

# General Plan Safety Element Assessment

## Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



Siskiyou County 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)).<sup>\*</sup> 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 staff from 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: Siskiyou County	Notes:	CAL FIRE Unit: SKU	Date Received: 4/28/2025
County: Siskiyou	LUPP Reviewer: DC Shane Vargas	UNIT CONTACT: UC Greg Roath	Date Reviewed: 6/3/2025

## 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? <i>CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps</i>	Yes	<p>SE, p. 18, Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ),  SE, p. 18, Figure 4: Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs), CAL FIRE 2025,  SE, p. 19, Additional Information Available – Appendix B – Page 101,  SE, p. 19, Additional Information Available – Appendix C – Page 110,  SE, p. 93, Reference 6 - Fire Hazard Severity Zones,  SE, p. 101 - 109, Appendix B,  SE, p. 110, Appendix C - Distribution of Land Uses in VHFHSZs and SRAs</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Include language referencing the most current FHSZ maps on the CAL FIRE FRAP website and create a link to it. Avoid referencing specific FHSZ dates on maps and other documents, this makes the SE out of compliance when a new version of FHSZ maps is released. It is recommended that LRA FHSZ maps are adopted by ordinance per GC 51179.</p>

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
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, p. 19, Additional Information Available – Appendix A – Page 95, SE, p. 93, Reference 7 - CAL FIRE Emergency Incident Search, SE, p. 95 - 100, Appendix A - Past Wildfires in Siskiyou County,  <b>Recommendation:</b> Strengthen this by adding a description and link to the CAL FIRE Historical Fire Perimeters webpage found here: <a href="https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-resource-assessment-program/fire-perimeters">https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-resource-assessment-program/fire-perimeters</a> ,
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?	No	<b>Comment:</b> The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either "final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.
Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified?	Yes	SE, p. 16, Fire Prevention, SE, p. 16, Figure 3: Fire Protection Responsibility Areas, CAL FIRE 2025,

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>SE, p. 17, Table 1: Local Fire Protection Agencies,  SE, p. 58, Yreka Interagency Command Center (YICC),  SE, p. 125, The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Add additional language identifying the offices of emergency services (OES) jurisdictional responsibilities. Have the agencies with responsibility for fire protection and the areas they are responsible for depicted on a map.</p>
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?	No	<p><b>Comment:</b> The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either "final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.</p>
Are residential developments in fire hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified?	Yes	<p>SE, p. 6, Chapter 8, "Evacuation Planning",  SE, p. 61 - 83, Chapter 8 Evacuation Planning,  SE, p. 91, Goal #7,  SE, p. 91, Policy 7.1,  SE, p. 122, Appendix E - Residential</p>

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p><b>Recommendation:</b> It is recommended to use GC § 65302(g)(5) in lieu of SB 99. Senate bill numbers are reused and reference different bills each year, possibly leading the reader to the wrong bill language.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Siskiyou County Safety Element does not identify residential developments without two evacuation routes for incorporated Cities within the County. Data or information located within the City General Plans and Safety Elements may be different and conflicting.</p> <p>It is recommended that this is a more in-depth analysis with validation that the entire Unincorporated County has been assessed.</p>
Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified?	No	<p><b>Comment:</b> SE, Appendix E, Pages 63-83, does not identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios as required by GC 65302.17. The Siskiyou County SE identifies that this is required in Appendix F on page 131.</p>



Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either "final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.

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

## GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, AND FEASIBLE IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

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

*Instructions for this table: Critically examine the submitted safety element and determine if it is adequate to address the jurisdiction's unique fire hazard. Answer YES or NO appropriately for each question below. If the recommendation is irrelevant or unrelated to the jurisdiction's fire hazard, answer N/A. For NO, provide*

information in the Comments/Recommendations section to help the jurisdiction incorporate that change into their safety element revision. This information may utilize example recommendations from Sample Safety Element Recommendations and Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan below, may indicate how high of a priority this recommendation is for a jurisdiction, or may include other jurisdiction-specific information or recommendations.

