General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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Moorpark 2023

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# Purpose and Background

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

The safety element is required to include:

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

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

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

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

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

1400 Tenth Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 322-2318

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

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

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

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

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

# Methodology for Review and Recommendations

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

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

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

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

# General Plan Safety Element Assessment

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction: City of Moorpark | Notes:  | CAL FIRE Unit: SLU | Date Received: 01/13/2023 |
| County: Ventura | LUPP Reviewer: J Kennedy | UNIT CONTACT:  | Date Reviewed: 01/16/2023 |

## Background Information Summary

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

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

| Required Information | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Are Fire Hazard Severity Zones Identified?*CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps* | Yes | **SE Figure SE-9, p. 8-35. *Wildland Urban Interface*****SE Figure SE-10, p.8-39. *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones***  |
| 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 Page #8-32**, “As shown in Figure SE-8, Historic Fires Within or Near Moorpark, several fires have burned within or near Moorpark since the 1940s. The largest of these fires, the 2003 Simi Fire, burned approximately 107,560 acres, including areas in eastern Moorpark along SR-23. The second largest fire, the 1946 Wiley Canyon Fire, burned approximately 21,300 acres, including the area north of Poindexter and Princeton Avenues that is currently developed with residential and recreational uses.”**SE Figure SE-8, p. 8-33. *Historic Fires within or near Moorpark by Aces Burned*** |
| 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 Figure SE-9, p. 8-35. *Wildland Urban Interface*****SE Figure SE-10, p.8-39. *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones*****SE Page #8-37**, “As shown in Figure SE-10, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Areas, northern and eastern Moorpark, as well as areas adjacent to Tierra Rejada Road are located in Very High FHSZs. These areas include eight school campuses, three community facilities, city hall, and Ventura County Fire Station 42.”**Vulnerability Assessment, p. 21-22**, “As shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9, several building types are in very high fire hazard severity zones and the wildland-urban interface areas. These buildings include existing public facilities, such as the Moorpark City Hall, Moorpark Community Center, High Street Arts Center, Moorpark Active Adult Center, and Moorpark Library. Damage to these facilities from wildfires can disrupt several government administration and community services provided by the city and its staff. Homes are especially vulnerable because they can be damaged or destroyed by wildfires, reducing the availability of housing in the city. Indoor air quality can be reduced if smoke flows into homes and residential structures, potentially damaging the structure and internal contents. Several schools, including Moorpark College, Arroyo West Elementary, Walnut Canyon Elementary, Campus Canyon Elementary, Ivy Tech Charter, Mesa Verde Middle, and Chaparral Middle, are within wildfire-prone areas and can be damaged or destroyed by a wildfire.” |
| Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified? | Yes | **SE Section, Emergency Management, Pg. 8-5**, “Emergency preparedness activities in the city are conducted through the Emergency Management Division of the Finance Department. The Emergency Management Division also coordinates with the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services and Public Health Department to prepare for and respond to acute events like heat emergencies or extreme heat days and power outages during critical fire weather. This division is responsible for the operation of the city’s Emergency Operations Center, which provides coordination of the city’s emergency planning, training, response, and recovery efforts for emergencies such as fires, floods, earthquakes, acts of terrorism, public safety power shutoff events, extreme weather events, and pandemics. When the Emergency Operations Center is activated, the Ventura County Fire Department and Sheriff’s Office, who provide fire and police services, have primary and support roles in the management and operations divisions.”**SE Section, Fire Services, Pg. 8-48.**  |
| Are other fire protection plans, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, CAL FIRE Unit or Contract County Fire Plans, referenced or incorporated into the Safety Element? | Yes | **SE Section, Ventura County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Pg. 8-2 to 8-3****SE Section, City of Moorpark Emergency Operations Plan, Pg. 8-3****SE Policy SE 1.5, pg. 8-9**. “**Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Incorporate the most recent version of the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Moorpark Annex, most recently certified by FEMA in 2022, into this Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6.”**SE Policy SE 4.1, pg. 8-38**. “**Fire hazard reduction:** Continue to work with the Ventura County Fire Department and the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council to implement fire hazard reduction policies and projects, to the extent they are relevant to Moorpark, in the Ventura County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the General Plan, and the Capital Improvement Program.”**SE Policy SE 4.5, pg.8-38**. “**Ventura County Strategic Fire Plan:** The current version of the Ventura County Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan is hereby incorporated into this Safety Element, by reference, to ensure existing non-conforming development reduces fire hazards by implementing fire safe standards for roads and vegetation.” |
| Are residential developments in fire hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified? | Yes- Recommend adding an overlay of the VHFHSZ to SE-2 for reference | **SE Figure SE-2, pg. 8-11**. *Evacuation Constrained Residential Parcels.*  |
| Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified? | Yes | **SE Figure SE-1, pg. 8-7**. *Evacuation Route* identifies potential evacuation routes.  |

| Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs? |
| --- |
| “N/A” If there is additional relevant info in the SE not captured in the assessment - “Yes” AND cite what it is and where to find it (Policy/program/figure/section title, p.#) |

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

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

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

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

| Questions | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does local ordinance require development standards that meet or exceed title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (**SRA Fire Safe Regulations**) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (**Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations**) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 4.2, pg.8-39.** “**California Building Standards Code and Fire Code:** Continue to adopt and enforce the most recent version of the California Building Code and Fire Code, as well as California Fire Safe Regulations for new and existing development.” **SE Policy SE 4.4, pg.8-38**. “**Fire safety plans:** New development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the Wildland Urban Interface must prepare a fire safety plan for review and approval by the Ventura County Fire Department prior to issuance of building permit.”  |
| Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs? | Yes  | **LU Policy LU-7.3, pg.2-28:** **Protect uses from hazards:** Require that new commercial /residential development be located and designed to avoid or mitigate any potentially hazardous conditions in VHFHSZs.**LU Policy LU-8.9, p.2-29:** “**Design to avoid hazards:** Require that development in significant hazard areas is located and designed to ensure safety in accordance with the Safety Element.” |
| Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements? | Yes | **LU Policy LU-7.3, p.2-28:** **Protect uses from hazards:** Require that new development be located and designed to avoid or mitigate any potentially hazardous conditions.**LU Policy LU-8.9, p.2-29: “Design to avoid hazards:** Require that development in significant hazard areas is located and designed to ensure safety in accordance with the Safety Element.”**SE Policy SE 4.2, p.8-39**. “**California Building Standards Code and Fire Code:** Continue to adopt and enforce the most recent version of the California Building Code and Fire Code, as well as California Fire Safe Regulations for new and existing development.” **SE Policy SE 4.4, p.8-38**. “**Fire safety plans:** New development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the Wildland Urban Interface must prepare a fire safety plan for review and approval by the Ventura County Fire Department prior to issuance of building permit.” |
| Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 1.14, p.8-10.** “**Resilient critical and lifeline facility siting:** Locate new critical and lifeline facilities outside of flood and dam inundation zones, very high fire hazard severity zones, and landslide susceptibility areas, when feasible. If not feasible, appropriately site, design, and construct new critical facilities to be resilient to flooding, fires, and landslides.” |
| 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 Policy SE 4.5, p.8-38.** “**Ventura County Strategic Fire Plan:** The current version of the Ventura County Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan is hereby incorporated into this Safety Element, by reference, to ensure existing non-conforming development reduces fire hazards by implementing fire safe standards for roads and vegetation.”**SE Implementation SE-I27, p.10-25.** “**Vegetation Management Program**Enforce codes and ordinances regarding vegetation management to reduce fire risk and allow consideration of natural methods for vegetation management such as goat grazing. Work with Ventura County Fire Department to obtain funding to develop and maintain a vegetation management program that provides vegetation management services on private property, especially to elderly, persons with disabilities, or low-income property owners who lack the resources to remove flammable vegetation from around their homes.” |
| Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire? | YES | **SE Policy 4.9, pg. 8-39 Redevelopment**: Require re-development in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to comply with current California Building Code, Ventura County Fire Code, and California Fire Safe Regulations. **SE Policy 4.10, pg. 4.10** **Re-Evaluate Development:** Re-evaluate development in Fire Hazard Severity Zones after a large wildfire.  |
| Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 4.2, p.8-39. “California Building Standards Code and Fire Code:** Continue to adopt and enforce the most recent version of the California Building Code and Fire Code, as well as California Fire Safe Regulations for new and existing development.” **SE-I27: Vegetation Management Program** Work with Ventura County Fire Department to enforce codes and ordinances regarding vegetation management to reduce fire risk and allow consideration of natural methods for vegetation management such as goat grazing. Work with Ventura County Fire Department to obtain funding to develop and maintain a vegetation management program that provides vegetation management services on private property, especially to elderly, persons with disabilities, or low-income property owners who lack the resources to remove flammable vegetation from around their homes. |
| Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 4.4, p.8-38**. “**Fire safety plans:** New development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the Wildland Urban Interface must prepare a fire safety plan for review and approval by the Ventura County Fire Department prior to issuance of building permit.” |
| Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 1.5, p.8-9.** “**Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Incorporate the most recent version of the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Moorpark Annex, most recently certified by FEMA in 2022, into this Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6.”**SE Policy SE 4.1, p.8-38**. “**Fire hazard reduction:** Continue to work with the Ventura County Fire Department and the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council to implement fire hazard reduction policies and projects, to the extent they are relevant to Moorpark, in the Ventura County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the General Plan, and the Capital Improvement Program.”**SE Policy SE 4.5, p.8-38**. “**Ventura County Strategic Fire Plan:** The current version of the Ventura County Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan is hereby incorporated into this Safety Element, by reference, to ensure existing non-conforming development reduces fire hazards by implementing fire safe standards for roads and vegetation.”**SE Policy SE 4.6, p. 8-38**. “**Vegetation management funding:** Coordinate with the Ventura County Fire Department and Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council to obtain funding for and conduct vegetation and fuel modification or management.” |
| Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 1.10, p. 8-10**. “**Ingress and egress:** Require new development to have at least two ingress and egress routes that account for existing and proposed traffic evacuation volumes at buildout.”**SE Policy SE 1.11, p. 8-10.** “**Secondary ingress and egress:** Explore secondary means of ingress and egress in areas with evacuation constraints, as shown in Figure SE-2*, Evacuation Constrained Residential Parcels,* for existing subdivisions or developments of 10 units or more.”**SE Policy SE 4.7, p. 8-38**. “**Egress and ingress:** Require new development within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to have at least two egress and ingress options, visible street signs that identify evacuation routes, and adequate water supply for structural suppression.” |
| Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 1.10, p. 8-10.** “**Ingress and egress:** Require new development to have at least two ingress and egress routes that account for existing and proposed traffic evacuation volumes at buildout.”**SE Policy SE 1.11, p. 8-10.** “**Secondary ingress and egress:** Explore secondary means of ingress and egress in areas with evacuation constraints, as shown in Figure SE-2*, Evacuation Constrained Residential Parcels,* for existing subdivisions or developments of 10 units or more.”**SE Policy SE 4.7, p. 8-38. “Egress and ingress:** Require new development within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to have at least two egress and ingress options, visible street signs that identify evacuation routes, and adequate water supply for structural suppression.” |
| If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified? | Yes | **SE Figure SE-2, p.8-11.** *Evacuation Constrained Residential Parcels.* **SE Policy SE 1.11, p.8-10.** “**Secondary ingress and egress:** Explore secondary means of ingress and egress in areas with evacuation constraints, as shown in Figure SE-2*, Evacuation Constrained Residential Parcels,* for existing subdivisions or developments of 10 units or more.”**SE Policy SE 4.7, p.8-38**. “**Egress and ingress:** Require new development within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to have at least two egress and ingress options, visible street signs that identify evacuation routes, and adequate water supply for structural suppression.” |
| Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 1.2, p.8-9**. “**Emergency preparedness education:** Educate residents and businesses regarding appropriate actions to safeguard life and property during and immediately after emergencies.”**SE Policy SE 1.17, p.8-13**. “**Accessible hazard preparedness education and outreach:** Promote hazard preparedness with education and outreach available in multiple languages and formats appropriate for people with access and functional needs.”**SE Policy SE 1.18, p.8-13.** “**Ready Ventura County Program:** Coordinate with the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services to update and coordinate the Ready Ventura County Program as relevant to the city of Moorpark.” |
| Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 4.3, p.8-38.** “**Sufficient water supplies for firefighting:** Ensure that existing and future development in the city has sufficient water supplies nearby for fire-fighting purposes.”**SE Implementation SE-I30, p. 10-26**. “**Fire-flow Requirements** Update fire-flow requirements to reflect the most recent Uniform Fire Code standards.”**SE Implementation SE-I35, p.10-26**. “**Adequate Water Supplies** Coordinate with Ventura County Fire Department and Ventura County Public Works Agency to ensure that developed areas of the city have sufficient water supplies for fire-fighting purposes.” |
| Does new development have adequate fire protection? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 9.1, p.8-48 to 49.** “**Fire safety services:** Work with the Ventura County Fire Department to provide fire prevention, protection, and emergency preparedness services that adequately protect residents, employees, visitors, and structures from fire and fire-related emergencies.”**SE Policy SE 9.2, p.8-49**. “**Staffing and equipment:** Coordinate with Ventura County Fire Department to ensure adequate staffing and equipment for fire protection services throughout the city to quickly respond to emergencies.”**SE Policy SE 9.3, p.8-49.** “**Fair share extension:** Require new development to fund a fair share extension of fire services to maintain service standards, including personnel and capital improvements costs.” |

