

General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



Palm Desert

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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](#)).^{*} 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: Palm Desert	Notes: 3 rd Informal	CAL FIRE Unit: Riverside	Date Received:
County: Riverside	LUPP Reviewer: Redden	UNIT CONTACT:	Date Reviewed: 11/17/2021

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	Figure 8.5 Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Page 122)
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	“Palm Desert does not have record of any reported fire incidents, the Riverside County LHMP indicates that from 2001 to 2017” Fire (Page 120)
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	Figure 8.5 Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Page 122) “...with very limited VHFHSZ and HFHSZ in SRAs along the city’s urban edge (Cal Fire 2020). Within the city limits, the VHFHSZ overlaps minimally with some single-family residences on Canyon View Drive and Desert Vista Drive; however, there is no developable land in the VHFHSZ as it contains marginal hillside area behind single family residences and does not have any development potential. The small area of HFHSZ within the city limits covers undeveloped desert land and an aboveground water tank and has no development potential.”
Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified?	Yes	“Five federal agencies are responsible for wildland fire management—U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service.” Fire (Page 120)
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	“The City’s Desert Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is the central management entity responsible for directing and coordinating the various City departments and other agencies in their emergency response activities.” “The EOP provides guidance for activation and deactivation of an Emergency Operations Center, including an action plan for the EOC in event of an emergency.” Emergency Preparedness (Page 125) Policy 1.2 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Maintain and regularly update the City’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) as an integrated component of the General Plan, in

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		coordination with Riverside County and other participating jurisdictions, to maintain eligibility for maximum grant funding. (Page 128)
Are residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified?	Yes	“A process to identify evacuation routes appropriate to given hazards is established in the City’s EOP. City departments are responsible for development of department specific Standard Operating Procedures and Response Plans with evacuation routes, with varied priorities based on hazard.” Evacuations Routes (Page 125)
Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified?	Yes	“A process to identify evacuation routes appropriate to given hazards is established in the City’s EOP. City departments are responsible for development of department specific Standard Operating Procedures and Response Plans with evacuation routes, with varied priorities based on hazard.” Evacuations Routes (Page 125)

Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs?
N/A

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?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The SRA/VHFHSZ areas are minimal and do not have development potential at all. “...with very limited VHFHSZ and HFHSZ in SRAs along the city's urban edge (Cal Fire 2020). Within the city limits, the VHFHSZ overlaps minimally with some single-family residences on Canyon View Drive and Desert Vista Drive; however, there is no developable land in the VHFHSZ as it contains marginal hillside area behind single family residences and does not have any development potential. The small area of HFHSZ within the city limits covers undeveloped desert land and an aboveground water tank and has no development potential.”
Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The VHFHSZ area is minimal and has no developable land. “Within the city limits, the VHFHSZ overlaps minimally with some single-family residences on Canyon View Drive and Desert Vista Drive; however, there is no developable land in the VHFHSZ as it contains marginal hillside area behind single family residences and does not have any development potential.”
Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The SRA/VHFHSZ areas are minimal and do not have development potential at all. “...with very limited VHFHSZ and HFHSZ in SRAs along the city's urban edge (Cal Fire 2020). Within the city limits, the VHFHSZ overlaps minimally with some single-family residences on Canyon View Drive and Desert Vista Drive; however, there is no developable land in the VHFHSZ as it contains marginal hillside area behind single family residences and does not have any development potential. The small area of HFHSZ within the city limits covers undeveloped desert land and an aboveground water tank and has no development potential.”
Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible?	Yes	Policy 4.8 New Essential Public Facilities. When planning new essential public facilities for the SOI, avoid locations within any state responsibility area or very high

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		fire hazard severity zone. If not possible, mandate construction methods or other measures to ensure minimal damage to the facilities. (Page 130)
Are there plans or actions identified to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard?	Yes	Policy 4.9 Existing development in Fire Hazard Zones. Direct the Planning Department Code Compliance Division to identify and track properties that are not in conformance with contemporary fire safe standards adopted by the City, especially of road standards and vegetative hazard. Reach out to these property owners during redevelopment or other permitting processes to work out a mitigation plan to achieve conformance. (Page 131)
Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire?	Yes	Policy 4.10 Redevelopment in Fire Hazard Zones. Require all redevelopment in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) to comply with the latest California Building Standards Code (Title 24), including the California Fire Code (Part 9). Coordinate with the Fire Department on evaluation of rebuilding after a large fire and require implementation of fire safe design and additional measures where necessary. (Page 131)
Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	Yes	Policy 4.3 Brush Clearance. Require new development and homeowner's associations to maintain brush clearance criteria that meets 120% of the current state requirement for fire hazard severity zones in the city. (Page 130)
Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The VHFHSZ area is minimal and has no developable land. "Within the city limits, the VHFHSZ overlaps minimally with some single-family residences on Canyon View Drive and Desert Vista Drive; however, there is no developable land in the VHFHSZ as it contains marginal hillside area behind single family residences and does not have any development potential."
Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance?	Yes	Policy 4.11 Long Term Fire Hazard Reduction. Coordinate with the Fire Department and consult with private property owners, homeowner associations and other organizations to identify roadside fuel reduction plan, otherwise provide for the long-term maintenance of defensible space clearances around structures and include fire breaks in the VHFHSZ where appropriate. (Page 131)
Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The VHFHSZ area is minimal and has no developable land. "Within the city limits, the VHFHSZ overlaps minimally with some single-family residences on Canyon View Drive and Desert Vista Drive; however, there is no developable land in the VHFHSZ as it contains marginal hillside area behind single family residences and does not have any development potential."
Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined?	Yes	"Currently, the main evacuation route in the area is via Canyon View Drive, which will lead to Portola Avenue and Highway 74. A secondary evacuation route is available at the eastern end of Ridge View Way, via an access road along the eastern boundary

