General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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Los Angeles City 2025

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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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction: Los Angeles City | Notes: Formal Review | CAL FIRE Unit: LAC/BDU | Date Received: 03/26/2025 |
| County: Los Angels | LUPP Reviewer: J Kennedy | UNIT CONTACT: Shane Littlefield | Date Reviewed: 04/01/2025 |

## 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 pg. 30** More information on wildfire, including a history of major events, a map of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, and details on secondary impacts, can be found in the LHMP  **LHMP pgs. 18-6 through 18-12.** |
| Is historical data on wildfires or a reference to where the data can be found, and information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey, included? | YES | **SE pg. 30** More information on wildfire, including a history of major events, a map of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, and details on secondary impacts, can be found in the LHMP  **LHMP pg. 18-4.** *18.2.1 Past Events* |
| Has the general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities, been identified? | YES | **SE pg. 27.** *General Plan Land Use in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones*  **SE pg. 30** More information on wildfire, including a history of major events, a map of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, and details on secondary impacts, can be found in the LHMP  **LHMP pg. 18-16.** **Figure 18-10**. *Number of Community Lifelines in Mapped Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone* |
| Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified? | YES | **SE pg. 34.** *Interagency Coordination.*The State requires that each city identify agencies with responsibility for fire protection (including federal, State, local, special districts, and local offices of emergency services). The City of Los Angeles has its own Fire Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), which handles fire and Emergency Management Services (EMS) response. The LAFD is the primary agency responsible for fire response within the City of Los Angeles. The LAFD regularly coordinates with other agencies that have responsibility for fire protection in these areas, including California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). State guidance also specifies the need for cooperative working relationships among public agencies with responsibility for fire protection. |
| 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 pg. 11.** *Emergency Management Department.* EMD operates the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and houses the Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) and Emergency Operations Board (EOB). The EOB is composed of leadership from each of the City Departments that coordinate emergency procedures and implement the programs described in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). |
| Are residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified? | YES | **SE pg. 13.**  Upon receipt of an official warning of an impending emergency or upon the proclamation of a Local Emergency by the Mayor, the EOO is immediately activated and convened with the EOB. Each department is required to operate as outlined in their Emergency Operations Plan and it’s related annexes. The Emergency Operations Plan describes the citywide response functions, responsibilities, and capabilities. Each Department’s specific plans, the EOP Hazard Specific Annexes, and the EOP Functional Annexes (such as the Evacuation Annex  **Evacuation Annex pg. 7.** It is difficult to accurately predict the location, frequency, and scale of an emergency or disaster. It is possible, however, to plan and manage an evacuation network and establish evacuation procedures in effort to reduce the adverse impact of a threatened or actual emergency incident. This plan reflects the City of Los Angeles procedures and assigned responsibilities for evacuation missions during the response phase of an emergency incident. The Annex identifies the needed and available evacuation capabilities and resources. It describes how these resources are mobilized.  The evacuation operations described in this Annex are designed to be scalable. The outlined procedures can be used during incidents requiring the evacuation of a geographic area ranging from a few city blocks to an entire City. |
| Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified? | YES | **SE pg. 13.**  Upon receipt of an official warning of an impending emergency or upon the proclamation of a Local Emergency by the Mayor, the EOO is immediately activated and convened with the EOB. Each department is required to operate as outlined in their Emergency Operations Plan and it’s related annexes. The Emergency Operations Plan describes the citywide response functions, responsibilities, and capabilities. Each Department’s specific plans, the EOP Hazard Specific Annexes, and the EOP Functional Annexes (such as the Evacuation Annex  **Evacuation Annex pg. 7.** It is difficult to accurately predict the location, frequency, and scale of an emergency or disaster. It is possible, however, to plan and manage an evacuation network and establish evacuation procedures in effort to reduce the adverse impact of a threatened or actual emergency incident. This plan reflects the City of Los Angeles procedures and assigned responsibilities for evacuation missions during the response phase of an emergency incident. The Annex identifies the needed and available evacuation capabilities and resources. It describes how these resources are mobilized.  The evacuation operations described in this Annex are designed to be scalable. The outlined procedures can be used during incidents requiring the evacuation of a geographic area ranging from a few city blocks to an entire City. |

