General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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Santa Barbara County 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: Santa Barbara County | Notes: | CAL FIRE Unit: San Luis Obispo | Date Received: 02/03/2023 |
| County: Santa Barbara | LUPP Reviewer: J. Kennedy | UNIT CONTACT: | Date Reviewed: 02/06/2023 |

## 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 | **Safety Element Page 238** |
| 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 | **Safety Element Page 235** |
| 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 | **Safety Element Page 240** |
| Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified? | YES | **Fire Emergency Services pg. 241.** The SBCoFD maintains a protocol for evaluating the adequacy of fire level of service to population ratios, response times, equipment condition levels, emergency service training and other relevant emergency service information consistent with State standards. The SBCoFD is also a partner in the Santa Barbara Operational Area-All Risk Mutual Aid Planwhich is an extension of, and supportive document to, the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan. |
| 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 | **Fire Management Plans pg. 243-244. Unit Strategic Fire Plan**. The SBCoFD is responsible for maintaining and updating the Santa Barbara County Unit Strategic Fire Plan (USFP). **Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.** The County is responsible for maintaining and updating the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). **Community Wildfire Protection Plans.** The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 provides an opportunity through the Community Wildfire Protection Plans development process for communities, fire protection authorities, and public land managers to set the boundaries of the Wildland-Urban Interface that will guide the planning effort. |
| Are residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified? | YES | **Evacuation Plans pg. 245.** The County has developed draft evacuation routes, will analyze and vet them, and make the final product available in the [Safety Element Map](https://sbcopad.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e23b50981c344a15b48de8234571d9e1)on the County’s website. |
| Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified? | YES | **Evacuation Plans pg. 245.** SBCoFD does maintain Standard Operating Procedures which outline the protocols for fire-induced evacuations based on individual emergency scenarios. During fire emergencies in the LRA, SBCoFD is responsible for assessing hazard areas to identify evacuation requirements. For areas that are imminently affected by fire an order to evacuate may be issued. For areas where a fire is expected to affect residents, but the threat is not imminent, a warning to evacuate may be issued. In the SRA, County agencies and departments cooperate with CALFIRE to assure that residents are evacuated when necessary. |

