emergency preparedness, defensible space, and safety, as described in the Fresno-King Unit Fire-Plan information and public education outreach programs, focusing on the most vulnerable at-risk communities such as those in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. *(PSP/PI)* |
| Are residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-2  Through coordination with local and state fire law enforcement agencies, the County has identified, and inventoried existing residential developments located within identified hazard areas that do not have at least two identified emergency evacuation routes.  SE, pg 2-4 – 2-7, Figures HS-1, HS-2, HS-3, and HS-4 – Neighborhoods with Single Access Points |
| Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-16, Policy- HS-B.20  **HS-B.20 Route Capacity, Safety and Visibility**  As part of the next update to the Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, the County, working with emergency service agencies, shall evaluate evacuation route capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios to facilitate fire, law enforcement, and ambulance access and resident egress, consistent with the existing goals and objective of the Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. |

| Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs? |
| --- |
| Yes |

## 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 | SE, pg. 2-16, Policy HS-B.25  HS-B.25 State Responsibility Areas Fire Safe Regulation  Require development to adhere to standards that meet or exceed Title 14, CCR, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations) for State Responsibility Areas and/or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. |
| Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-15, Policy HS-B.10  **HS-B.10 Fire Agency Review of Development Proposals**  The County shall refer development proposals in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and State Responsibility Areas of the unincorporated county to the appropriate local fire agencies for review of compliance with fire safety standards. If dual responsibility exists, both agencies shall review and comment relative to their area of responsibility. If standards are different or conflicting, the more stringent standards shall apply. *(RDR/IGC)* |
| Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-12, Policy HS-A.7  **HS-A.7 Building Design**  The County shall review the design of all buildings and structures in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and State Responsibility Areas to ensure they are designed and constructed to State and local regulations and standards as part of the building permit plan check process. *(RDR)* |
| Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-12, Policy HS-A.4  **HS-A.4 Critical Emergency Response Facility Siting**  The County shall ensure that the siting of critical emergency response facilities such as hospitals, fire stations, sheriff’s offices and substations, dispatch centers, emergency operations centers, and other emergency service facilities and utilities are sited and designed to minimize their exposure and susceptibility to flooding, seismic and geological effects, fire, landslides, avalanche, and explosions as required by State regulations. This includes locating new essential public facilities outside of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, if feasible. Exception to this policy shall be allowed on the condition that the only alternative location would be so distant as to jeopardize the safety of the community, given that precautions are taken to protect the facility. *(PSP* |
| 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 | SE, pg. 2-16, Policy HS-B.23  HS-B.23 Non-conforming Developments  The County, working with applicable fire agencies, shall make reasonable effort to minimize the risk to existing developments in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and State Responsibility Areas by educating property owners and responsible entities of the benefits of improving such developments to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard, and require all development to meet or exceed the County’s Title 15 – Building and Construction, Chapter 15.60 State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations of the County under the County’s Code of Ordinances and applicable updates. |
| Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-17, Policy HS-B.27  HS-B.27 Post Fire Re-development  In the event of a large fire, the County shall evaluate re-development within the impacted fire zone to conform to contemporary fire safe standards and require all development to meet or exceed the County's Title 15 - Building and Construction, Chapter 15.60 State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations of the County under the County's Code of Ordinances and applicable updates. |
| Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-16, Policy HS-B.19  HS-B.19 Site Specific Fire Management Plans  The County shall require all new discretionary development consisting of major residential subdivisions and large commercial projects in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and State Responsibility Areas to develop site-specific fire management plans to maintain adequate access for emergency vehicles, including two points of access for subdivisions and multifamily developments, address fuel modification and/or incorporation of open space or other defensible space areas, maintain vegetation clearance on public and private roads, and include disclosure requirements to future property owners or residents as required by state law. Require ongoing maintenance and upkeep to be incorporated or recorded as part of building covenants or homeowner covenants, conditions, and restrictions. |
| Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-16, Policy HS-B.19  HS-B.19 Site Specific Fire Management Plans  The County shall require all new discretionary development consisting of major residential subdivisions and large commercial projects in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and State Responsibility Areas to develop site-specific fire management plans to maintain adequate access for emergency vehicles, including two points of access for subdivisions and multifamily developments, address fuel modification and/or incorporation of open space or other defensible space areas, maintain vegetation clearance on public and private roads, and include disclosure requirements to future property owners or residents as required by state law. Require ongoing maintenance and upkeep to be incorporated or recorded as part of building covenants or homeowner covenants, conditions, and restrictions. |
| Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-14, Policy HS-B.4  HS-B.4 Fire Risk Management  The County shall require that new discretionary development including residential subdivisions and large commercial proposals in high-fire-hazard areas have fire-resistant vegetation, cleared fire breaks separating communities or clusters of structures from native vegetation, or a long-term comprehensive vegetation and fuel management program. Fire hazard reduction measures shall be incorporated into the design of development projects in fire hazard areas. *(RDR/PSP)* |
| Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-14, Policy HS-B.6  HS-B.6 Foothill and Mountain Fire and Emergency Service Access  The County shall require that new foothill and mountain subdivisions and residential areas in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones provide for safe and ready access for fire and other emergency equipment, for routes of escape that will safely handle evacuations, and for roads and streets designed to be compatible with topography while meeting fire safety needs. *(RDR)*  SE, pg. 2-14, Policy HS B.7  **HS-B.7 Fire and Emergency Vehicle Access**  The County shall require development to have adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment. All major subdivisions shall have a minimum of two (2) points of ingress and egress. The County shall implement feasible recommendations in AB2911 Office of the State Fire Marshall Subdivision Survey Reports, which survey subdivisions without a secondary means of egress routes for evacuation and other fire safety factors *(RDR)* |
| Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined? | YES | SE, pg. 2-14, Policy HS-B.6  HS-B.6 Foothill and Mountain Fire and Emergency Service Access  The County shall require that new foothill and mountain subdivisions and residential areas in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones provide for safe and ready access for fire and other emergency equipment, for routes of escape that will safely handle evacuations, and for roads and streets designed to be compatible with topography while meeting fire safety needs. *(RDR)*  SE, pg. 2-13, Policy HS-A.12  HS-A.12 Access/Evacuation Routes  Establish minimum standards for evacuation, including in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity areas, in the Emergency Operations Plan and continuously reassess access and evacuation route capacity and put mitigation measures and improvement plans in place if needed. |
| If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-13, Policy HS-A.12  **HS-A.12 Access/Evacuation Routes**  Establish minimum standards for evacuation in the Emergency Operations Plan and continuously reassess access and evacuation route capacity and put mitigation measures and improvement plans in place if needed.  SE, pg. 2-4 – 2-7, Figures HS-1, HS-2, HS-3, and HS-4 – Neighborhoods with Single Access Points  Fresno-Kings Unit Fire Plan |
| Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations? | Yes | SE, pg.2-12, Policy HS-A.6  **HS-A.6 Emergency Preparedness Public Awareness Programs**  The County shall support local fire agencies in promoting the education of County residents concerning emergency preparedness, defensible space, and safety, as described in the Fresno-King Unit Fire-Plan information and public education outreach programs, focusing on the most vulnerable at-risk communities such as those in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. *(PSP/PI)*  SE, pg.2-30, Policy HS-G.10  **HS-G.10 Evacuation Awareness**  The County shall identify and communicate safe and viable evacuation routes in multiple languages and across various communication platforms, as appropriate, to reach vulnerable populations. *(PSP/PI)* |
| Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-15, Policy HS.B.13  **HS.B.13 Water Storage**  The County shall permit development only within areas that have adequate water resources available, to include water pressure, onsite water storage, or fire flows.  SE, pg. 2-15, Policy HS.B.14  HS-B.14 Minimum Fire Flow Water Systems  The County shall require new discretionary development to have water systems that meet fire flow requirements as determined by applicable California Fire Code requirements and/or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards under the authority of the Chief Fire Code Official and as referenced in County Ordinance Code. Where minimum fire flow is not available to meet these standards, alternate fire protection measures, including sprinkler systems and on-site water supply or storage, shall be identified, and may be incorporated into development if approved by the appropriate fire protection agency. The County shall require that all public water providers maintain the long-term integrity of adequate water supplies and flow to meet fire suppression needs. *(RDR)* |
| Does new development have adequate fire protection? | Yes | SE, pg.2-15, Policy HS-B.10  **HS-B.10 Fire Agency Review of Development Proposals**  The County shall refer development proposals in the unincorporated county to the appropriate local fire agencies for review of compliance with fire safety standards. If dual responsibility exists, both agencies shall review and comment relative to their area of responsibility. If standards are different or conflicting, the more stringent standards shall apply. *(RDR/IGC)*  SE, pg. 2-16, Policy HS-B.24  HS-B.24 Emergency Vehicle Access  The County shall require all new discretionary development consisting of major residential subdivisions and large commercial projects to provide, and existing development to maintain, adequate access for emergency vehicles, including two points of access for subdivisions and multifamily developments. |

### 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: | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Water supply and fire flow? | Yes | SE, pg.2-15, Policy HS-B.13  **HS.B.13 Water Storage**  The County shall permit development only within areas that have adequate water resources available, to include water pressure, onsite water storage, or fire flows.  SE, pg.2-15, Policy HS-B.14  HS-B.14 Minimum Fire Flow Water Systems  The County shall require new discretionary development to have water systems that meet fire flow requirements as determined by applicable California Fire Code requirements and/or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards under the authority of the Chief Fire Code Official and as referenced in County Ordinance Code. Where minimum fire flow is not available to meet these standards, alternate fire protection measures, including sprinkler systems and on-site water supply or storage, shall be identified, and may be incorporated into development if approved by the appropriate fire protection agency. The County shall require that all public water providers maintain the long-term integrity of adequate water supplies and flow to meet fire suppression needs. *(RDR)* |
| Location of anticipated water supply? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-15, Policy HS-B.14  HS-B.14 Minimum Fire Flow Water Systems  The County shall require new discretionary development to have water systems that meet fire flow requirements as determined by applicable California Fire Code requirements and/or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards under the authority of the Chief Fire Code Official and as referenced in County Ordinance Code. Where minimum fire flow is not available to meet these standards, alternate fire protection measures, including sprinkler systems and on-site water supply or storage, shall be identified, and may be incorporated into development if approved by the appropriate fire protection agency. The County shall require that all public water providers maintain the long-term integrity of adequate water supplies and flow to meet fire suppression needs. *(RDR)* |
| Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-15, Policy HS-B.14  HS-B.14 Minimum Fire Flow Water Systems  The County shall require new discretionary development to have water systems that meet fire flow requirements as determined by applicable California Fire Code requirements and/or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards under the authority of the Chief Fire Code Official and as referenced in County Ordinance Code. Where minimum fire flow is not available to meet these standards, alternate fire protection measures, including sprinkler systems and on-site water supply or storage, shall be identified, and may be incorporated into development if approved by the appropriate fire protection agency. The County shall require that all public water providers maintain the long-term integrity of adequate water supplies and flow to meet fire suppression needs. *(RDR)* |
| Evacuation and emergency vehicle access? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-16, Policy HS-B.19  HS-B.19 Site Specific Fire Management Plans  The County shall require all new discretionary development consisting of major residential subdivisions and large commercial projects in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and State Responsibility Areas to develop site-specific fire management plans to maintain adequate access for emergency vehicles, including two points of access for subdivisions and multifamily developments, address fuel modification and/or incorporation of open space or other defensible space areas, maintain vegetation clearance on public and private roads, and include disclosure requirements to future property owners or residents as required by state law. Require ongoing maintenance and upkeep to be incorporated or recorded as part of building covenants or homeowner covenants, conditions, and restrictions.  SE pg. 2-12, PolicyHS-A.8  HS-A.8 Transportation Corridors and Evacuation Routes  The County shall continue to improve community transportation corridors to allow for effective evacuation routes for the public and effective access for emergency responders, including in areas that lack more than two emergency access routes. *(PSP/SP/PI)*  SE pg. 2-13, PolicyHS-A.12  HS-A.12 Access/Evacuation Routes  Establish minimum standards for evacuation, including in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity areas, in the Emergency Operations Plan and continuously reassess access and evacuation route capacity and put mitigation measures and improvement plans in place if needed. |
