

General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



October 2021

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	6
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.....	9
Section 3 Working cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection.	11
Sample Safety Element Recommendations.....	13
A. Maps, Plans and Historical Information	13
B. Land Use	13
C. Fuel Modification.....	13
D. Access.....	14
E. Fire Protection	14
Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan.....	15
Land Use Element.....	15
Housing Element	15
Open Space and Conservation Elements.....	15
Circulation Element	15

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](#)).^{*} 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: Rancho Mirage	Notes:	CAL FIRE Unit: Riverside	Date Received:
County: Riverside	LUPP Reviewer: Frank Romo	UNIT CONTACT:	Date Reviewed: 11/17/2021

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	"Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) are mapped in the Rancho Mirage area, the historical record indicates that the wildland fire hazard in Rancho Mirage is relatively low. CalFire has mapped several fire hazard zones in Rancho Mirage and the SOI." Exhibit 27. Page 10
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	"Fortunately, the only recorded historical wildfire near the planning area is the Dry Falls fire that occurred in August 1980 to the southeast of Rancho Mirage." Page 8. Coordinate with the California Division of Mines and Geology and the United States Geological Survey to establish and maintain maps illustrating the location of seismic and geological hazard zones occurring in Rancho Mirage's boundaries and the SOI. PROGRAM SAFE 1.1A. Page 5
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	"There are no state responsibility areas in the City of Rancho Mirage. The only Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone within the part of a single-family residence (70000 Thunderbird Mesa Drive) and undeveloped land. The undeveloped portion is designated as Mountain Reserve per the Land Use Map and will not be developed in the future." Wildland Fire Hazards Page 8.

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified?	Yes	“In addition to emergency services provided by the Riverside County Fire Department, the California Department of Forestry, and the Sheriff’s Department, the American Red Cross provides a wide range of emergency response support services in Rancho Mirage, ranging from a single residential fire to community-wide disasters.” Emergency Preparedness Page 9.
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	“The City participates in the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).” County of Riverside Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Page 13. PROGRAM SAFE 4.3A - The City shall adhere to the guidelines set forth in the County of Riverside Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
Are residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified?	Yes	Within the City, there is only one development (70000 Thunderbird Mesa Drive) partially located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and the only evacuation route would be via Thunderbird Mesa Drive downhill to Highway 111. Page 9 PROGRAM SAFE 4.2D - The City shall consider the development and identification of citywide evacuation routes.
Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified?	Yes	“The availability of evacuation routes is critical in times of emergencies. Rancho Mirage’s location in the Coachella Valley allows for two main evacuation routes (I-10 and Highway 111) along with primary and minor arterial streets serving as secondary routes. Since earthquakes, floods, fires, or other disasters may render certain routes impassible, specific evacuation routes may need to be designated during an emergency.” Evacuation Routes Page 19. Program Safe 4.2D “The City shall consider the development and identification of citywide evacuation routes.” Page 9

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

N/A

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	PROGRAM SAFE 4.2A - Require properties within or adjacent to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to comply with Riverside County Fire Department Wildfire Safety Recommendations for fuel modification plans and defensible space. Coordinate with the Fire Department to reach out to property owners and achieve compliance on the recommendations and additional requirements, including visible home address and street signage. PROGRAM SAFE 4.2E - Require redevelopment in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) to comply with the latest California Building Standards Code (Title 24), including the California Fire Code (Part 9). Coordinate with the Fire Department on evaluation of rebuilding after a large fire and require additional fire safe measures where necessary.
Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs?	Not Applicable	Not applicable due to local conditions. VHFHSZs consist of part of a private residence and undevelopable land. There will not be new development in VHFHSZs. Page 8: "There are no state responsibility areas (SRAs) in the City of Rancho Mirage. The only Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in Local Responsibility Area (LRA) within the City is in the southern end of urban areas. The VHFHSZ consists of part of a single-family residence (70000 Thunderbird Mesa Drive) and undeveloped land. The undeveloped portion is designated as Mountain Reserve per the Land Use Map and will not be developed in the future."
Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements?	Not Applicable	Not applicable due to local conditions. There is no SRA in City. VHFHSZs consist of part of a private residence and undevelopable land. There will not be new development in VHFHSZs. Page 8: "There are no state responsibility areas (SRAs) in the City of Rancho Mirage. The only Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in Local Responsibility Area (LRA) within the City is in the southern end of urban areas. The VHFHSZ consists of