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

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Does local ordinance require development standards that meet or exceed title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) ( <b>SRA Fire Safe Regulations</b> ) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) ( <b>Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations</b> ) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs?	No	<b>Comment:</b> In the Goals, Policies, and Actions, Pages 84-87, there is no language addressing the recommendations for this section or referencing adopted local ordinances that meet or exceed these minimum State requirements. Some of the policies within these pages refer to the CAL FIRE requirements. CAL FIRE does not have any requirements for fire-safe design for future developments. Requirements are either in the State statutes, codes, or regulations, or local ordinances. Appendix F on page 126 outlines some of these requirements, but the SE does not state that these minimum requirements are to be adhered to.
Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs?	No	<b>Comment:</b> This is mentioned in SE, p. 85-86, Policy 1.4, but it is not clearly addressed. Later on p. 87, Policy 1.8 it recognizes the need to create a plan to develop these goals and policies, which enforces the idea that existing goals and policies do not exist. Additionally, Policy 1.8 states per "CAL FIRE requirements". CAL FIRE does not have any requirements for fire-safe design for future developments. Requirements are either in the State statutes, codes, or regulations, or local ordinances.

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements?	No	<b>Comment:</b> Goals, Policies, and Actions on pages 84-87 do not require that fire safe design has been incorporated into future development requirements. Policy 1.9 on page 87 states per “CAL FIRE requirements”. CAL FIRE does not have any requirements for fire-safe design for future developments. Requirements are either in the State statutes, codes, or regulations, or local ordinances.
Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible?	Yes	SE, p. 87, Policy 1.10, SE, p. 90, Policy 6.4  <b>Recommendation:</b> Add language to SE, p. 90, Policy 6.4 for these facilities to be located outside of high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when 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?	No	<b>Comments:</b> There is no language in Safety Element Goals, Policies, and Actions, pages 84-87, or in Policy 1.2, page 84, Policy 1.4, page 85, or Policy 1.5, page 86, that addresses plans or actions to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards, and vegetative hazard.
Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire?	No	<b>Comments:</b> There is no language in Safety Element Goals, Policies, and Actions, pages 84-87, or in Policy 1.9 on page 87, that includes policies to evaluate redevelopment after a large fire. Policy 1.9 on page 87 states per “CAL FIRE requirements”. CAL FIRE does not have any requirements for fire-safe design for future developments. Requirements are either in the State statutes, codes, or regulations, or local ordinances.
Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	Yes	SE, p. 85, Policy 1.4