| 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 | **SE pg. 64 Policy 1.1.6.** *State and Federal Regulations.*Assure compliance with applicable State and federal planning and development regulations. Regularly adopt new provisions of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and California Fire Code into the LAMC to ensure that new development meets or exceeds Statewide minimums. Ensure new development in VHFHSZs adheres to the California Building Code, the California Fire Code, Los Angeles Fire Code and California Public Resources Code, including Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 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. Facilitate compliance with new standards for existing non-conforming structures and evacuation routes.  **SE pg. 102.** *Related Plans.* The Los Angeles Municipal Code includes the rules, roles, and regulations including zones and ordinances that govern development and establish requirements and reliefs for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety. It includes the Building Code, Zoning Code and Fire Code in addition to other provisions. |
| Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs? | YES | **SE pg. 65 Policy 1.1.8** *Land Use.*Consider hazard information and available mitigations when making decisions about future land use. Maintain existing low density and open space designations in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Ensure mitigations are incorporated for new development in hazard areas such as VHFHSZs, landslide areas, flood zones and in other areas with limited adaptive capacity. |
| Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements? | YES | **SE pg. 64 Policy 1.1.6.** *State and Federal Regulations.*Assure compliance with applicable State and federal planning and development regulations. Regularly adopt new provisions of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and California Fire Code into the LAMC to ensure that new development meets or exceeds Statewide minimums. Ensure new development in VHFHSZs adheres to the California Building Code, the California Fire Code, Los Angeles Fire Code and California Public Resources Code, including Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 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. Facilitate compliance with new standards for existing non-conforming structures and evacuation routes.  **SE pg. 102.** *Related Plans.* The Los Angeles Municipal Code includes the rules, roles, and regulations including zones and ordinances that govern development and establish requirements and reliefs for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety. It includes the Building Code, Zoning Code and Fire Code in addition to other provisions.  **SE pg. 31.** Today, structures in Fire Districts (including VHFHSZs and Fire District 1) are required to meet specific building and fire code requirements pertaining to fire safety. The provisions of Building Code Section 91.7203, which include standards around projections, fire sprinklers, canopies, and non-conforming buildings, apply to both Fire District 1 and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Buildings in VHFHSZs are also subject to the requirements of Building Code Section 91.7207, which includes additional restrictions on unenclosed under floor areas, utilities, attic openings and roofing. Additionally, these structures are subject to the Los Angeles Fire Code, which requires a 20 foot width for all access roads, brush management within 200 feet of any structure, and sets minimum standards for the size of address numbers |
| Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible? | YES | **SE pg. 64. Policy 1.1.3.** *Facility/Systems Location and Maintenance***.** Locate new critical facilities and infrastructure outside of hazard areas, especially VHFHSZs, when feasible. If no feasible alternative site exists, ensure that these facilities incorporate all necessary protections to allow them to continue to serve essential community needs during and after disaster events. Provide redundancy (back-up) systems and strategies for continuation of adequate critical infrastructure systems and services so as to assure adequate circulation, communications, power, transportation, water and other services for emergency response in the event of disaster related systems disruptions and the growing climate emergency. |
