

General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



Hemet FINAL 2024

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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](#)).^{*} 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: Hemet	Notes: Formal Review	CAL FIRE Unit: RRU	Date Received: 06/28/2024
County: Riverside	LUPP Reviewer: J. Kennedy	UNIT CONTACT: Bill Weiser	Date Reviewed: 07/08/2024

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	SE pg. 6-23. <i>Figure 6.4 Wildland Fire Hazard Zones</i>
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	SE pg. 6-26. <i>Table 6.2 Historic Wildfire Events</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	SE pg. 6-37. <i>Figure 6.5B Critical Facilities and Land Use in Fire Hazard Severity Zones.</i>
Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-20. The Hemet Fire Department is responsible for fire suppression, rescue activities, and hazardous materials incidents within the City. In the Planning Area, Riverside County contracts with CAL FIRE for fire suppression and rescue activities. The City has entered into reciprocal mutual aid agreements with CAL FIRE to expedite service delivery and ensure the best possible care for the community.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-24. The City is in a master mutual aid agreement with all agencies within Riverside County for all hazard responses. Under this agreement, the Hemet Fire Department takes main responsibility for hazard mitigation and fire protection for parcels located in the LRA of the VHFHSZ.</p>

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		Thus, the Hemet Fire Department has primary responsibility for fire protection, while the County, CAL FIRE, and all other agencies under the master mutual aid agreement act as cooperating agencies that provide emergency services if needed.
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	<p>SE pg. 6-4. <i>City of Hemet Emergency Operations Plan.</i> Hemet's emergency operations plan (EOP) addresses the City's planned response to emergencies associated with natural disasters and technological incidents.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-4. <i>Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.</i> Hemet is a Submitting Jurisdiction within the <i>Riverside Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).</i></p>
Are residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-10. The Fire Department is currently creating an evacuation plan for the City in accordance with State requirements in the event of a widespread hazardous event.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-55. PS 6-11. <i>Emergency Operation Plan.</i> The City shall adopt the Evacuation Plan, once complete, which addresses mitigation measures or improvement plans.</p>
Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-10. The Fire Department is currently creating an evacuation plan for the City in accordance with State requirements in the event of a widespread hazardous event.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-55. PS 6-11. <i>Emergency Operation Plan.</i> The City shall adopt the Evacuation Plan, once complete, which addresses mitigation measures or improvement plans.</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) (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?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE pg. 6-21. The City of Hemet adopted the 2019 California Building Code and adds amendments to the California Building Code in Article II of the Hemet Municipal Code. The California Building Code Chapter 7A requires that buildings constructed in areas identified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) must be built using fire-resistive features.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-54 Policy PS-6.5. Wildland Fire Evaluation. Require an evaluation of all new development that will be located in or adjacent to wildland areas to assess the development’s vulnerability to fire and its potential as a source of fire. New development shall adhere to the state’s Minimum Fire Safe Regulations.</p> <p>HMC Article IX-Fire Hazard Reduction Division 2. Wildland Interface Area Requirements.</p>
<p>Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE pg. 6-54 Policy PS-6.5. Wildland Fire Evaluation. Require an evaluation of all new development that will be located in or adjacent to wildland areas to assess the development’s vulnerability to fire and its potential as a source of fire. New development shall adhere to the state’s Minimum Fire Safe Regulations.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-21. Article IX of the Hemet Municipal Code (HMC) lists fire hazard reduction</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		strategies through development standards. HMC Article IX-Fire Hazard Reduction Division 2. Wildland Interface Area Requirements. Sec. 14-417. - Purpose and scope. As the city grows and development occurs into the hillsides and interface areas, it is incumbent upon government to ensure such development proceeds in a fire safe environment. Hence, the provisions of this division shall apply as follows...
Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements?	YES	SE pg. 6-55 Policy PS-6.5. Wildland Fire Evaluation. Require an evaluation of all new development that will be located in or adjacent to wildland areas to assess the development's vulnerability to fire and its potential as a source of fire. New development shall adhere to the state's Minimum Fire Safe Regulations. SE pg. 6-21. The City of Hemet adopted the 2019 California Building Code and adds amendments to the California Building Code in Article II of the Hemet Municipal Code. The California Building Code Chapter 7A requires that buildings constructed in areas identified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) must be built using fire-resistive features.
Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible?	YES	SE pg. 6-55. PS-6.10. Essential Public Facilities. New locations of all new essential public facilities shall be located outside of the VHFHSZs when feasible.
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. 6-54. PS-6.8. Fire Hazard Mitigation. Mitigate existing fire hazards related to urban development or patterns of urban development as they are identified and as resources permit.
Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire?	YES	SE pg. 6-54 Policy PS-6.5. Require an evaluation of all new development and redevelopment after a large fire that will be located in or adjacent to wildland areas to

