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Fire Safety Advisory Committee Agenda
August 24th, 2022 @ 10:30 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
4th Floor, 2 S. Green Street Sonora Ca 95370

1. Call to order. Roll call
2. Public Comment – public has opportunity to comment for 3 minutes on anything not already on agenda.
3. Approval of minutes for Meeting July 27, 2022
4. Old Business - none
5. Reports/Presentations
 - a. California Wildfire Mitigation Program - Home Hardneing grant available as a pilot project to Tuolumne County. [California Wildfire Mitigation Program](#)
 - b. Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations - The State Board of Forestry votes to adopt the 2021 State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations rulemaking. What does that mean for Tuolumne County? [Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations](#)
6. New Business
7. Working group updates
 - i. Communication and Education Outreach workgroup
 - ii. Governance workgroup
 - iii. Emergency Planning workgroup
8. Adjourn
 - a. **Next Regular Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – September 28th @ 10:30 am**
 - i. Presentation by Evacuation Grant Consultants at next meeting on capacity strategies seeking input from the Fire Safety Advisory Committee.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

In accordance with Government Section 54954.3(a), the public may comment on any item on the agenda. You may submit written comments by U.S. mail at 2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370 or email (oes@co.tuolumne.ca.us) for retention as part of the administrative record. Comments will not be read during the meeting. Comments must be received by the County Administrative Office no later than 9:00 AM on the day of the noticed meeting.

Comparison of
(PROPOSED) TITLE 14 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS (14CCR), DIVISION 1.5, CHAPTER 7, SUBCHAPTER 2, ARTICLES 1-5
"STATE MINIMUM FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS, 2021" FINAL RULE TEXT (AUGUST 17, 2022 READING)
versus
(CURRENT) COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE ORDINANCE CODE, TITLE 11
"ROAD STANDARDS"

These are the most noteworthy areas where the proposed 2021 State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations differ from the current County Ordinances or Policy:

STATE MINIMUM FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS, 2021 RULE TEXT	COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE ORDINANCE CODE (CURRENT)
1270.01., Definitions, (f), "Defensible Space": The area within the perimeter of a parcel, development, neighborhood or community where basic wildland fire protection practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or defense against encroaching wildfires or escaping structure fires. The perimeter as used in this regulation is the area encompassing the parcel or parcels proposed for construction and/or development, excluding the physical structure itself. The area is characterized by the establishment and maintenance of emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, road names and building identification, and fuel modification measures. (i), "Driveway": A vehicular access that serves no more than four (4) Residential Units and any number of of non-commercial or non-Industrial Utility or Miscellaneous Group U buildings on each parcel. A Driveway shall not serve commercial or industrial uses at any size or scale. (g), "Hammerhead/T": A "T" shaped, three-point Turnaround space for Fire Apparatus on a Road or Driveway, being no narrower than the Road or Driveway that serves it. (y), "Road": A public or private vehicular pathway to more than four (4) Residential Units; or to any industrial or commercial occupancy. (z), "Road or Driveway Structures": Bridges, culverts, and other appurtenant structures which supplement the Traffic Lane or Shoulders. (ee), "Structure": That which is built or constructed, or any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner."	15.20.005(B), "Defensible Space" is the area within the perimeter of a parcel where basic wildland fire prevention practices and measures are to be implemented and maintained, including but not limited to removing brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth that is located from 30 feet to 100 feet from a building or structure measured from the eaves, porches, decks and balconies to the property line, to provide the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or an escaping structure fire. 11.02.110, "Driveway": "Driveway" means a vehicular access that serves a single parcel with not more than three (3) dwelling units, and any number of accessory buildings. 11.02.120, "Driveway, Common": "Common Driveway" means a vehicular access that serves up to six (6) parcels with the common portion of the driveway being a minimum of 18 feet in width and does not provide access to more than six (6) dwelling units and any number of accessory buildings, and for which easements have been established for use of the driveway by all parcels. 11.12.010.D, "Hammerhead Turnarounds:" Current County standard indicates edge-to-edge widths of 20 or 28 feet as applicable for a Hammerhead-type turnaround, which may or may not be as wide as the roadway it serves, but does not stipulate a definitive regulation for width. 11.12.160 through 11.02.210 define the various classes of Roads, but do not make any distinction as to how many or what type of parcels are accessed. [Analogues for "Road or Driveway Structures" and "Structure" are not defined in the TCOC, but the new Fire Safe Regulations pivot on aspects of these distinctives and therefore care was taken by the Board of Forestry to define them. This most recent version of the BoF Rule however did eliminate the prior draft's definitions of the terms, "Building Construction," "Existing," "New," and "Repair," which were driving a greatly-increased potential scope and reach of the Rules]
1270.02., "Purpose," (a): These regulations have been prepared and adopted for the purpose of establishing minimum wildfire protection standards in conjunction with building, construction, and development in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and, after July 1, 2021, the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. (b) The future design and construction of structures, subdivisions and developments in the SRA and, after July 1, 2021, the VHFHSZ shall provide for basic emergency access and perimeter wildfire protection measures as specified in the following articles. (c) These standards shall provide for emergency access; signing and Building numbering; private water supply reserves for emergency fire use..	[SRA covers entirety of County; VHFHZ is essentially much of the populated area of County above Don Pedro and New Melones and below Clarks Fork on SR108 corridor, and above Don Pedro and below Yosemite NP on SR120 corridor.]