| Are there plans or actions identified to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard? | YES | **SE pg. 64 Policy 1.1.6.** *State and Federal Regulations.*Assure compliance with applicable State and federal planning and development regulations. Regularly adopt new provisions of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and California Fire Code into the LAMC to ensure that new development meets or exceeds Statewide minimums. Ensure new development in VHFHSZs adheres to the California Building Code, the California Fire Code, Los Angeles Fire Code and California Public Resources Code, including Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 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. Facilitate compliance with new standards for existing non-conforming structures and evacuation routes.  **SE pg. 102.** *Related Plans.* The Los Angeles Municipal Code includes the rules, roles, and regulations including zones and ordinances that govern development and establish requirements and reliefs for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety. It includes the Building Code, Zoning Code and Fire Code in addition to other provisions.  **SE pg. 79. Programs.** *#19**Retrofit, Acquisition, or Relocation of Existing Non- Conforming Structures.*Support retrofitting, purchase, or relocation of existing non-conforming structures in hazard-prone (high risk) areas to prevent future structure damage, giving priorities to properties with exposure to repetitive losses and areas with greatest economic need. In keeping with programs 47 and 48, identify best practices and building code amendments to retrofit existing buildings to withstand specific disasters. Track and implement State legislation related to building retrofit in hazard areas. Explore the feasibility of a buy-out program to reduce development in hazard areas. |
| Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire? | YES | **SE pg. 68 Policy 3.1.5.** *Restoration.*Look to the future and rebuild based on the lessons of the past. Prior to a disaster, develop and establish procedures for securing assistance and expediting inspection and permitting activities to facilitate the rapid repair and rebuilding of those parts of the private and public sectors which were damaged or disrupted as a result of the disaster with an added consideration of future safety. Develop and establish procedures to enhance the resilience of buildings and infrastructure that are rebuilt following a disaster. Develop tools to ensure that vulnerable residents and business owners are included in community rebuilding efforts.  **SE pg. 79. Programs.** *#19**Retrofit, Acquisition, or Relocation of Existing Non- Conforming Structures.*Support retrofitting, purchase, or relocation of existing non-conforming structures in hazard-prone (high risk) areas to prevent future structure damage, giving priorities to properties with exposure to repetitive losses and areas with greatest economic need. In keeping with programs 47 and 48, identify best practices and building code amendments to retrofit existing buildings to withstand specific disasters. Track and implement State legislation related to building retrofit in hazard areas. Explore the feasibility of a buy-out program to reduce development in hazard areas. |
| Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | YES | **SE pg. 64 Policy 1.1.6.** *State and Federal Regulations.*Assure compliance with applicable State and federal planning and development regulations. Regularly adopt new provisions of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and California Fire Code into the LAMC to ensure that new development meets or exceeds Statewide minimums. Ensure new development in VHFHSZs adheres to the California Building Code, the California Fire Code, Los Angeles Fire Code and California Public Resources Code, including Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 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. Facilitate compliance with new standards for existing non-conforming structures and evacuation routes.  **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety. *#D.* Coordinate with CALFIRE, local fire agencies, fire safe councils, private landowners, and other responsible agencies to identify the best method(s) of fuel modification to reduce the severity of future wildfires, including Prescribed fire; Forest thinning; Grazing; Mechanical clearing; Hand clearing (piling, burning/chipping); Education; and Defensible space. |
| Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs? | YES | **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety  **SE pg. 88. Program 48.** *Fire Standards and Procedures***.** Maintain and update, as needed, the City’s procedures and standards to facilitate fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, including more effective fire suppression. Continue to ensure adequate peak load water supply in all areas. Determine necessary fire suppression infrastructure needs, including the need for special equipment and technology to address conditions within hillside communities and encampments of unhoused individuals. Develop a Standards of Cover study to assess current performance and plan for future organizational changes required to meet the needs of the City based on population density and demographic changes expected over the next twenty years. Undertake studies to ensure that fire protection standards continue to be met without reliance on mutual aid, regardless of future development. Explore opportunities to better fund fire infrastructure, such as a special assessment district or development fee. In keeping with Program 47, identify additional measures that can assist in fire suppression and evacuation, such as expanding the existing Red Flag parking restrictions to sub-standard streets, fire protection plans specific to a neighborhood or development, and other strategies as identified by LAFD and CAL FIRE. |