| Fuel modification and defensible space? | *Yes* | SE, pg. 2-16, Policy HS-B.19  HS-B.19 Site Specific Fire Management Plans  The County shall require all new discretionary development consisting of major residential subdivisions and large commercial projects in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and State Responsibility Areas to develop site-specific fire management plans to maintain adequate access for emergency vehicles, including two points of access for subdivisions and multifamily developments, address fuel modification and/or incorporation of open space or other defensible space areas, maintain vegetation clearance on public and private roads, and include disclosure requirements to future property owners or residents as required by state law. Require ongoing maintenance and upkeep to be incorporated or recorded as part of building covenants or homeowner covenants, conditions, and restrictions. |
| Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-16, Policy HS-B.19  HS-B.19 Site Specific Fire Management Plans  The County shall require all new discretionary development consisting of major residential subdivisions and large commercial projects in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and State Responsibility Areas to develop site-specific fire management plans to maintain adequate access for emergency vehicles, including two points of access for subdivisions and multifamily developments, address fuel modification and/or incorporation of open space or other defensible space areas, maintain vegetation clearance on public and private roads, and include disclosure requirements to future property owners or residents as required by state law. Require ongoing maintenance and upkeep to be incorporated or recorded as part of building covenants or homeowner covenants, conditions, and restrictions. |
| Visible home and street addressing and signage? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-17, Policy HS-B.28  HS-B.28 Fire Safe New Construction and Re-Construction  The County shall coordinate with local and state fire agencies to ensure that all new developments and applicable re-constructions (as defined by state law) in the very high fire hazard severity zone and State Responsibility Areas, comply with defensible space regulations, home and street addressing and signage, the latest fire-safe standards, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection fire safe regulations and the most current version of the California Building Code and California Fire Code. |
| Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained? | Yes | Se, p.2-14, Policy HS-B.8  **HS-B.8 Fire Risk Management Coordination**  The County shall work with local fire protection agencies, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the U.S. Forest Service to promote the maintenance of existing fuel breaks and emergency access routes for effective fire suppression and in managing wildland fire hazards. *(RDR/PSP/IGC)* |

### 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 | Figure HS-6 Critical Facilities and Wildfire Hazard Severity Zones, SE Pg 2-19  Figure HS-5 Wilfire Hazard Severity Zones, SE pg 2-18 |
| Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs? | Yes | SE, pg.2-13, Policy HS-A.13  **HS-A.13 Future Emergency Service Needs**  The County shall periodically evaluate the ability of County facilities to function after a major disaster as well as project and assess future emergency needs. |
| 3 | Yes | SE, pg. 2-17, Policy HS-B.26  HS-B.26 Master Emergency Services Plan  The County shall maintain and update its Master Emergency Services Plan, as necessary, to include an assessment of current emergency service and projected emergency service needs, and goals or standards for emergency service training for County staff and volunteers. |
| Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements? | Yes | SE, pg. 2-11, Policy-HS-A.1  **HS-A.1 Operational Area Master Emergency Service Plan**  The County shall, through the Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan and the Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, maintain the capability to effectively respond to emergency incidents, including maintenance of an emergency operations center. *(PSP/SO)*  SE, 2-11. Policy-HS-A.2  **HS-A.2 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**  In coordination with cities, special districts, and other State and Federal agencies, the County shall maintain the Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify and mitigate, to the extent feasible, natural and human-made hazards within the county. *(PSP)* |

# 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.