

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Defending
you from
threats
associated
with wildfire



WHY WERE FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES CREATED?

The Legislature mandates the State Fire Marshal designate fire hazard severity zones and assign to each zone a rating reflecting the degree of severity of fire hazard.

HOW WERE FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES DETERMINED?

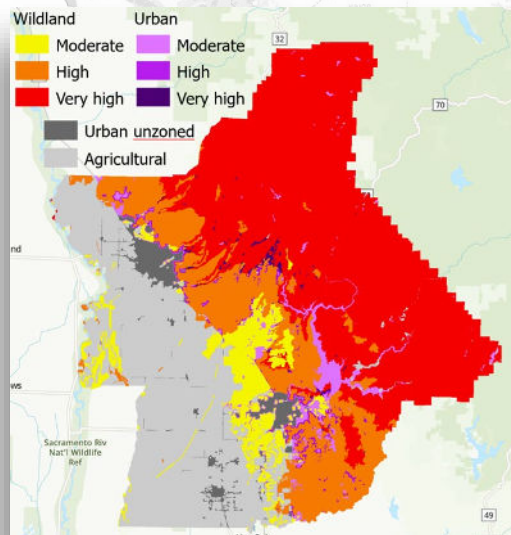
Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps are developed using a science-based and field-tested model. With the new update the latest technology and science are being included into the maps and will include new factors like land use changes, significant extreme wind event data, as well as a model that is more spatially detailed.

WHAT DOES THE MAP EVALUATE?

The Maps evaluate “Hazard,” not “Risk.”

Hazard is based on physical conditions that create Expected fire behavior over a 30-to-50-year period without considering short-term modifications.

Risk is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, including fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction.



FIRE HAZARD ELEMENTS

Vegetation

Naturally occurring fuel for a wildfire that varies over time.

Topography

Fire moves rapidly and intensifies up steep slopes.

Climate

Fire moves faster in hot, dry, and windy conditions.

Crown Fire Potential

A fire burning from tree top to tree top.

Ember Production

Burning embers spread fire up to five miles away.

Fire History

Past fire occurrence over multiple decades.

Wind

Increases intensity and spread of fire.

TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

FHSZCOMMENTS@FIRE.CA.GOV

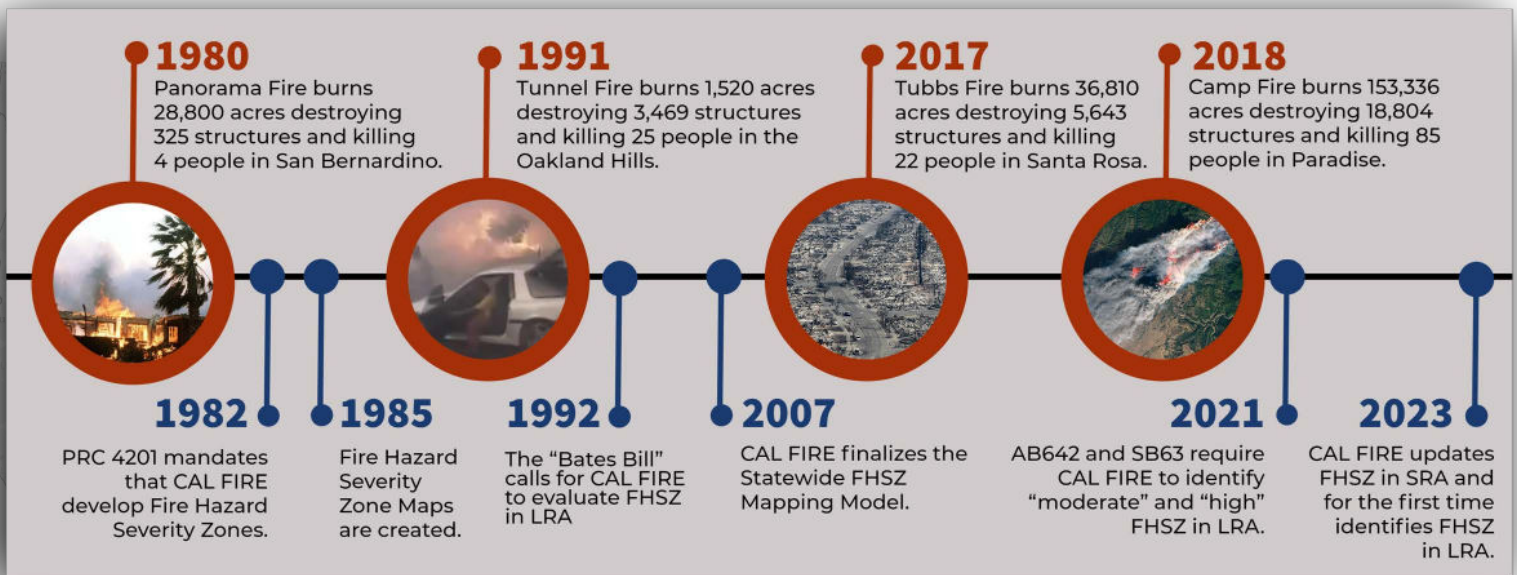
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SOME REQUIREMENTS WITHIN FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

Requirements may vary based on Fire Hazard Severity Zone and State Responsibility Area (SRA) and Local Responsibility Area (LRA).

- Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure ([CBC Chapter 7A](#)).
- Natural hazard real estate disclosure at time of sale ([CA CIV 1102.19](#)).
- 100-foot Defensible Space Clearance Requirements ([CA PRC 4291](#)).
- Property development standards such as road widths, water supply and signage ([CA PRC 4290](#)).
- Consideration during future development of Cities and Counties ([General Plans](#)).

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SRA AND LRA?

- **State Responsibility Area (SRA)** is a legal term defining the area where the State has financial responsibility for wildland fire protection and prevention.
- **Local Responsibility Area (LRA)** includes incorporated cities, urban regions, agriculture lands, and portions of the desert where the local government is responsible for wildfire protection.

WHAT DO FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES MEASURE?

- The fire hazard severity model for wildland fire has two key elements: **probability of an area burning** and **expected fire behavior**. FHSZs are not a structure loss model, as key information regarding structure ignition such as roof type, are not included.

PLAN

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ACT

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ACT NOW

WILDFIRE IS COMING...

ARE YOU READY?

ReadyforWildfire.org