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>assess the development's vulnerability to fire and its potential as a source of fire. New development and redevelopments shall adhere to the State's minimum Fire Safe Regulations.</p>
<p>Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE pg. 6-54 Policy PS-6.5. Wildland Fire Evaluation. Require an evaluation of all new development that will be located in or adjacent to wildland areas to assess the development's vulnerability to fire and its potential as a source of fire. New development shall adhere to the state's Minimum Fire Safe Regulations. SE pg. 6-21. Article IX of the Hemet Municipal Code (HMC) lists fire hazard reduction strategies through development standards.</p>
<p>Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE pg. 6-55 Policy-6.12. Fire Protection Plans. New development and redevelopment located in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones shall submit and implement a fire protection plan as feasible as appropriate.</p>
<p>Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE pg. 6-54. PS-6.7 Wildland Fire Protection Implement and enforce brush clearing, fuel modification plans, and other fire prevention programs on open space lands and landscape buffers that balances reducing the possibility for the encroachment of wildland fires onto inhabited areas with maintaining accessibility for recreational purposes.</p>
<p>Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE pg. 6-21. Article IX of the Hemet Municipal Code (HMC) lists fire hazard reduction strategies through development standards. HMC Sec 14-418.-Roadways Adequate ingress and egress are necessary to allow safe and rapid passage of both fire equipment and private vehicles in opposite directions simultaneously. If inadequate, access becomes critical during a wildfire both from a firefighting standpoint and with regard to life safety. (1) Provide two or more routes of access to a public road, loop roads with a single entry do not meet this requirement.</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
<p>Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE pg. 6-4. The City adopted the most recent version of the EOP in 2013. As of 2022, the City of Hemet Office of Emergency Management plans to update the EOP in the coming years in conjunction with the Fire Department's Emergency Evacuation Routes Plan.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-10. The Fire Department is currently creating an evacuation plan for the City in accordance with State requirements in the event of a widespread hazardous event.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-55. PS 6-11. <i>Emergency Operation Plan.</i> The City shall adopt the Evacuation Plan, once complete, which addresses mitigation measures or improvement plans.</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>SE pg. 6-10. The Fire Department is currently creating an evacuation plan for the City in accordance with State requirements in the event of a widespread hazardous event.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-55. PS 6-11. <i>Emergency Operation Plan.</i> The City shall adopt the Evacuation Plan, once complete, which addresses mitigation measures or improvement plans.</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>SE pg. 6-55 PS-6.9 <i>Fire Prevention Education</i> Continue education programs on preventing fires, monitor their effectiveness, and expand or alter the programs, as necessary. Develop and maintain consistent outreach with vulnerable communities to inform education programs.</p>
<p>Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE pg. 6-21. Article IX of the Hemet Municipal Code (HMC) lists fire hazard reduction strategies through development standards.</p> <p>HMC Sec 14-419 Water Supply. All structural development regardless of type or location shall have a dependable supply of water adequate for both normal daily consumption and emergency fire needs.</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Does new development have adequate fire protection?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-55 PS-7.1 Fire Service Response Assess the impacts of incremental increases in community development density and intensity and subsequent impacts on traffic congestion, municipal infrastructure capacity, fire hazards, and emergency response times. Ensure through the development review process that new development and redevelopment will not result in a reducing fire protection services below acceptable, safe levels with adequate fire flows and response time of five minutes or less for 80 percent of fire and emergency calls on both a citywide and response area basis.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-56 PS 7.5. Fire Protection Adequacy. Maintain adequate and appropriate personnel, emergency vehicles, and technology to respond to fires and other disasters or emergencies.</p>

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	<p>SE pg. 6-21. Article IX of the Hemet Municipal Code (HMC) lists fire hazard reduction strategies through development standards.</p> <p>HMC Sec 14-419 Water Supply. All structural development regardless of type or location shall have a dependable supply of water adequate for both normal daily consumption and emergency fire needs.</p>
Location of anticipated water supply?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-21. Article IX of the Hemet Municipal Code (HMC) lists fire hazard reduction strategies through development standards.</p> <p>HMC Sec 14-419 Water Supply. All structural development regardless of type or location shall have a dependable supply of water adequate for both normal daily consumption and emergency fire needs.</p>

