General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

****

June 2020

Contents

[Purpose and Background 1](#_Toc23168266)

[Methodology for Review and Recommendations 2](#_Toc23168267)

[General Plan Safety Element Assessment 3](#_Toc23168268)

[Background Information Summary 3](#_Toc23168269)

[Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Feasible Implementation Measures 4](#_Toc23168270)

[Section 1 Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land 4](#_Toc23168271)

[Section 2 Develop adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in SRAs or VHFHSZs. 5](#_Toc23168272)

[Section 3 Working cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection. 5](#_Toc23168273)

[Sample Safety Element Recommendations 7](#_Toc23168274)

[A. Maps, Plans and Historical Information 7](#_Toc23168275)

[B. Land Use 7](#_Toc23168276)

[C. Fuel Modification 7](#_Toc23168277)

[D. Access 8](#_Toc23168278)

[E. Fire Protection 8](#_Toc23168279)

[Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan 9](#_Toc23168280)

[Land Use Element 9](#_Toc23168281)

[Housing Element 9](#_Toc23168282)

[Open Space and Conservation Elements 9](#_Toc23168283)

[Circulation Element 9](#_Toc23168284)

# 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: San Bernardino County | Notes: N/A | CAL FIRE Unit: San Bernardino | Date Received: 07-16-2020 |
| County: San Bernardino | LUPP Reviewer: M. Curtis | UNIT CONTACT: Janssen | Date Reviewed: 08-05-2020 |

## 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 | Hazard Element - Figure HZ-5.  County Plan Safety Background Report.  Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Fire Safety Overlay Figure 5-3 pg. 5-25. |
| 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 | Countywide Plan Safety Background Report  Fire History in San Bernardino County  Table 5-1 pg.5-10&11.  Recent Fire Hazards Figure 5.1.3 pg.5-9. |
| 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 | Hazard Element Policy HZ-1.6  Critical and essential facility location.  Countywide Plan Safety Background Report.  Communities at Risk figure 5.2.3 pg. 5-22.  Critical Facilities Vulnerable to Hazards in Unincorporated San Bernardino County  Table 6.1.  County of San Bernardino MJHMP.  Wildfire Section 4.14.1 Population/Facilities at Risk. |
| Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified? | Yes | Hazard Element Figure HZ-6  Fire Responsibility Areas Map.  Countywide Plan Safety Background Report.  Implementing Agencies 5.4.  Fire Responsibility Areas Figure 5.4.  Multi-Jurisdictional Cooperation 5.4.1.  City Fire Departments and Special Fire Jurisdiction Table 5-6.  Emergency Services 6.2.2. |
| 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 | Personal & Property Protection Element.  PP-4.1 Emergency management plans.  We maintain, update, and adopt the Emergency Operations Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, and the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. |
| Are residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified? | No | Recommend to Identify residential developments located in an hazardous area that DO NOT have a secondary means of egress. |
| Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified? | Yes | Hazards Element Policy HZ-1.15 Evacuation route adequacy**.** We coordinate with CAL FIRE, California’s Office of Emergency Services, and other local fire districts to identify strategies that ensure the maintenance and reliability of evacuation routes potentially compromised by wildfire, including emergency evacuation and supply transportation routes.  Personal & Property Protection Element.  PP-4.4 Emergency shelters and routes. We identify and publicize emergency shelters and sign and control evacuation routes for use during emergencies.  Policy Map PP-2 Evacuation Routes |

| Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs? |
| --- |
| None |

## 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 | San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Fire Code ordinance contains adopted amendments as well as referenced standards that meet or exceed all CCR T 14 section 1270 Fire Safe Regulations standards for all areas with SRA.  CCR T 14 section 1299 requirements with SRA and VHFHSZ in County FPD LRA are met or exceeded by inspections and enforcement of county fire hazard abatement program operation under requirements in County Code Title 2, Div. 3, Chapter 3 Abatement of Fire Hazards and Hazardous Trees. |
| Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | Hazard Element  Policy HZ-1.2 New development in environmental hazard areas. We require all new development to be located outside of the environmental hazard areas listed below. For any lot or parcel that does not have sufficient buildable area outside of such hazard areas, we require adequate mitigation, including designs that allow occupants to shelter in place and to have sufficient time to evacuate during times of extreme weather and natural disasters. |
| Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element  Policy PP-3.4 Fire prevention services  We proactively mitigate or reduce the negative effects of fire, hazardous materials release, and structural collapse by implementing the California Fire Code, adopted with County amendments.  Policy PP-3.7 Fire safe design  We require new development in the Fire Safety Overlay to comply with additional site design, building, and access standards to provide enhanced resistance to fire hazards.  Land Use Element  Policy LU-4.2 Fire-adapted communities  We require new development in high or very high fire hazard severity zones to apply fire-resistant design techniques, including fuel modification areas, fire resistant landscaping, and fire-resistant building materials.  Policy LU-4.3 Native or drought-tolerant landscaping  We require new development, when outside of high and very high fire hazard severity zones, to install and maintain drought-tolerant landscaping and encourage the use of native species. |
| Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible? | Yes | Hazard Element  Policy HZ-1.6 Critical and essential facility location  We require new critical and essential facilities to be located outside of hazard areas, whenever 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 | Hazard Element  Policy HZ-1.5 Existing properties in environmental hazard areas. We encourage owners of existing properties in hazard areas to add design features that allow occupants to shelter in place and to have sufficient time to evacuate during times of extreme weather and natural disasters.  County of San Bernardino MJHMP  Section 6.1.2 Wildfire  Wildfire Objective 3: Community Based Fuels Reduction Program.  Wildfire Objective 4: Forest Care.  Wildfire Objective 5: County Fire Hazard Abatement.  Wildfire Objective 6: Decrease Wildfire Hazards at Private Property through the Fire Hazard Abatement Programs.  Wildfire Objective 8: Improve Emergency Access. Improve and maintain emergency access for wildfire protection. |
| Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire? | Yes | Personal Property Element.  Policy PP-3.11 Post-burn risks.  In areas burned by wildfire, we require new and reconstructed development to adhere to current development standards, and may require additional study to evaluate increased flooding, debris flow, and mudslide risks.  Policy PP-4.6 Recovery.  We reestablish and expedite County services to assist affected residents and businesses in the short- and long-term recovery from emergencies and natural disasters. |
| Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | Yes | Personal Property Element.  **Policy PP-3.4 Fire prevention services.**  **We proactively mitigate or reduce the negative effects of fire, hazardous materials release, and structural collapse by implementing the California Fire Code, adopted with County amendments.**  Policy PP-3.7 Fire safe design.  We require new development in the Fire Safety Overlay to comply with additional site design, building, and access standards to provide enhanced resistance to fire hazards.  **Policy PP-3.8 Fire-adapted communities.**  We require new development in high or very high fire hazard severity zones to apply fire-resistant design techniques, including fuel modification areas, fire resistant landscaping, and fire-resistant building materials. |
| Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | Hazard Element Policy HZ-1.13 Fire protection planning. We require that all new development in County‐designated Fire Safety Overlay and/or CALFIRE‐designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones meet the requirements of the California Fire Code and the California Building Code as amended by the County Fire Protection District, including Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations fire safety requirements for any new development within State Responsibility Areas, as well as provide and maintain a Fire Protection Plan or Defensible Space/Fuel Modification Plan and other pre‐planning measures in accordance with the County Code of Ordinances. |
| Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance? | Yes | Hazard Element Policy HZ-1.14 Long‐term fire hazard reduction and abatement. We require proactive vegetation management/hazard abatement to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties, along roadsides of evacuation routes out of wildfire prone areas, and other private/public land where applicable, and we require new development to enter into a long‐term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel modification, and roadside fuel reduction in the Fire Safety Overlay and/or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. |
| Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-3.7 Fire safe design.  We require new development in the Fire Safety Overlay to comply with additional site design, building, and access standards to provide enhanced resistance to fire hazards.  San Bernardino Development Code Section 82.13 Fire Safety Overlay. |
| Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-4.4 Emergency shelters and routes  We identify and publicize emergency shelters and sign and control evacuation routes for use during emergencies. |
| If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified? | Yes | Transportation & Mobility Element.  Goal TM‐1 Roadway Capacity Unincorporated areas served by roads with capacity that is adequate for residents, businesses, tourists, and emergency services.  Policy TM‐1.8 Emergency Access When considering new roadway improvement proposals for the CIP or RTP, we consider the provision of adequate emergency access routes along with capacity expansion in unincorporated areas. Among access route improvements, we prioritize those that contribute some funding through a local area funding and financing mechanism.  County Plan Background Safety Report 6.2.3 Evacuation Routes. |
| Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-4.4 Emergency shelters and routes.  We identify and publicize emergency shelters and sign and control evacuation routes for use during emergencies.  Policy PP-4.5 Vulnerable populations.  We coordinate with and encourage the use of community-based networks to aid vulnerable populations prepare for emergencies and provide assistance with evacuation and recovery.  Policy PP-4.7 Public outreach and education.  We engage with the community to increase awareness of and preparedness for emergencies and natural disasters. |
| Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-3.5 Firefighting water supply and facilities  We coordinate with water providers to maintain adequate water supply, pressure, and facilities to protect people and property from urban fires and wildfires. |
| Does new development have adequate fire protection? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-3.1 Fire and emergency medical services.  We maintain a sufficient number and distribution of fire stations, up-to-date equipment, and fully-trained staff to respond effectively to emergencies.  Policy PP-3.2 Fire District.  We support the expansion of the Fire District to serve additional incorporated jurisdictions, and the use of special funding and financing mechanisms to augment Fire District revenues to improve service and coverage  Policy PP-3.12 Fire protection and emergency medical resource allocation. We use fire and emergency services data analysis and professional expertise to allocate resources, reduce fire risks, and improve emergency response. |

