

# General Plan Safety Element Assessment

## Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



Los Angeles County 2024

# Contents

- Purpose and Background.....1
- Methodology for Review and Recommendations.....2
- General Plan Safety Element Assessment .....3
  - Background Information Summary .....3
  - Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Feasible Implementation Measures .....5
    - Section 1 Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land .....6
    - Section 2 Develop adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in SRAs or VHFHSZs..... 10
    - Section 3 Working cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection. .... 13
- Sample Safety Element Recommendations..... 15
  - A. Maps, Plans and Historical Information ..... 15
  - B. Land Use ..... 15
  - C. Fuel Modification..... 15
  - D. Access..... 15
  - E. Fire Protection ..... 16
- Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan..... 17
  - Land Use Element..... 17
  - Housing Element ..... 17
  - Open Space and Conservation Elements..... 17
  - Circulation Element ..... 17

## 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](#)).<sup>\*</sup> 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 staff from 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: Los Angeles County	Notes: FORMAL Review	CAL FIRE Unit: BDU/LACoFD	Date Received: 10-16-2024
County: Los Angeles	LUPP Reviewer: J Kennedy	UNIT CONTACT: Shane Littlefield	Date Reviewed: 10-17-2024

### 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? <i>CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps</i>	YES	<b>SE pg. 190.</b> Figure 12.5 identifies the FHSZs in Los Angeles County. <b>SE pg. 218</b> <i>Figure 12.5</i> Fire Hazard Severity Zon Policy Map
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	<b>SE pg. 211.</b> <i>Wildland Fires and Climate Change.</i> Appendix H contains descriptions of these and more recent wildfires in Los Angeles County. <b>Appendix H: pg. AH-4</b> <i>Historic Wildfires in Los Angeles County</i>
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.	<b>SE pg. 220.</b> <i>Figure 12.7</i> Fire Department Battalions and Stations <b>SE pg. 221.</b> <i>Figure 12.8</i> Figure 12.8 Sheriff's Department Service Areas
Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified?	YES	<b>SE pg. 195</b> <i>Fire Prevention, Response and Recovery.</i> The Fire Department serves unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County as well as 60 cities. The Fire Department has a contractual agreement with CAL FIRE to provide wildland fire protection on SRAs. The Gray Book staffing agreement identifies resource allocations that CAL FIRE considers necessary for the protection of SRA and provides funding accordingly. In Los Angeles County, the Gray Book provides funding for 23 stations and fire prevention activities.

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
<p>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?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.9.</b> Adopt by reference the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan, as amended.</p> <p><b>SE pg. 204. Emergency Responders.</b> The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for organizing and directing the preparedness efforts of the Emergency Management Organization of Los Angeles County. OEM is the day-to-day Los Angeles County Operational Area coordinator for the County. The emergency response plan for the unincorporated areas is the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan.</p> <p><b>SE pg. 205.</b> The Strategic Fire Plan includes the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Operations Bureau Map, which indicates that emergency services are available in all unincorporated areas of the County.</p> <p><b>SE pg. 210. Policy S 7.8.</b> Adopt by reference the County of Los Angeles All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, as amended.</p>
<p>Are residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>SE pg. 205.</b> Figure 12.10 is intended to provide information to comply with SB 99. Evacuation routes to be used during emergency events are determined by emergency responders to account for the type, severity, and changing conditions of the event. Some evacuation routes may not be viable during an emergency event and alternative routes not identified in Figure 12.9 and 12.10 may be employed for evacuation as needed and appropriate. Figure 12.10 is for reference purposes only and is presented without warranties of any kind.</p> <p><b>SE pg. 223. Figure 12.10.,</b> Residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.</p>
<p>Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>SE pg. 204. Identifying Possible Evacuation Routes.</b> Evacuation routes are determined by emergency responders who decide at the time</p>

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>of the emergency the routes that should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency to avoid endangering the lives of others, personal injury, or death. Evaluating a route for safety and viability is situational, context-specific, and subject to change. Figure 12.9 identifies roads that are public, paved, and through-ways, which may be used for evacuation if they are viable routes during an actual emergency. These evacuation routes are not all inclusive and may not be the most suitable routes since actual emergency events necessitate day-of-event conditions and risks assessments.</p> <p><b>SE pg. 222 Figure 12.9</b> Evacuation Routes Map.</p>