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		of the Ironwood Country Club, to continue north or east into the roadway network. These areas that encroach into SRA/VHFHSZ within the city meet the minimum standard of two emergency evacuation routes as established in Government Code Section 65302.g.” (Page 120)
If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified?	Yes	Page 120: Adequate access/evacuation routes are identified for SRA/VHFHSZ in the City: “Currently, the main evacuation route in the area is via Canyon View Drive, which will lead to Portola Avenue and Highway 74. A secondary evacuation route is available at the eastern end of Ridge View Way, via an access road along the eastern boundary of the Ironwood Country Club, to continue north or east into the roadway network.”
Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations?	Yes	Policy 4.11 Long Term Fire Hazard Reduction. Coordinate with the Fire Department and consult with private property owners, homeowner associations and other organizations to identify roadside fuel reduction plan, otherwise provide for the long-term maintenance of defensible space clearances around structures and include fire breaks in the VHFHSZ where appropriate. (Page 131) Policy 1.3 “Hazards Education. Consult with agencies and partners to provide public education materials on safe locations and evacuation routes in case of emergency or hazardous event.” (Page 128)
Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs?	Yes	“The CVWD continues to expand recycled water services to golf courses and other nonpotable needs to reduce peak-load supply. Typically, demand is highest during summer months because of water needs for landscaping. Demand for recycled water exceeds the CVWD’s current supply and would require additional infrastructure for recycled water connections. The district has plans to expand pipeline connections to the Mid-Valley Pipeline (MVP) recycled water system, with the potential to connect at least 10 additional golf courses. Completion of the MVP project would further reduce demands on groundwater and enhance the City’s ability to meet peak-load water supplies during an emergency.” (Page 125) Policy 7.4 Water pressure. Ensure that sufficient water service and pressure is available throughout the city for use in firefighting. (Page 138) Policy 7.5 Recycled water for fire Suppression. Consult with the CVWD to support efforts to expand reclaimed water supply from municipal wastewater for fire suppression needs. (Page 138) Policy 1.6 Utility Reliability. Coordinate with providers and agencies including the CVWD and Southern California Edison for access to reliable utilities and water supply to minimize potential impacts of hazards and emergencies to pipelines and infrastructure. (Page 128)

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		Policy 4.1 Fire Preparation. Maintain optimal fire readiness and response service in coordination with Riverside County and other agencies. Review inter-jurisdictional fire response agreements and ensure that the agreements and firefighting resources, including water supply, can meet current and future needs, including increased demand from new development and changing fire regimes. (Page 130)
Does new development have adequate fire protection?	Yes	Policy 4.6 "Future Emergency Service Needs. Require new developments and homeowners' associations along the wildland urban interface to house the proper equipment and infrastructure to respond to wildland fire incidents." (Page 130)

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?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The SRA/VHFHSZ areas are minimal and do not have development potential at all. "...with very limited VHFHSZ and HFHSZ in SRAs along the city's urban edge (Cal Fire 2020). Within the city limits, the VHFHSZ overlaps minimally with some single-family residences on Canyon View Drive and Desert Vista Drive; however, there is no developable land in the VHFHSZ as it contains marginal hillside area behind single family residences and does not have any development potential. The small area of HFHSZ within the city limits covers undeveloped desert land and an aboveground water tank and has no development potential."
Location of anticipated water supply?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The SRA/VHFHSZ areas are minimal and do not have development potential at all.
Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The SRA/VHFHSZ areas are minimal and do not have development potential at all.
Evacuation and emergency vehicle access?	Yes	Policy 4.2 Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Adopt and implement fire mitigation standards for areas designated as High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones per CalFire, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression. (Page 130)
Fuel modification and defensible space?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The SRA/VHFHSZ areas are minimal and do not have development potential at all.
Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads?	Not Applicable	Page 120: not applicable due to local conditions. The SRA/VHFHSZ areas are minimal and do not have development potential at all.
Visible home and street addressing and signage?	Yes	Policy 4.2 Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Adopt and implement fire mitigation standards for areas designated as High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones per CalFire, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression. (Page 130)