| 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 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | **Policy Fire- 3.6, pg. 264. Fire Development Standards.** To reduce the potential for fire damage, the County shall continue to require consistency with Fire Department Development Standards pursuant to the California Fire Code, Public Resource Code §4291, and Government Code §51175-51188.  **Action FIRE- 3.6.1 pg. 264.** **Fire Development Standards.** Continue to maintain and enforce County, Carpinteria Summerland Fire Protection District, and Montecito Fire Protection District Development Standards required to protect the community from unreasonable risk associated with urban and wildland fires pursuant to Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 9 California Fire Code. |
| Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs? | YES | **Policy FIRE - 1.1, pg. 261.** The County shall prohibit new subdivisions in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone unless: 1) Secondary access is available, or substantial mitigations and/or management plans are required that offset the known risks; 2) A Wildfire Protection Plan is prepared and approved; and 3) An appropriate setback from wildland vegetation, as determined by the Fire Department, is implemented prior to development. |
| Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements? | YES | **Fire Development Standards, pg. 257.** SBCoFD Fire Prevention Division maintains Development Standards which serve as control measures designed to promote fire protection and comply with State law.[[1]](#endnote-1) The Development Standards, codified in County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention, cover a range of development topics required for new construction. These Development Standards are updated by the SBCoFD as needed to ensure compliance with State law. |
| Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible? | YES | **Policy FIRE-6.0, pg. 266. New Essential Public Facilities:** Prohibit the siting of new essential public facilities (including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities) in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in the Local and State Responsibility Areas, unless all feasible risk reduction measures have been incorporated into project designs or conditions of approval. |
| 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 | **Policy Fire-5.2 pg. 265. Non-Conforming Roads and Development:** The County will continue to evaluate non-conforming development and apply contemporary road standards consistent with the State Fire Safe Regulations through the development review process.  **Policy FIRE 1.4, pg. 262**. **Existing Development Risk Mitigation.** The County should work with property owners of existing developments that do not conform to contemporary fire safe standards to improve or mitigate access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance to meet current State and/or locally adopted fire safety standards. |
| Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire? | YES | **Policy FIRE-7.2, pg. 267. Post-Fire Reconstruction.** Post-wildfire reconstruction shall conform to the latest applicable Fire and Building Code standards.  **Action FIRE-7.2.1, pg. 268**. **Develop Wildfire Like-for-Like Ordinance.** The County shall develop an ordinance to allow a post-wildfire rebuild with the same use and floor area that may be re-built in a location within the lot with less wildfire risk without the need for a discretionary entitlement as long as the structure(s) otherwise comply with other zoning and environmental regulations and does not significantly affect environmental resources. |
| Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | YES | **Policy FIRE-3.1 pg. 263. Fuel Modification and Defensible Space.** New development shall meet or exceed the State Fire Safe Regulations through application of the Fire Code and wildfire development standards pertaining to fuel modification and defensible space. |
| Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs? | YES | **Policy FIRE-3.2, pg. 263. Wildfire Protection Plans:** A Wildfire Protection Plan is required for all new large developments in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), including subdivisions, mixed-use development, commercial cannabis activities, multi-family housing, businesses open to the public, and large assembly uses and/or events. Such uses may require a Wildfire Protection Plan in the High FHSZ, at the discretion of the Fire Marshal. |
| Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance? | YES | **Policy FIRE-3.4, pg. 263. Long Term Maintenance of Hazard Reduction Projects:** Santa Barbara County Fire Department shall continue to implement the Vegetation Management Program through implementation of its Unit Strategic Fire Plan and maintained in CalMapper, providing long-term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects to mitigate risks to existing development and communities |
| Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs? | YES | **Policy FIRE – 8.0, pg. 268. Residential Subdivision Access Standards in the VHFHSZ.** The County shall require new residential subdivisions in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to provide not less than two means of access for emergency vehicles and resident evacuation. A deviation from this policy is only allowed if substantial mitigations and management plans are put in place to offset the known risks, and when the Fire Chief approves the proposed deviation mitigation and management plans. |
| Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined? | YES | **Policy FIRE-8.1, pg. 269. Access Requirements in the VHFHSZ.** All new development in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone VHFHSZ will comply with ingress/egress requirements found in applicable wildfire Development Standards, Fire Code, and the State Fire Safe Regulations. |
| If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified? | YES | **Policy FIRE-8.1.1, pg. 269. Evacuation Route Assessment.** The County shall develop evacuation routes and assess their capacity, safety, and viability in Hazard Areas. The County will survey areas at increased risk and develop recommendations to reduce risks and improve evacuation safety. |
| 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 FIRE- 7.3, pg. 268.** The County shall continue to promote outreach programs that educate at-risk populations and the wider community on defensible space, evacuation routes, and other information aimed at mitigating wildfire hazards.  **Action FIRE-7.3.1, pg. 268**. **Defensible Space Outreach.** The County’s fire districts will continue to promote their Defensible Space Programs and work with organizations, such as the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council, to plan and implement community wildfire education and hazard abatement programs.  **Action FIRE-7.3.2, pg. 268**. **Evacuation.** The County emergency response agencies will promote preparedness by making evacuation information available to the community through web-based education materials, participation in public outreach opportunities, and other programs that will increase individual preparedness and encourage public registration in local alert and warning programs.  **Action FIRE-7.3.3, pg. 268. Populations with Disabilities Access and Functional Needs.** The County will continue to promote its programs and resources aimed at ensuring Disabled and Access and Functional Needs populations can plan for emergencies with respect to evacuation and powering medical devices |
| Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs? | YES | **Policy FIRE-5.3, pg. 265. Hydrant Spacing, Water Flow, and Stored Water:** All new development shall meet requirements identified in the State Fire Safe Regulations, National Fire Protection Association Standard 1142 on water supplies for suburban and rural firefighting, State Fire Code, and local Fire District Development Standards for hydrant spacing, water flow rates for fire suppression, and stored water for water and fire protection systems. |
| Does new development have adequate fire protection? | YES | **Policy FIRE- 6.1, pg. 266. Standard of Coverage Study Updates:** The County’s fire districts shall continue to review and update Standard of Coverage studies provided for existing and planned new development to ensure there are adequate fire protection services, such as fire stations, equipment, and coverage during emergencies.  **Policy FIRE-6.2, pg. 268. Future Emergency Service Needs.** The County’s fire districts shall periodically prepare or update a Standard of Coverage Study to assess future emergency service needs and identify additional resources and services necessary to provide satisfactory emergency response services to meet future needs. |