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

| Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to: | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Water supply and fire flow? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 4.3, p.8-38**. “**Sufficient water supplies for firefighting:** Ensure that existing and future development in the city has sufficient water supplies nearby for fire-fighting purposes.”**SE Policy SE 4.7, p.8-38**. “**Egress and ingress:** Require new development within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to have at least two egress and ingress options, visible street signs that identify evacuation routes, and adequate water supply for structural suppression.”**SE Implementation SE-I-30, p. 10-26**. “**Fire-flow Requirements** Update fire-flow requirements to reflect the most recent Uniform Fire Code standards.”**SE Implementation SE-I-35, p.10-26.** “**Adequate Water Supplies** Coordinate with Ventura County Fire Department and Ventura County Public Works Agency to ensure that developed areas of the city have sufficient water supplies for fire-fighting purposes.” |
| Location of anticipated water supply? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 4.3, p.8-38.** “**Sufficient water supplies for firefighting:** Ensure that existing and future development in the city has sufficient water supplies nearby for fire-fighting purposes.”**SE Policy SE 4.4, p.8-38.** “**Fire safety plans:** New development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the Wildland Urban Interface must prepare a fire safety plan for review and approval by the Ventura County Fire Department prior to issuance of building permit.”**SE Policy SE 4.7, p.8-38**. “**Egress and ingress:** Require new development within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to have at least two egress and ingress options, visible street signs that identify evacuation routes, and adequate water supply for structural suppression.”**SE Implementation SE-I35, p.10-26.** “**Adequate Water Supplies** Coordinate with Ventura County Fire Department and Ventura County Public Works Agency to ensure that developed areas of the city have sufficient water supplies for fire-fighting purposes.” |
| Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies? | Yes | **SE Implementation SE-I30, p. 10-26.** “**Fire-flow Requirements** Update fire-flow requirements to reflect the most recent Uniform Fire Code standards.” |
| Evacuation and emergency vehicle access? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 1.10, p. 8-10.** “**Ingress and egress:** Require new development to have at least two ingress and egress routes that account for existing and proposed traffic evacuation volumes at buildout.”**SE Policy SE 1.11, p. 8-10**. “**Secondary ingress and egress:** Explore secondary means of ingress and egress in areas with evacuation constraints, as shown in Figure SE-2*, Evacuation Constrained Residential Parcels,* for existing subdivisions or developments of 10 units or more.”**SE Policy SE 4.2, p.8-39.** “**California Building Standards Code and Fire Code:** Continue to adopt and enforce the most recent version of the California Building Code and Fire Code, as well as California Fire Safe Regulations for new and existing development.” **SE Policy SE 4.7, p. 8-38.** “**Egress and ingress:** Require new development within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to have at least two egress and ingress options, visible street signs that identify evacuation routes, and adequate water supply for structural suppression.”**SE Policy SE 4.8, p.8-38**. “**Traffic Control Plans:** Require development projects in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or WUI to prepare a Traffic Control Plan to ensure that construction equipment or activities do not block roadways during the construction period.” |
| Fuel modification and defensible space? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 4.2, p.8-39.** “**California Building Standards Code and Fire Code:** Continue to adopt and enforce the most recent version of the California Building Code and Fire Code, as well as California Fire Safe Regulations for new and existing development.” **SE Policy SE 4.5, p.8-38.** “**Ventura County Strategic Fire Plan:** The current version of the Ventura County Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan is hereby incorporated into this Safety Element, by reference, to ensure existing non-conforming development reduces fire hazards by implementing fire safe standards for roads and vegetation.”**SE Policy SE 4.6, p.8-38.** “**Vegetation management funding:** Coordinate with the Ventura County Fire Department and Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council to obtain funding for and conduct vegetation and fuel modification or management.” |
| Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 4.5, p.8-38.** “**Ventura County Strategic Fire Plan:** The current version of the Ventura County Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan is hereby incorporated into this Safety Element, by reference, to ensure existing non-conforming development reduces fire hazards by implementing fire safe standards for roads and vegetation.”**SE Policy SE 4.6, p.8-38.** “**Vegetation management funding:** Coordinate with the Ventura County Fire Department and Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council to obtain funding for and conduct vegetation and fuel modification or management.” |
| Visible home and street addressing and signage? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 4.7, p.8-38.** “**Egress and ingress:** Require new development within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to have at least two egress and ingress options, visible street signs that identify evacuation routes, visible street addresses, and adequate water supply for structural suppression in accordance with the California Fire Safe Regulations. |
| Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 1.5, p.8-9. “Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Incorporate the most recent version of the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Moorpark Annex, most recently certified by FEMA in 2022, into this Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6.”**SE Policy SE 4.5, p.8-38.** “**Ventura County Strategic Fire Plan:** The current version of the Ventura County Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan is hereby incorporated into this Safety Element, by reference, to ensure existing non-conforming development reduces fire hazards by implementing fire safe standards for roads and vegetation.” |