| 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 pg. 64 Policy 1.1.5** *Risk Reduction.*Reduce potential risk hazards due to disaster with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable people, places and systems.  **SE pg. 78 Program 16***. Resilience in Wildfire Safety.*Continue to implement wildfire safety programs including brush management, fire road and utility corridor maintenance, red flag parking restrictions, evacuation response, addressing requirements, wildland operation planning, and defensible space landscaping restrictions. Explore integrating more sustainable practices into existing fire prevention strategies that minimize fire hazard, such as prohibiting planting of invasive and fire hazardous vegetation, promoting native landscaping and biodiversity and retaining native trees and native vegetation to support habitat preservation, biodiversity, wildlife connectivity, stormwater infiltration, landscape succession, and carbon sequestration. Revise and enhance plans and programs as risk scenarios change due to climate change. Continue to implement LADWP’s Wildfire Mitigation Plan, which includes standards, vegetation management programs and an inspection and maintenance program. |
| Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs? | YES | **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety. *#B.* Enforce minimum roadway widths and clearances for evacuation and fire suppression. |
| Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined? | YES | **SE pg. 64 Policy 1.1.6.** *State and Federal Regulations.*Assure compliance with applicable State and federal planning and development regulations. Regularly adopt new provisions of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and California Fire Code into the LAMC to ensure that new development meets or exceeds Statewide minimums. Ensure new development in VHFHSZs adheres to the California Building Code, the California Fire Code, Los Angeles Fire Code and California Public Resources Code, including Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 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. Facilitate compliance with new standards for existing non-conforming structures and evacuation routes.  **SE pg. 87. Program 47.** *Evacuation Plans***.** Maintain and update evacuation plans for areas potentially affected by hazards as a part of the Emergency Operations Plan, Evacuation Functional Support Annex, including procedures related to residential developments in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) or other hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes and/or are located on streets less than 20 feet in width. Utilize Hillside Task Force/ working group (which is convened by BOE and includes LACP, LADOT, LADBS and other relevant departments) to study hillside access, develop procedures and advance recommendations to be coordinated with appropriate agencies (LAPD, LADOT, Access Paratransit, LACP, LA County, etc.). Evaluate how best to regulate infill and retrofit existing non-conforming development when creating a 20 foot wide improved access road is not feasible (per LAMC 12.21 C.10(i)(3)). Collaborate across key agencies to provide emergency transportation, traffic control, parking enforcement, and other services during planned incidents and emergencies. Identify infrastructure that can assist in provisioning emergency response and evacuation in these areas, such as specialized vehicles. |
| If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified? | YES | **SE pg. 64 Policy 1.1.6.** *State and Federal Regulations.*Assure compliance with applicable State and federal planning and development regulations. Regularly adopt new provisions of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and California Fire Code into the LAMC to ensure that new development meets or exceeds Statewide minimums. Ensure new development in VHFHSZs adheres to the California Building Code, the California Fire Code, Los Angeles Fire Code and California Public Resources Code, including Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 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. Facilitate compliance with new standards for existing non-conforming structures and evacuation routes.  **SE pg. 87. Program 47.** *Evacuation Plans***.** Maintain and update evacuation plans for areas potentially affected by hazards as a part of the Emergency Operations Plan, Evacuation Functional Support Annex, including procedures related to residential developments in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) or other hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes and/or are located on streets less than 20 feet in width. Utilize Hillside Task Force/ working group (which is convened by BOE and includes LACP, LADOT, LADBS and other relevant departments) to study hillside access, develop procedures and advance recommendations to be coordinated with appropriate agencies (LAPD, LADOT, Access Paratransit, LACP, LA County, etc.). Evaluate how best to regulate infill and retrofit existing non-conforming development when creating a 20 foot wide improved access road is not feasible (per LAMC 12.21 C.10(i)(3)). Collaborate across key agencies to provide emergency transportation, traffic control, parking enforcement, and other services during planned incidents and emergencies. Identify infrastructure that can assist in provisioning emergency response and evacuation in these areas, such as specialized vehicles. |