### 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 | **Policy FIRE-5.3, pg. 265. Hydrant Spacing, Water Flow, and Stored Water:** All new development shall meet requirements identified in the State Fire Safe Regulations, National Fire Protection Association Standard 1142 on water supplies for suburban and rural firefighting, State Fire Code, and local Fire District Development Standards for hydrant spacing, water flow rates for fire suppression, and stored water for water and fire protection systems. |
| Location of anticipated water supply? | YES | **Policy FIRE-9.0, pg. 269. Adequate Water Infrastructure for Fire Suppression.** All new development shall maintain adequate water infrastructure that ensures water supply and flow rates are adequate for fire suppression  **Policy FIRE-9.1, pg. 269. Infrastructure for Long-Term Water Supply.** New development, including that which is not supplied by a water purveyor, shall have adequate infrastructure flow rate, and storage onsite that supports long-term water supply. |
| Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies? | YES | **Policy FIRE-9.2, pg. 269. Coordination with Water Purveyors.** The County will coordinate with water purveyors to encourage water supply infrastructure upgrades to maintain an adequate, long-term water supply for fire suppression needs for the community. |
| Evacuation and emergency vehicle access? | YES | **Policy FIRE 5.4, pg. 266. Addressing, Signage, Access, and Roadside Vegetation Clearance:** New development in the State Responsibility Area and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall meet or exceed the requirements in the State Fire Code and Fire Safe Regulations, which include visible home and street addressing and signage, evacuation and emergency vehicle access, and vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads that ensure adequate evacuation and emergency vehicle access. |
| Fuel modification and defensible space? | YES | **Policy FIRE- 3.1, pg. 263. Fuel Modification and Defensible Space.** New development shall meet or exceed the State Fire Safe Regulations through application of the Fire Code and wildfire development standards pertaining to fuel modification and defensible space. |
| Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads? | YES | **Policy FIRE 5.4, pg. 266. Addressing, Signage, Access, and Roadside Vegetation Clearance:** New development in the State Responsibility Area and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall meet or exceed the requirements in the State Fire Code and Fire Safe Regulations, which include visible home and street addressing and signage, evacuation and emergency vehicle access, and vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads that ensure adequate evacuation and emergency vehicle access. |
| Visible home and street addressing and signage? | YES | **Policy FIRE 5.4, pg. 266. Addressing, Signage, Access, and Roadside Vegetation Clearance:** New development in the State Responsibility Area and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall meet or exceed the requirements in the State Fire Code and Fire Safe Regulations, which include visible home and street addressing and signage, evacuation and emergency vehicle access, and vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads that ensure adequate evacuation and emergency vehicle access. |
| Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained? | YES | **Policy FIRE-3.4 pg. 263. Long Term Maintenance of Hazard Reduction Projects:** Santa Barbara County Fire Department shall continue to implement the Vegetation Management Program through implementation of its Unit Strategic Fire Plan and maintained in CalMapper, providing long-term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects to mitigate risks to existing development and communities. |

### 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 | **Safety Element Page 239** |
| Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs? | YES | **Policy FIRE- 6.1, pg. 266. Standard of Coverage Study Updates:** The County’s fire districts shall continue to review and update Standard of Coverage studies provided for existing and planned new development to ensure there are adequate fire protection services, such as fire stations, equipment, and coverage during emergencies.  **Policy FIRE-6.2, pg. 268. Future Emergency Service Needs.** The County’s fire districts shall periodically prepare or update a Standard of Coverage Study to assess future emergency service needs and identify additional resources and services necessary to provide satisfactory emergency response services to meet future needs. |
| Are goals or standards for emergency services training described? | YES | **Policy FIRE-6.3, pg. 267. Emergency Service Staff Training.** The County’s fire districts shall continue to train and certify their staff using the California Incident Command Certification System or by the requirements and guidelines set by the State Fire Marshal for training emergency service staff. |
| Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements? | YES | **Policy FIRE-4.3, pg. 264. Mutual Aid Plan:** The County’s fire districts shall update and implement the Santa Barbara County Mutual Aid Plan each year to establish a plan for interagency preparedness, coordination, automatic aid, and mutual aid.  **Policy FIRE-4.0, pg. 264. Interagency Partnerships:** The County shall strive to maintain partnerships with tribal governments, state, local, and federal agencies to identify, prioritize, and implement fire prevention and protection measures in the County.  **Policy FIRE-4.1, pg. 264. Interagency Emergency Planning & Coordination:** The County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) shall continue coordinating emergency planning for the Santa Barbara Operational Area pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act of 1970. |

# 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.

1. Requirement of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 9 California Fire Code. Additionally, Section 13108.5(c) of the Health and Safety Code allows local agencies to revise development standards contained in the California Fire Code in order to meet unique local conditions. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)