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs?	Yes	<p>SE, p. 85, Policy 1.4</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Ensure that SE, p. 85, policy 1.4 addresses these items in a Fire Protection Plan at a minimum.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Wildfire Hazard Assessment – Considerations of location, topography, aspect, climate, and fire history.</li> <li>2.) Conformance with all applicable state wildfire protection regulations, statutes, and applicable local ordinances, whichever are more restrictive.</li> <li>3.) Fire Safety Requirements (PRC 4291) – Defensible Space,</li> </ol>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>Infrastructure, and Building Ignition Resistance, (PRC 4290) – Fire Department access, egress, road and address signage, and water supply.</p> <p>4.) Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations for Non-Conforming Fuel Modification</p> <p>5.) Wildfire Education, Maintenance, and Limitations</p> <p>6.) Fire Response Capabilities</p> <p>7.) Evacuation Planning</p>
Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance?	No	<p><b>Comments:</b> The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either "final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.</p>
Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs?	No	<p><b>Comments:</b> No road map to the location where this information is located within the SE was provided by Siskiyou County. Unable to locate any information addressing this recommendation during the Formal Review.</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined?	Yes	<p>SE, p. 58, Local Police Departments,  SE, p. 58, Local Fire Departments,  SE, p. 60, ReadySiskiyou – Alerts,  SE, p. 60, Alerts and Evacuation Procedures  SE, p. 61, Chapter 8: Evacuation Planning</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> It is recommended to strengthen the language to define the minimum standards for the evacuation of residential areas clearly.</p>
If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified?	No	<p><b>Comments:</b> Appendix E, page 122, identifies Residential Developments without Two Evacuation Routes. This does not address inadequate access, mitigation measures or improvement plans.</p> <p>The SE does not state that a complete review of the Unincorporated County was completed to gather this information.</p> <p>Appendix E identifies residential developments without two evacuation routes for incorporated Cities within the County. Data or information located within the City General Plans and Safety Elements may be different and conflicting.</p> <p>The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		"final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.
Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations?	No	<p><b>Comments:</b> SE, p. 84, Policy 1.2 does not address programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes and does not outline any specific plans to reach at-risk populations.</p> <p>The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either "final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.</p>
Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs?	Yes	SE, p. 84, Policy 1.3
Does new development have adequate fire protection?	No	<p><b>Comments:</b> SE, p. 85, Policy 1.4 requires the preparation of a Fire Protection Plan for new development that minimizes risk by:  Determination of fire response capability, including the assistance of local fire protection agencies, and availability of local resources.</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>This policy does not require new development to have adequate fire protection.</p> <p>The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either "final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.</p>

## 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, p. 84, Policy 1.3
Location of anticipated water supply?	Yes	SE, p. 84, Policy 1.3
Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies?	Yes	SE, p. 84, Policy 1.3
Evacuation and emergency vehicle access?	Yes	<p>SE, p. 85, Policy 1.4</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> It is recommended that the language in this Policy be strengthened by defining the road standards for evacuation routes and vehicle access for new development, or address the recommendation in Section 1: 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) (<b><u>SRA Fire Safe Regulations</u></b>) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (<b><u>Fire Hazard Reduction</u></b>)</p>



Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<b><u>Around Buildings and Structures Regulations</u></b> ) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs?
Fuel modification and defensible space?	Yes	<p>SE, p. 84, Policy 1.2, SE, p. 85, Policy 1.4</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> It is recommended that the language in this Policy be strengthened by defining the requirements for fuel modification and defensible space for new development, or address the recommendation in Section 1: 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) (<b><u>SRA Fire Safe Regulations</u></b>) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (<b><u>Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations</u></b>) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs?</p>
Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads?	No	<p><b>Comments:</b> SE, p. 84, Goal #1, Policy 1.1 - 1.10 does not address vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads.</p> <p>The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA</p>

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either "final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.
Visible home and street addressing and signage?	Yes	SE, p. 85, Policy 1.4  <b>Recommendation:</b> It is recommended that the language in this Policy be strengthened by defining the requirements for visible home and street addressing and signage for new development, or address the recommendation in Section 1: 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) ( <b><u>SRA Fire Safe Regulations</u></b> ) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) ( <b><u>Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations</u></b> ) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs?
Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained?	No	<b>Comments:</b> The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		"final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.

### Section 3 Working 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?	No	<b>Comments:</b> The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either "final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.
Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs?	No	<b>Comments:</b> The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either "final" or "expired". The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in "expired" status.
Are goals or standards for emergency services training described?	No	<b>Comments:</b> The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is unavailable as a referenced document because it has not received FEMA final approval. To get the FEMA final approval, the jurisdiction's governing board must formally adopt the plan, and the resolution

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		must be submitted to FEMA before they issue the final approved and adopted letter. The only official LHMP status designations are either “final” or “expired”. The Siskiyou County LHMP is currently in “expired” status.
Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements?	Yes	<p>SE, p. 57, Emergency Management, SE, p. 86, Policy 1.6</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Strengthen language by identifying and referencing the mutual aid and multi-agency agreements. Include more information on the role and responsibility of the United States Forest Service (USFS).</p>

## 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.