

WFPD HAZARD AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- January 25th WFPD Board OF DIRECTORS authorized and directed Fire Marshal to fund and conduct a comprehensive hazard and risk assessment of the fire district.
- Assessment results will designate Fire Severity Zones throughout the district
- Board also directed the FM to seeks its approval to “adopt state regulations for minimum fire safety standards related to defensible space” applicable to “the perimeters and access to all residential, commercial and industrial building construction” within the VHFSZs
- Existing maps are 14 years-old and the district and residents would benefit from a thorough new assessment of the hazards and risks that exist on the landscape today.

CALFIRES MINIMUM FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

- The regulations detail minimum fire safe standards for structures, subdivisions, developments, roads and driveways, signage, water supply, emergency access and egress, perimeter wildfire protection, as well as building setbacks, fuel breaks, greenbelts, and measures to protect undeveloped ridgelines within the designated VHFSZs.

CALFIRES RISK REDUCTION COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

According to CAL FIRE identification and designation of our highest hazard fire areas is the first, and most important step responsible communities can take to reduce their risk. These designations are needed to:

- Ensure that we fully comprehend the magnitude and severity of the hazards we confront, have adequate resources in place before a wildfire, and have the critical advance knowledge the fire service needs to anticipate fire behavior and manage both suppression and evacuation.

CALFIRES RISK REDUCTION COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

- Educate decision -makers and the public about the hazards we face so they can take appropriate land use, building and emergency response steps to reduce risks.
- Help qualify for public and private grant funding to mitigate the risks, retrofit our homes and neighborhoods, and provide suitable defensible space, evacuation routes and mitigation measures to protect the community.

CALFIRES RISK REDUCTION COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

- Public resource Code 4290.1 requires Cal fire to establish criteria to identify communities that follow “Best Practices” for community risk reduction.
- 10 criteria (4 mandatory and 6 optional) to qualify for listing as a risk reduction community <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/regulations/proposed-rule-packages/>
- Communities that make the list receive preferential scoring for Cal fire grant funding for wildfire mitigation and planning.
- First – mandatory – criterion for a risk reduction community is adoption of a local ordinance identifying and designating all VHFHSZs within the communities Local Response Area (LRA)

CALFIRES RISK REDUCTION COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

- To get on the list, a community must satisfy all 4 mandatory criteria and at least 2 of the 6 optional criteria

Mandatory Criteria:

1. Town Ordinance designating VHFHSZs
2. Submission of parcel maps for VHFHSZs based on State’s minimum regulations
3. Submission with past 8 years of updated safety element that addresses wildfire
4. Report on compliance with Cal Fire recommendations

CALFIRES RISK REDUCTION COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Optional Criteria

1. Ordinance adopting minimum fire safe development
2. Ordinance adopting defensible space standards
3. Ordinance adopting a WUI code more restrictive than the State's
4. Zoning or special district ordinance with fire mitigation requirements that exceed State minimum requirements
5. Ordinance for comprehensive retrofit of existing homes
6. A declaration of wildfire as a high priority hazard

WHY COMPREHENSIVE HAZARD AND RISK ASSESSMENT?

A comprehensive assessment of the local conditions that affect fire behavior and expansion within our natural and built environment will enable all of us – the district, other local agencies, and District residents – to anticipate and hopefully abate or mitigate the most hazardous existing conditions that can intensify and accelerate the expansion and spread of wildfire in our neighborhoods and communities. The assessment will enable and facilitate:

- Appropriate hiring, training, and preparation of emergency resources
- Rapid and effective tactical and strategic emergency response

WHY COMPREHENSIVE HAZARD AND RISK ASSESSMENT?

- Prudent land use planning
- Implementation of Cal Fire minimum fire safe building development regulations
- Education of residents and local officials; and
- Public and private funding of fire prevention and mitigation programs

THANK YOU

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