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained?	Yes	Policy 4.11 Long Term Fire Hazard Reduction. Coordinate with the Fire Department and consult with private property owners, homeowner associations and other organizations to identify roadside fuel reduction plan, otherwise provide for the long-term maintenance of defensible space clearances around structures and include fire breaks in the VHFHSZ where appropriate. (Page 131)

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?	Yes	<p>Page 125 “Emergency Operations Center ...The City’s Emergency Operations Plan establishes City Hall as the primary EOC, with an alternate center located at the City Corporation Yard. The EOP provides guidance for activation and deactivation of an Emergency Operations Center, including an action plan for the EOC in event of an emergency.”</p> <p>Page 126 “Emergency Services Agencies and Organizations The City’s Risk Management Department coordinates and manages Palm Desert’s emergency services and providers. The City’s Risk Manager serves as the community’s emergency manager. Fire protection, first response emergency medical services, and natural disaster preparedness services in Palm Desert are provided by the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD), in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). As of 2015, Palm Desert had a total Fire Department staffing of 44 positions.</p> <p>Emergency Dispatch Services Regional communications and dispatch services are provided by the RCFD, which serves approximately 1,360,000 residents in an area spanning 7,200 square miles. RCFD is an all risk, full-service fire department with three fire stations located strategically throughout the City of Palm Desert to provide highly effective protection: Station 71 serving North Palm Desert at 73995 Country Club Drive, Station 33 serving Central Palm Desert at 44400 Town Center Way, and Station 67 serving South Palm Desert at 73200 Mesa View Drive. The city participates in a regional cooperative agreement and benefits from resources responding from other nearby stations, ensuring that peak loads and major incidents are handled promptly. In 2013, the RCFD responded to 133,536 total incidents and 8,172 calls for service in Palm Desert. The average en-route-to-on-scene response time was 3.6 minutes, with 86.2 percent of call response under 5 minutes. There are no service gaps in the city. All areas within the city, including those in SRAs/VHFHSZ, receive adequate emergency services.”</p>

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs?	Yes	<p>Addressed in General Plan Chapter 9: Public Utilities & Services right after Chapter 8: Safety (Element).</p> <p>Policy 7.3 Serving new growth. Expand police and fire service coverage in conjunction with new growth to ensure quality of service does not diminish. (Page 138)</p> <p>Policy 7.5 Recycled water for fire Suppression. Consult with the CVWD to support efforts to expand reclaimed water supply from municipal wastewater for fire suppression needs. (Page 138)</p> <p>Policy 7.8 Fire and emergency services. Continue to coordinate with Riverside County Fire Department to ensure continued excellent fire and emergency services. (Page 138)</p>
Are goals or standards for emergency services training described?	Yes	<p>Policy 1.7 "Citizen Preparedness. Continue to promote citizen-based disaster preparedness and emergency response through Riverside County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and certifications." (Page 128)</p> <p>Addressed in General Plan Chapter 9: Public Utilities & Services right after Chapter 8: Safety (Element). (Page 138)</p> <p>Policy 7.7 Emergency Preparedness. Work with Riverside County Fire Department, the Riverside County Sherriff's Department and the Palm Desert Police Department, along with residents to ensure that sufficient emergency plans and resources are established and known by all stakeholders.</p> <p>Policy 7.8 Fire and emergency services. Continue to coordinate with Riverside County Fire Department to ensure continued excellent fire and emergency services.</p> <p>Policy 7.9 Police services. Work with all available resources to ensure continued excellent and cost effective police services in Palm Desert.</p>
Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements?	Yes	<p>Page 126 "Regional communications and dispatch services are provided by the RCFD, which serves approximately 1,360,000 residents in an area spanning 7,200 square miles... The city participates in a regional cooperative agreement and benefits from resources responding from other nearby stations, ensuring that peak loads and major incidents are handled promptly."</p> <p>Page 127 "Regional Services and Coordination</p> <p>The City of Palm Desert participates in regional forums to monitor and coordinate emergency preparation tasks. The city participates in the Coachella Valley Emergency Managers Association, in addition to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments' (CVAG) Public Safety Group. Both forums provide an opportunity to identify and prepare regional evacuation routes and other key emergency response tasks."</p>

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		Policy 1.5 "Emergency Plans and Processes. Consult with the Coachella Valley Emergency Managers Association and CVAG to maintain and update the City's Emergency Operations Plan and maintain SEMS compliant disaster preparedness plans for evacuation and supply routes, communications networks, and critical facilities' capabilities." (Page 128)

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.