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies?	YES	SE pg. 6-22. City has adopted an Urban Water Management Plan to maintain and support the long-term integrity of water supplies. The Urban Water Management Plan is updated every 5 years and details how and who the maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies will be provided.
Evacuation and emergency vehicle access?	YES	SE pg. 6-21. Article IX of the Hemet Municipal Code (HMC) lists fire hazard reduction strategies through development standards. HMC Sec 14-418.-Roadways Adequate ingress and egress are necessary to allow safe and rapid passage of both fire equipment and private vehicles in opposite directions simultaneously. If inadequate, access becomes critical during a wildfire both from a firefighting standpoint and with regard to life safety. (1) Provide two or more routes of access to a public road, loop roads with a single entry do not meet this requirement.
Fuel modification and defensible space?	YES	SE pg. 6-54. PS-6.7 Wildland Fire Protection Implement and enforce brush clearing, fuel modification plans, and other fire prevention programs on open space lands and landscape buffers that balances reducing the possibility for the encroachment of wildland fires onto inhabited areas with maintaining accessibility for recreational purposes. HMC Sec 14-421 Landscaping and perimeter protection. The proximity of a structure to native vegetation is a direct measure of the probability of its destruction. Heavy fuel loading of native vegetation must be reduced a sufficient distance from the structure to avoid ignition of the building and to allow firefighters a place in which to work. The obvious alternative is suitable landscaping utilizing specimen native shrubs

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		and low-growing, low-volume fire retardant plants.
Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-54. PS-6.6. Roadway Fire Buffer Coordination. Coordinate with Riverside County to evaluate and establish a fire buffer program along heavily traveled roadways to prevent fuel buildup.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-54. PS-6.7 Wildland Fire Protection Implement and enforce brush clearing, fuel modification plans, and other fire prevention programs on open space lands and landscape buffers that balances reducing the possibility for the encroachment of wildland fires onto inhabited areas with maintaining accessibility for recreational purposes.</p>
Visible home and street addressing and signage?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-21. Article IX of the Hemet Municipal Code (HMC) lists fire hazard reduction strategies through development standards.</p> <p>HMC Sec 14-76. Section 505.1. Address identification. New and existing buildings shall be provided with approved address identification.</p>
Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-54. PS-6.7 Wildland Fire Protection Implement and enforce brush clearing, fuel modification plans, and other fire prevention programs on open space lands and landscape buffers that balances reducing the possibility for the encroachment of wildland fires onto inhabited areas with maintaining accessibility for recreational purposes.</p>

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	SE pg. 6-37. Figure 6.5B Critical Facilities and Land Use in Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-55 PS-7.1 Fire Service Response Assess the impacts of incremental increases in community development density and intensity and subsequent impacts on traffic congestion, municipal infrastructure capacity, fire hazards, and emergency response times. Ensure through the development review process that new development and redevelopment will not result in reducing fire protection services below acceptable, safe levels with adequate fire flows and response time of five minutes or less for 80 percent of fire and emergency calls on both a citywide and response area basis.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-56 PS 7.5. Fire Protection Adequacy. Maintain adequate and appropriate personnel, emergency vehicles, and technology to respond to fires and other disasters or emergencies.</p>
Are goals or standards for emergency services training described?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-4. The City adopted the most recent version of the EOP in 2013. As of 2022, the City of Hemet Office of Emergency Management plans to update the EOP in the coming years in conjunction with the Fire Department's Emergency Evacuation Routes Plan</p> <p>City of Hemet EOP pg.6-1. Training and Exercises. Emergency response exercises allow emergency response personnel to become fully familiar with the procedures, facilities, and systems used during an actual emergency. The EOP and the overall City of Hemet capability to respond will be tested using a combination of the following exercise types:</p>
Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements?	YES	<p>SE pg. 6-20. The Hemet Fire Department is responsible for fire suppression, rescue activities, and hazardous materials incidents within the City. In the Planning Area, Riverside County contracts with CAL FIRE for fire suppression and rescue activities. The</p>

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>City has entered into reciprocal mutual aid agreements with CAL FIRE to expedite service delivery and ensure the best possible care for the community.</p> <p>SE pg. 6-24. The City is in a master mutual aid agreement with all agencies within Riverside County for all hazard responses. Under this agreement, the Hemet Fire Department takes main responsibility for hazard mitigation and fire protection for parcels located in the LRA of the VHFHSZ. Thus, the Hemet Fire Department has primary responsibility for fire protection, while the County, CAL FIRE, and all other agencies under the master mutual aid agreement act as cooperating agencies that provide emergency services if needed.</p>

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.