| 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 pg. 64. Policy 1.1.7** *Building Community Capacity.*Build social cohesion and increase local resilience through community collaboration and education. Provide outreach and education on topics including: local hazards, disaster prevention and preparation and evacuation procedures with an emphasis on reaching vulnerable communities.  **SE pg. 72 Program 1.** *Emergency Operations Master Plan***.** Maintain and implement the City’s Emergency Operations Master Plan and procedures, including staff training and exercises for emergency procedures. Implement citywide data integration systems to support first responders and City departments in identifying the most urgent and highest need situations. Provide resources for people with disabilities that include preparing emergency preparedness manual, assessment of disability needs, and disaster preparedness online planning tool. Expand and maintain communication outreach, including outreach to identified vulnerable populations, for hazards such as tsunamis, wildfires, and earthquakes. |
| Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs? | YES | **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety *#A* Enforce peak water supply / fire flow requirements and ensure that new development is able to sufficiently source water, including in VHFHSZs. |
| Does new development have adequate fire protection? | YES | **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety  **SE pg. 88. Program 48.** *Fire Standards and Procedures***.** Maintain and update, as needed, the City’s procedures and standards to facilitate fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, including more effective fire suppression. Continue to ensure adequate peak load water supply in all areas. Determine necessary fire suppression infrastructure needs, including the need for special equipment and technology to address conditions within hillside communities and encampments of unhoused individuals. Develop a Standards of Cover study to assess current performance and plan for future organizational changes required to meet the needs of the City based on population density and demographic changes expected over the next twenty years. Undertake studies to ensure that fire protection standards continue to be met without reliance on mutual aid, regardless of future development. Explore opportunities to better fund fire infrastructure, such as a special assessment district or development fee. In keeping with Program 47, identify additional measures that can assist in fire suppression and evacuation, such as expanding the existing Red Flag parking restrictions to sub-standard streets, fire protection plans specific to a neighborhood or development, and other strategies as identified by LAFD and CAL FIRE. |

### 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 pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety *#A* Enforce peak water supply / fire flow requirements and ensure that new development is able to sufficiently source water, including in VHFHSZs.  **SE pg. 88. Program 48.** *Fire Standards and Procedures***.** Maintain and update, as needed, the City’s procedures and standards to facilitate fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, including more effective fire suppression. Continue to ensure adequate peak load water supply in all areas. Determine necessary fire suppression infrastructure needs, including the need for special equipment and technology to address conditions within hillside communities and encampments of unhoused individuals. Develop a Standards of Cover study to assess current performance and plan for future organizational changes required to meet the needs of the City based on population density and demographic changes expected over the next twenty years. Undertake studies to ensure that fire protection standards continue to be met without reliance on mutual aid, regardless of future development. Explore opportunities to better fund fire infrastructure, such as a special assessment district or development fee. In keeping with Program 47, identify additional measures that can assist in fire suppression and evacuation, such as expanding the existing Red Flag parking restrictions to sub-standard streets, fire protection plans specific to a neighborhood or development, and other strategies as identified by LAFD and CAL FIRE. |
| Location of anticipated water supply? | YES | **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety *#A* Enforce peak water supply / fire flow requirements and ensure that new development is able to sufficiently source water, including in VHFHSZs.  **SE pg. 88. Program 48.** *Fire Standards and Procedures***.** Maintain and update, as needed, the City’s procedures and standards to facilitate fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, including more effective fire suppression. Continue to ensure adequate peak load water supply in all areas. Determine necessary fire suppression infrastructure needs, including the need for special equipment and technology to address conditions within hillside communities and encampments of unhoused individuals. Develop a Standards of Cover study to assess current performance and plan for future organizational changes required to meet the needs of the City based on population density and demographic changes expected over the next twenty years. Undertake studies to ensure that fire protection standards continue to be met without reliance on mutual aid, regardless of future development. Explore opportunities to better fund fire infrastructure, such as a special assessment district or development fee. In keeping with Program 47, identify additional measures that can assist in fire suppression and evacuation, such as expanding the existing Red Flag parking restrictions to sub-standard streets, fire protection plans specific to a neighborhood or development, and other strategies as identified by LAFD and CAL FIRE. |
| Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies? | YES | **SE pg. 76 Program 12.** *Local Water Supply Resilience.*Reduce LADWP dependence on purchase of imported water by 50% from FY 13/14 baseline. Expand and protect local water sources in areas of water conservation and use efficiency, stormwater capture, water reuse, and groundwater remediation to help reduce dependence on purchased imported water and strengthen the City’s local water supplies. In keeping with Program 10, leverage flood mitigation infrastructure to enhance local water availability and construct stormwater capture infrastructure in areas favorable to groundwater replenishment. Update and report on the Urban Water Management Plans and Integrated Resources Plans every five years to set and evaluate water supply resilience goals. Continue to explore expanding the remediation and use of groundwater. |
| Evacuation and emergency vehicle access? | YES | **SE pg. 64 Policy 1.1.6.** *State and Federal Regulations.*Assure compliance with applicable State and federal planning and development regulations. Regularly adopt new provisions of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and California Fire Code into the LAMC to ensure that new development meets or exceeds Statewide minimums. Ensure new development in VHFHSZs adheres to the California Building Code, the California Fire Code, Los Angeles Fire Code and California Public Resources Code, including Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 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. Facilitate compliance with new standards for existing non-conforming structures and evacuation routes.  **SE pg. 87. Program 47.** *Evacuation Plans***.** Maintain and update evacuation plans for areas potentially affected by hazards as a part of the Emergency Operations Plan, Evacuation Functional Support Annex, including procedures related to residential developments in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) or other hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes and/or are located on streets less than 20 feet in width. Utilize Hillside Task Force/ working group (which is convened by BOE and includes LACP, LADOT, LADBS and other relevant departments) to study hillside access, develop procedures and advance recommendations to be coordinated with appropriate agencies (LAPD, LADOT, Access Paratransit, LACP, LA County, etc.). Evaluate how best to regulate infill and retrofit existing non-conforming development when creating a 20 foot wide improved access road is not feasible (per LAMC 12.21 C.10(i)(3)). Collaborate across key agencies to provide emergency transportation, traffic control, parking enforcement, and other services during planned incidents and emergencies. Identify infrastructure that can assist in provisioning emergency response and evacuation in these areas, such as specialized vehicles.  **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety. *#B.* Enforce minimum roadway widths and clearances for evacuation and fire suppression. |
| Fuel modification and defensible space? | YES | **SE pg. 64 Policy 1.1.6.** *State and Federal Regulations.*Assure compliance with applicable State and federal planning and development regulations. Regularly adopt new provisions of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, and California Fire Code into the LAMC to ensure that new development meets or exceeds Statewide minimums. Ensure new development in VHFHSZs adheres to the California Building Code, the California Fire Code, Los Angeles Fire Code and California Public Resources Code, including Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 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. Facilitate compliance with new standards for existing non-conforming structures and evacuation routes.  **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety. *#D.* Coordinate with CALFIRE, local fire agencies, fire safe councils, private landowners, and other responsible agencies to identify the best method(s) of fuel modification to reduce the severity of future wildfires, including Prescribed fire; Forest thinning; Grazing; Mechanical clearing; Hand clearing (piling, burning/chipping); Education; and Defensible space. |
| Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads? | YES | **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety. *#D.* Coordinate with CALFIRE, local fire agencies, fire safe councils, private landowners, and other responsible agencies to identify the best method(s) of fuel modification to reduce the severity of future wildfires, including Prescribed fire; Forest thinning; Grazing; Mechanical clearing; Hand clearing (piling, burning/chipping); Education; and Defensible space. |
| Visible home and street addressing and signage? | YES | **SE pg. 31.** Today, structures in Fire Districts (including VHFHSZs and Fire District 1) are required to meet specific building and fire code requirements pertaining to fire safety. The provisions of Building Code Section 91.7203, which include standards around projections, fire sprinklers, canopies, and non-conforming buildings, apply to both Fire District 1 and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Buildings in VHFHSZs are also subject to the requirements of Building Code Section 91.7207, which includes additional restrictions on unenclosed under floor areas, utilities, attic openings and roofing. Additionally, these structures are subject to the Los Angeles Fire Code, which requires a 20 foot width for all access roads, brush management within 200 feet of any structure, and sets minimum standards for the size of address numbers  **SE pg. 78 Program 16***. Resilience in Wildfire Safety.