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		part of a single-family residence (70000 Thunderbird Mesa Drive) and undeveloped land. The undeveloped portion is designated as Mountain Reserve per the Land Use Map and will not be developed in the future.”
Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible?	Not Applicable	Not applicable due to local conditions. VHFHSZs consist of part of a private residence and undevelopable land. No new public facilities will be located in VHFHSZs. Page 8: “The only Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in Local Responsibility Area (LRA) within the City is in the southern end of urban areas. The VHFHSZ consists of part of a single-family residence (70000 Thunderbird Mesa Drive) and undeveloped land. The undeveloped portion is designated as Mountain Reserve per the Land Use Map and will not be developed in the future.”
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	Page 9 PROGRAM SAFE 4.2B Evaluate the adequacy of access routes to and from hazard areas relative to the degree of development or use (e.g., road width, road type, length of dead- end roads, etc.). Development of non-conforming sites requires a conditional use permit. The city will coordinate with the fire department through the CUP process to address substandard fire safety standards, especially regarding roads and vegetative hazards.
Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire?	Yes	Page 9: PROGRAM SAFE 4.2E Require redevelopment in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) to comply with the latest California Building Standards Code (Title 24), including the California Fire Code (Part 9). Coordinate with the Fire Department on evaluation of rebuilding after a large fire and require additional fire safe measures where necessary.
Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	Not Applicable	Not applicable due to local conditions. There is no SRA in City. VHFHSZs consist of part of a private residence and undevelopable land. There will not be new development in VHFHSZs. Page 8: “There are no state responsibility areas (SRAs) in the City of Rancho Mirage. The only Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in Local Responsibility Area (LRA) within the City is in the southern end of urban areas. The VHFHSZ consists of part of a single-family residence (70000 Thunderbird Mesa Drive) and undeveloped land. The undeveloped portion is designated as Mountain Reserve per the Land Use Map and will not be developed in the future.”
Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs?	Yes	Not applicable due to local conditions. VHFHSZs consist of part of a private residence that was built in 1970 and undevelopable land. There were no requirements for Fire protection Plans for the city of Rancho Mirage during that time. There will not be any new development in VHFHSZs.

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		Page 8: "The only Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in Local Responsibility Area (LRA) within the City is in the southern end of urban areas. The VHFHSZ consists of part of a single-family residence (70000 Thunderbird Mesa Drive) and undeveloped land. The undeveloped portion is designated as Mountain Reserve per the Land Use Map and will not be developed in the future."
Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance?	Yes	Page 9: PROGRAM SAFE 4.1A Maintain a weed abatement program to ensure clearing of dry brush areas. The Public Works Department and Code Compliance Division shall monitor public and private roads clearance. Coordinate with the Fire Department to assess the need of community fire breaks and devise a plan for long-term maintenance, where necessary.
Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs?	Yes	PROGRAM SAFE 4.2B - Evaluate the adequacy of access routes to and from hazard areas relative to the degree of development or use (e.g., road width, road type, length of dead- end roads, etc.). Development of non-conforming sites requires a conditional use permit. The city will coordinate with the fire department through the CUP process to address substandard fire safety standards, especially regarding roads and vegetative hazards. Page 9
Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined?	Yes	PROGRAM SAFE 4.2B - Evaluate the adequacy of access routes to and from hazard areas relative to the degree of development or use (e.g., road width, road type, length of dead- end roads, etc.) Development of non-conforming sites requires a conditional use permit. The city will coordinate with the fire department through the CUP process to address substandard fire safety standards, especially regarding roads and vegetative hazards. Page 9
If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified?	Yes	PROGRAM SAFE 4.2B - Evaluate the adequacy of access routes to and from hazard areas relative to the degree of development or use (e.g., road width, road type, length of dead- end roads, etc.) Development of non-conforming sites requires a conditional use permit. The city will coordinate with the fire department through the CUP process to address substandard fire safety standards, especially regarding roads and vegetative hazards. Page 9
Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations?	Yes	POLICY SAFE 4.4- The City shall ensure adequate provision of public information to residents and businesses on actions to minimize damage and facilitate recovery from a natural disaster. Prioritize at-risk populations such as those within or near fire hazard zones. Page 9 Page 9: PROGRAM SAFE 4.2A Require properties within or adjacent to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to comply with Riverside County Fire Department Wildfire Safety Recommendations for fuel modification plans and defensible space. Coordinate with the Fire

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		Department to reach out to property owners and achieve compliance on the recommendations and additional requirements, including visible home address and street signage.
Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs?	Yes	Peak Water Demand and Supply Page 13 - TABLE 36 WATER FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION. Page 9
Does new development have adequate fire protection?	Yes	TABLE 36 WATER FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION. Page 9 Under General Plan Chapter 9 Public Services and Facilities (provided under separate cover): National Fire Insurance Organizations and the National Fire Protection Association formally recommend, respectively, a maximum three-mile and five-minute response parameter for siting fire stations. While existing levels of service appear adequate to protect existing improvements in Rancho Mirage, continued growth may stimulate the need for additional fire stations. Further consultation and coordination with local fire officials will be required to determine the optimum location for additional future facilities. (Page 104) POLICY PS&F 6.1 Review all new and improved developments for their impact on safety and the provision of police and fire protection services. (Page 105) POLICY PS&F 6.4 Due to the fire hazard potential of hilly areas with slopes of ten percent or greater, access problems, lack of water or sufficient pressure, and excessively dry brush, specify special onsite fire protection measures during project review. (Page 105) POLICY PS&F 6.5 Provide emergency police, fire and paramedic vehicle access with all new development to the satisfaction of the City. (Page 105)

