



STATE MINIMUM FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS FACT SHEET

What are the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations?

The State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations are statewide, minimum standards for wildfire protection and access to new construction in wildfire-prone areas that have been in place since 1991. Adopted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (the Board), these regulations include: (1) Road standards for fire equipment access; (2) Standards for signs identifying streets, roads, and buildings; (3) Minimum private water supply reserves for emergency fire use; and (4) Fuel breaks and greenbelts. On July 1, 2021, applicability of these standards was expanded to include Local Responsibility Areas (areas where cities and counties maintain responsibility for wildland fire) in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ).

A copy of the current regulations can be found [here](#).

Where do the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations apply?

The State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations apply to construction in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) in the Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs).

When were these regulations last updated?

The Board approved changes to the regulations to comply with SB 901 (Chapter 626, Statutes of 2018) at their August 2022 meeting. The changes are being reviewed by the Office of Administrative Law and are not yet effective.

What changes did the Board approve in August 2022?

The Board approved changes to clarify who is responsible for enforcing regulations, to preserve undeveloped ridgelines and to create standards for fuel breaks and greenbelts near and around communities. These amendments improve the consistency of how these regulations are applied, and to help reduce fire risk when construction is occurring on or near ridgelines. There were no changes made to the standards for road or driveway access, building and road signing, or water supply requirements.

A copy of the approved regulations can be found [here](#).

When will the new regulations go into effect?

The regulations are under review with the Office of Administrative Law and will likely go into effect in early 2023.

Can a local government apply a more stringent requirement than what is in the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations?

Yes. If a local requirement is equal to or exceeds the relevant requirement in the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, that local requirement may be applied instead of the state minimum.

Do the new regulations mean that our community's certified local ordinances are unenforceable?

While the Board is no longer certifying local ordinances as meeting or exceeding the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, any local requirement that is stricter than the state minimum, that stricter requirement may continue to be enforced.

What is the purpose of the new regulations? Why are they necessary?

Public Resources Code 4290 requires the Board to write regulations "for fuel breaks and greenbelts near communities to provide greater fire safety for the perimeters to all residential, commercial, and industrial building construction within state responsibility areas and lands classified and designated as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 51177 of the Government Code, after July 1, 2021."

Public Resources Code 4290 also requires that "these regulations shall include measures to preserve undeveloped ridgelines to reduce fire risk and improve fire protection."



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Additional Information:

[Fire Hazard Severity Zone \(FHSZ\) information.](#)

[Fire Hazard Severity Zone map.](#)

[CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal’s Land Use Planning Program.](#)

[CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal’s Building in the Wildland.](#)

Contact:

landuseplanning@bof.ca.gov