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

## 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
<p>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) (<b><u>SRA Fire Safe Regulations</u></b>) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (<b><u>Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations</u></b>) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>SE pg. 197. Policy S 4.16.</b> Require local development standards to meet or exceed SRA Fire Safe Regulations, which include visible home and street addressing and signage and vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads; all requirements in the California Building Code and Fire Code; and Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations.</p> <p><b>SE pg. 196 Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs.</p>
<p>Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>SE pg. 196 Policy S 4.1.</b> Prohibit new subdivisions in VHFHSZs unless: (1) the new subdivision is generally surrounded by existing or entitled development or is located in an existing approved specific plan or is within the boundaries of a communities facility district adopted by the County prior to January 1, 2022, including any improvement areas and future annexation areas identified in the County resolution approving such district; (2) the County determines there is sufficient secondary egress; and (3) the County determines the adjoining major highways and street networks are sufficient for evacuation as well as safe access for emergency responders under a range of emergency scenarios, as determined by the County. Discourage new subdivisions in all other FHSZs.</p>



Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.14.</b> Encourage the strategic placement of structures in FHSZs that conserves fire suppression resources, increases safety for emergency fire access and evacuation, and provides a point of attack or defense from a wildfire.
Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements?	YES	<b>SE pg. 197. Policy S 4.16.</b> Require local development standards to meet or exceed SRA Fire Safe Regulations, which include visible home and street addressing and signage and vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads; all requirements in the California Building Code and Fire Code; and Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations.
Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible?	YES	<b>SE pg. 210. Policy S 7.7.</b> Locate essential public facilities, such as hospitals, where feasible, outside of hazard zones identified in the Safety Element to ensure their reliability and accessibility during disasters.
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	<b>SE pg. 196 Policy S 4.8.</b> Support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations, such as the building and fire code, to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.
Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire?	YES	<b>SE pg. 196 Policy S-4.3</b> Ensure that biological and natural resources are protected during rebuilding after a wildfire event. <b>SE pg. 197 Policy S-4.15.</b> Encourage rebuilds and additions to comply with fire mitigation guidelines
Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	YES	<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs. <b>SE pg. 197 Policy S 4.17.</b> Coordinate with agencies, including the Fire Department and ACWM, to ensure that effective fire buffers are

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		maintained through brush clearance and fuel modification around developments.
Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs?	YES	<b>SE pg. 197. Policy S 4.18.</b> Require Fire Protection Plans for new residential subdivisions in FHSZs that minimize and mitigate potential loss from wildfire exposure and reduce impact on the community's fire protection delivery system.
Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance?	YES	<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs. <b>SE pg. 192. Integrated Vegetation Management Program.</b> Vegetation management, as it relates to wildland fire, refers to the total or partial removal of high fire hazard grasses, shrubs, or trees. This includes thinning to reduce the fuel loads and modification of vegetation arrangement and distribution to disrupt fire progress. In addition to fire hazard reduction, vegetation management has other benefits. These include increased water yields, habitat restoration and improvement, reduction of invasive exotic plant species, and open access for recreational purposes.
Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs?	YES	<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.2.</b> New subdivisions shall provide adequate evacuation and emergency vehicle access to and from the subdivision on streets or street systems that are evaluated for their traffic access or flow limitations, including but not limited to weight or vertical clearance limitations, dead-end, one-way, or single lane conditions.
Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined?	YES	<b>SE pg. 204. Identifying Possible Evacuation Routes.</b> Evacuation routes are determined by emergency responders who decide at the time