*Continue to implement wildfire safety programs including brush management, fire road and utility corridor maintenance, red flag parking restrictions, evacuation response, addressing requirements, wildland operation planning, and defensible space landscaping restrictions. Explore integrating more sustainable practices into existing fire prevention strategies that minimize fire hazard, such as prohibiting planting of invasive and fire hazardous vegetation, promoting native landscaping and biodiversity and retaining native trees and native vegetation to support habitat preservation, biodiversity, wildlife connectivity, stormwater infiltration, landscape succession, and carbon sequestration. Revise and enhance plans and programs as risk scenarios change due to climate change. Continue to implement LADWP’s Wildfire Mitigation Plan, which includes standards, vegetation management programs and an inspection and maintenance program. |
| Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained? | YES | **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety. *#D.* Coordinate with CALFIRE, local fire agencies, fire safe councils, private landowners, and other responsible agencies to identify the best method(s) of fuel modification to reduce the severity of future wildfires, including Prescribed fire; Forest thinning; Grazing; Mechanical clearing; Hand clearing (piling, burning/chipping); Education; and Defensible space. |

### 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 pg. 26 Mapping.** The State additionally requires cities to detail the location and distribution of existing and planned development in State Responsibility Areas and VHFHSZs. Within the LHMP the City provides estimates for population, structures, land use, and community lifelines and infrastructure within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The City considers hazard designations when making zoning decisions, so land within the VHFHSZ is generally designated for open space or low density residential development. The figure on page details General Plan Land Use designations within Very High Fire Hazard Zones. The majority of the VHFHSZ is zoned for open space and low density residential development, with limited commercial, medium residential and industrial land located mostly along the periphery of the VHFHSZ. |
| Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs? | YES | **SE pg. 67 Policy 2.1.6.** *Standards/Fire.*Continue to maintain, enforce and upgrade requirements, procedures and standards to facilitate more effective fire suppression and safety  **SE pg. 88. Program 48.** *Fire Standards and Procedures***.** Maintain and update, as needed, the City’s procedures and standards to facilitate fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, including more effective fire suppression. Continue to ensure adequate peak load water supply in all areas. Determine necessary fire suppression infrastructure needs, including the need for special equipment and technology to address conditions within hillside communities and encampments of unhoused individuals. Develop a Standards of Cover study to assess current performance and plan for future organizational changes required to meet the needs of the City based on population density and demographic changes expected over the next twenty years. Undertake studies to ensure that fire protection standards continue to be met without reliance on mutual aid, regardless of future development. Explore opportunities to better fund fire infrastructure, such as a special assessment district or development fee. In keeping with Program 47, identify additional measures that can assist in fire suppression and evacuation, such as expanding the existing Red Flag parking restrictions to sub-standard streets, fire protection plans specific to a neighborhood or development, and other strategies as identified by LAFD and CAL FIRE. |
| Are goals or standards for emergency services training described? | YES | **SE pg. 34.** **Interagency Coordination**. Fire and police departments and other emergency response personnel participate with like agencies in other jurisdictions in training exercises and network coordination. More information on interagency coordination as it pertains to wildfire response is available in the Brush Fire Annex of the Emergency Operations Plan.  **Brush Fire Annex pg. 6.** *Scope.* Effective incident management begins with a host of preparedness activities conducted well in advance of any potential incident. Preparedness involves an integrated combination of planning; training; exercises; personnel qualification and certification standards; equipment acquisition and certification standards; and publication management processes and activities. |
| Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements? | YES | **SE pg. 34.** **Interagency Coordination**. Fire and police departments and other emergency response personnel participate with like agencies in other jurisdictions in training exercises and network coordination. More information on interagency coordination as it pertains to wildfire response is available in the Brush Fire Annex of the Emergency Operations Plan.  **Brush Fire Annex pg. 6.** *Scope.* Effective incident management begins with a host of preparedness activities conducted well in advance of any potential incident. Preparedness involves an integrated combination of: planning; training; exercises; personnel qualification and certification standards; equipment acquisition and certification standards; and publication management processes and activities. |

# 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.