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	The availability of water is critical to effective fire suppression. The CVWD provides water services to Rancho Mirage and has a total groundwater storage capacity of 30 million acre-feet (one acre-foot equals 325,850 gallons) in the Indio Subbasin. The City and its SOI maintains a peak summer daily water demand of 41 gpm (approximately 126 acre-feet). CalFire has general water flow requirements of 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm) for new development and 3,000 gpm for new commercial development. TABLE 36 WATER FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION (Page 9)

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Location of anticipated water supply?	Yes	The availability of water is critical to effective fire suppression. The CVWD provides water services to Rancho Mirage and has a total groundwater storage capacity of 30 million acre-feet (one acre-foot equals 325,850 gallons) in the Indio Subbasin. The City and its SOI maintains a peak summer daily water demand of 41 gpm (approximately 126 acre-feet). CalFire has general water flow requirements of 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm) for new development and 3,000 gpm for new commercial development. TABLE 36 WATER FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION (Page 9)
Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies?	Not Applicable	Not applicable due to local conditions. There is no SRA in City. VHFHSZs consist of part of a private residence and undevelopable land. There will not be new development in VHFHSZs. Page 8: "There are no state responsibility areas (SRAs) in the City of Rancho Mirage. The only Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in Local Responsibility Area (LRA) within the City is in the southern end of urban areas. The VHFHSZ consists of part of a single-family residence (70000 Thunderbird Mesa Drive) and undeveloped land. The undeveloped portion is designated as Mountain Reserve per the Land Use Map and will not be developed in the future."
Evacuation and emergency vehicle access?	Yes	PROGRAM SAFE 2.2D - Ensure that emergency evacuation routes are constructed to appropriate all-weather standards. (Page 7) The City maintains roadway standards that are detailed in the Circulation Element of this General Plan, which include minimum road widths to ensure accessibility for emergency vehicles and crew under various conditions. (Page 9)
Fuel modification and defensible space?	Yes	PROGRAM SAFE 4.2A - Require property adjacent to Very High Threat Zones to comply with Riverside County Fire Department Wildfire Safety Recommendations for fuel modification plans and defensible space. Coordinate with the Fire Department to reach out to property owners and achieve compliance on the recommendations and additional requirements, including visible home address and street signage. (Page 9)
Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads?	Yes	Page 9: PROGRAM SAFE 4.1A Maintain a weed abatement program to ensure clearing of dry brush areas. The Public Works Department and Code Compliance Division shall monitor public and private roads clearance. Coordinate with the Fire Department to assess the need of community fire breaks and devise a plan for long-term maintenance, where necessary.
Visible home and street addressing and signage?	Yes	PROGRAM SAFE 4.2A

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		Require properties within or adjacent to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to comply with Riverside County Fire Department Wildfire Safety Recommendations for fuel modification plans and defensible space. Coordinate with the Fire Department to reach out to property owners and achieve compliance on the recommendations and additional requirements, including visible home address and street signage. (Page 9)
Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained?	Not Applicable	Not applicable due to local conditions. There is no SRA in City. VHFHSZs consist of part of a private residence and undevelopable land. There will not be new development in VHFHSZs. Page 8: "There are no state responsibility areas (SRAs) in the City of Rancho Mirage. The only Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in Local Responsibility Area (LRA) within the City is in the southern end of urban areas. The VHFHSZ consists of part of a single-family residence (70000 Thunderbird Mesa Drive) and undeveloped land. The undeveloped portion is designated as Mountain Reserve per the Land Use Map and will not be developed in the future."

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	Page 9: "Fire services for the City of Rancho Mirage are provided through a cooperative agreement with the State of California (Cal-Fire) and Riverside County. Cal-Fire/Riverside County Fire Department is an all risk, full service fire department and has two fire stations located strategically throughout Rancho Mirage to provide highly effective protection. Fire Station 69 serves North Rancho Mirage at 71751 Gerald Ford Drive, and Fire Station 50 serves South Rancho Mirage at 70801 Highway 111. Additionally, the City participates in the regional cooperative agreement and benefits from resources responding from other nearby stations, ensuring that peak loads and major incidents are handled promptly. There are no gaps in the City for emergency service, and all areas including the VHFHSZ have adequate access to fire and emergency services.
Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs?	Yes	According to Insurance Services Office, Inc., the fire suppression system rating for Rancho Mirage is Class 3. This includes fire dispatch (operators, alarm dispatch circuits, telephone lines available), fire department (equipment available, personnel, training, distribution of companies), and water supply (adequacy, condition, number and installation of fire hydrants). The rating scale is from 1 to 10 with the worst rating being a Class 10 and the best rating a Class 1. CalFire has a five-year plan that

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		outlines fire hazards and risks, cost effectiveness, and present and future fire protection needs. Page 9
Are goals or standards for emergency services training described?	Yes	Page 10: PROGRAM SAFE 4.4A Coordinate with public agencies and non-profit organizations to promote emergency preparedness and response training such as the Riverside County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and the Coachella Valley Disaster Preparedness Network (CVDPN) training and resources.
Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements?	Yes	POLICY SAFE 4.3 - The City shall support area-wide mutual aid agreements and communication links with Riverside County authorities and other participating jurisdictions. Page 9

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.