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>of the emergency the routes that should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency to avoid endangering the lives of others, personal injury, or death. Evaluating a route for safety and viability is situational, context-specific, and subject to change. Figure 12.9 identifies roads that are public, paved, and through-ways, which may be used for evacuation if they are viable routes during an actual emergency. These evacuation routes are not all inclusive and may not be the most suitable routes since actual emergency events necessitate day-of-event conditions and risks assessments.</p>
<p>If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>SE pg. 204. Identifying Possible Evacuation Routes.</b> Evacuation routes are determined by emergency responders who decide at the time of the emergency the routes that should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency to avoid endangering the lives of others, personal injury, or death. Evaluating a route for safety and viability is situational, context-specific, and subject to change. Figure 12.9 identifies roads that are public, paved, and through-ways, which may be used for evacuation if they are viable routes during an actual emergency. These evacuation routes are not all inclusive and may not be the most suitable routes since actual emergency events necessitate day-of-event conditions and risks assessments.</p>
<p>Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>SE pg. 195. Community Resilience and Fire-Resistant Planning.</b> Communities in FHSZs can reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, and economic loss by increasing their resilience to wildfire. The Fire Department provides resources through the Ready! Set! Go! brochure to provide residents with critical information on creating defensible space around homes, retrofitting homes with fire-</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		resistant materials, and preparing residents to safely evacuate well ahead of a wildfire.
Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs?	YES	<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs. <b>SE pg. 197. Policy S 4.19.</b> Ensure all water distributors providing water in unincorporated Los Angeles County identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods.
Does new development have adequate fire protection?	YES	<b>SE pg. 210. Policy S 7.5.</b> Ensure that there are adequate resources, such as sheriff and fire services, for emergency response.

## 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	<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs. <b>SE pg. 197. Policy S 4.19.</b> Ensure all water distributors providing water in unincorporated Los Angeles County identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods.
Location of anticipated water supply?	YES	<p><b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs.</p> <p><b>SE pg. 197. Policy S 4.19.</b> Ensure all water distributors providing water in unincorporated Los Angeles County identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods.</p>
Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies?	YES	<p><b>SE pg. 197. Policy S 4.19.</b> Ensure all water distributors providing water in unincorporated Los Angeles County identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods.</p>
Evacuation and emergency vehicle access?	YES	<p><b>SE pg. 196 Policy S 4.2.</b> New subdivisions shall provide adequate evacuation and emergency vehicle access to and from the subdivision on streets or street systems that are evaluated for their traffic access or flow limitations, including but not limited to weight</p>

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		or vertical clearance limitations, dead-end, one-way, or single lane conditions.
Fuel modification and defensible space?	YES	<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs.
Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads?	YES	<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs.
Visible home and street addressing and signage?	YES	<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs.
Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained?	YES	<b>SE pg. 196. Policy S 4.4.</b> Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum State and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs. <b>SE pg. 192. Integrated Vegetation Management Program.</b> Vegetation management, as it relates to wildland fire, refers to the total or partial removal of high fire hazard grasses, shrubs, or trees. This includes thinning to reduce the fuel loads and modification of vegetation arrangement and distribution to disrupt fire progress. In addition to fire hazard reduction, vegetation management has other benefits. These include increased water yields, habitat restoration and improvement, reduction of invasive exotic plant species, and open access for recreational purposes.

### Section 3 Working 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.	<b>SE pg. 220.</b> <i>Figure 12.7</i> Fire Department Battalions and Stations
Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs?	YES	<b>SE pg. 210.</b> <i>Policy S 7.5.</i> Ensure that there are adequate resources, such as sheriff and fire services, for emergency response.
Are goals or standards for emergency services training described?	YES	<b>SE pg. 206.</b> The Fire Department has one of the premier firefighter training programs in the nation. For wildland firefighters, the Department follows the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) qualifications for operational, logistical, planning and financial positions.
Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements?	YES	<b>SE pg. 195.</b> <i>Fire Prevention, Response and Recovery.</i> The Fire Department serves unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County as well as 60 cities. The Fire Department has a contractual agreement with CAL FIRE to provide wildland fire protection on SRAs. The Gray Book staffing agreement identifies resource allocations that CAL FIRE considers necessary for the protection of SRA and provides funding accordingly. In Los Angeles County, the Gray Book provides funding for 23 stations and fire prevention activities. In emergency services, mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries. This may occur due to an emergency response exceeding capability of local resources, such as a disaster or a multiple alarm fire. Mutual aid may be ad hoc, requested only when such an emergency occurs, or may be a formal standing agreement for cooperative emergency management on a continuing basis, such as ensuring resources are dispatched from the nearest fire station, regardless of the incident's jurisdictional boundary. Agreements sending the

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		closest resources are regularly referred to as "automatic aid agreements."



## 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.