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

| Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to: | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Water supply and fire flow? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-3.5 Firefighting water supply and facilities.  We coordinate with water providers to maintain adequate water supply, pressure, and facilities to protect people and property from urban fires and wildfires |
| Location of anticipated water supply? | Yes | Infrastructure & Utilities Element.  Policy IU-1.1 Water supply.  We require that new development be connected to a public water system or a County-approved well to ensure a clean and resilient supply of potable water, even during cases of prolonged drought.  Policy IU-1.10 Connected systems.  We encourage local water distribution systems to interconnect with regional and other local systems, where feasible, to assist in the transfer of water resources during droughts and emergencies. |
| Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies? | Yes | Infrastructure & Utilities Element.  Policy IU-1.9 Water conservation.  We encourage water conserving site design and the use of water-conserving fixtures, and advocate for the adoption and implementation of water conservation strategies by water service agencies. For existing County-owned facilities, we incorporate design elements, building materials, fixtures, and landscaping that reduce water consumption, as funding is available.  Policy IU-1.11 Water storage and conveyance.  We assist in development of additional water storage and conveyance facilities to create a resilient regional water supply system, when it is cost effective for County-owned water and storm water systems. |
| Evacuation and emergency vehicle access? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-4.4 Emergency shelters and routes.  We identify and publicize emergency shelters and sign and control evacuation routes for use during emergencies.  Transportation & Mobility Element.  Policy TM-1.8 Emergency access.  When considering new roadway improvement proposals for the CIP or RTP, we consider the provision of adequate emergency access routes along with capacity expansion in unincorporated areas. Among access route improvements, we prioritize those that contribute some funding through a local area funding and financing mechanism. |
| Fuel modification and defensible space? | Yes | Personal & Property Element.  Policy PP-3.7 Fire safe design.  We require new development in the Fire Safety Overlay to comply with additional site design, building, and access standards to provide enhanced resistance to fire hazards. |
| Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-3.7 Fire safe design.  We require new development in the Fire Safety Overlay to comply with additional site design, building, and access standards to provide enhanced resistance to fire hazards  Land Use Element.  Policy LU-4.2 Fire-adapted communities  We require new development in high or very high fire hazard severity zones to apply fire-resistant design techniques, including fuel modification areas, fire resistant landscaping, and fire-resistant building materials. |
| Visible home and street addressing and signage? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-3.9 Street signage.  We require adequate street signage be provided and maintained to ensure emergency services can quickly and efficiently respond. |
| Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained? | Yes | Hazard Element.  Policy HZ‐1.13 Fire protection planning. We require that all new development in County‐designated Fire Safety Overlay and/or CALFIRE‐designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones meet the requirements of the California Fire Code and the California Building Code as  amended by the County Fire Protection District, including Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations fire safety requirements for any new development within State Responsibility Areas, as well as provide and maintain a Fire Protection Plan or Defensible Space/Fuel Modification Plan and other pre‐planning measures in accordance with the County Code of Ordinances.  Policy HZ 1.14 Long‐term fire hazard reduction and abatement. We require proactive vegetation management/hazard abatement to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties, along roadsides of evacuation routes out of wildfire prone areas, and other private/public land where applicable, and we require new development to enter into a long‐term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel modification, and roadside fuel reduction in the Fire Safety Overlay and/or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. |

### 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 | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy Maps.  PP-1B Critical Facilities.  PP-2 Evacuation Routes. |
| Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-3.12 Fire protection and emergency medical resource allocation.  We use fire and emergency services data analysis and professional expertise to allocate resources, reduce fire risks, and improve emergency response. |
| Are goals or standards for emergency services training described? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-3.1 Fire and emergency medical services.  We maintain a sufficient number and distribution of fire stations, up-to-date equipment, and fully-trained staff to respond effectively to emergencies. |
| Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements? | Yes | Personal & Property Protection Element.  Policy PP-4.1 Emergency management plans.  We maintain, update, and adopt the Emergency Operations Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, and the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.  Policy PP-4.3 Automatic and mutual aid.  We participate in agreements for automatic and mutual aid with other local, state, federal, and nongovernmental emergency service providers to improve protection services and emergency response throughout the county. |

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.