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

| Question | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Is there a map or description of existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking service, specifically noting any areas in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | Yes | **SE Figure SE-9, p. 8-35. *Wildland Urban Interface*****SE Figure SE-10, p.8-39. *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones*****SE Pg. 8-31 to 8-37. *Fire Hazards*** |
| Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 9.1, p.8-48 to 49**. “**Fire safety services:** Work with the Ventura County Fire Department to provide fire prevention, protection, and emergency preparedness services that adequately protect residents, employees, visitors, and structures from fire and fire-related emergencies.”**SE Policy SE 9.2, p.8-49.** “**Staffing and equipment:** Coordinate with Ventura County Fire Department to ensure adequate staffing and equipment for fire protection services throughout the city to quickly respond to emergencies.”**SE Policy SE 9.3, p.8-49**. “**Fair share extension:** Require new development to fund a fair share extension of fire services to maintain service standards, including personnel and capital improvements costs.” |
| Are goals or standards for emergency services training described? | YES | **SE Policy** **SE 1.20 Disaster Response Training:** Coordinate with Ventura County Fire Department and Ventura County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services to conduct training for all employees to ensure basic understanding of Disaster Service Worker responsibilities, the State Emergency Management System, National Incident Management System, and the Incident Command System. |
| Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements? | Yes | **SE Policy SE 1.1, p.8-9.** “**Multi-jurisdictional cooperation:** Continue the development of local preparedness plans and multijurisdictional cooperation and communication for emergency situations.”**SE Policy SE 1.3, p.8-9.** “**Emergency coordination:** Coordinate with Ventura County, neighboring cities, and non-governmental partners to effectively prepare for and respond to hazards and natural disasters.”**SE Policy SE 1.16, p. 8-10.** “**Agency coordination:** Coordinate with Ventura County Fire Department, Ventura County Sheriff’s Office, and City Manager’s Office to ensure effective preparation, response, and recovery services are available throughout the community before, during, and after seismic and wildfire events.**SE Pg. 8-6, *Mutual 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.