1270.03, "Scope," (a): These regulations shall apply to: (1) the perimeters and access to all residential, commercial, and industrial Building construction within the SRA approved after January 1, 1991, and those approved after July 1, 2021 within the VHFHSZ, except as set forth below in subsections (b); (2) the siting of newly installed commercial modulars, manufactured homes, mobilehomes, and factory-built housing... (3) all tentative and parcel maps or other Developments approved after January 1, 1991; and (4) applications for Building permits on a parcel approved in a pre-1991 parcel or tentative map to the extent that conditions relating to the perimeters and access to the buildings were not imposed as part of the approval of the parcel or tentative map. (b) These regulations do not apply where an application for a Building permit is filed after January 1, 1991 for Building construction on a parcel that was formed from a parcel map or tentative map (if the final map for the tentative map is approved within the time prescribed by the local ordinance) approved prior to January 1, 1991, to the extent that conditions relating to the perimeters and access to the Buildings were imposed by the parcel map or final tentative map approved prior to January 1, 1991. (c) Affected activities include, but are not limited to: (1) permitting or approval of new parcels, excluding lot line adjustments as specified in Government Code (GC) section 66412(d); (2) application for a building permit for new construction not relating to an existing structure; (3) application for a use permit; (4) road construction including construction of a road that does not currently exist, or extension of an existing road. (d) The standards in these regulations applicable to Roads shall not apply to Roads used solely for Agriculture; mining, or or the management of timberland and harvesting of forest products.	[Current Title 11 standards are in effect and apply to all new development projects; however, are not applied retroactively, unless CEQA review of a proposed development project identifies road improvements specific to the project's impacts as a reasonable mitigation for said impacts.]
1270.04, "Provisions for Application of these Regulations," This Subchapter shall be applied as follows: (a) the Local Jurisdictions shall provide the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) or their designee with notice of applications for Building permits, tentative parcel maps, tentative maps, and installation or use permits for construction or development within the SRA. (b) the Director or their designee may review and make fire protection recommendations on applicable construction or development permits or maps provided by the Local Jurisdiction. (c) the Local Jurisdiction shall ensure that the applicable sections of this Subchapter become a condition of approval of any applicable construction or development permit or map.	[Current County policy on the routing of development project applications includes the County Fire Prevention Officer, a CalFire employee who works out of the County's CDD office, and whose current duties include those in support of CDD staff who process and review land development project applications. The Fire Prevention Officer currently also is charged to assign Conditions of Approval required by State Fire Code and Board of Forestry Regulations top projects going through the review process, as well as inspect and enforce the fire-related project Conditions of Approval through the land development process.]
1270.05, "Local Regulations": (a) These regulations shall serve as the minimum Wildfire protection standards applies in SRA and VHFHSZ. However, these regulations do not supersede local regulations which equal or exceed the standards of this Subchapter. (b) A local regulation equals or exceeds a minimum standard of this Subchapter only if, at a minimum, the local regulation also fully complies with the corresponding minimum standard in this Subchapter. (c) A Local Jurisdiction shall not apply exemptions to these regulations that are not enumerated in this Subchapter... (d) Notwithstanding a local regulation that equals or exceeds the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, Building Construction shall comply with the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations.	[Titles 11 (Road Standards) and 17.56 (Parcel Dimensions and Setbacks) of the Tuolumne County Ordinance Code will need to be updated to meet or exceed the more stringent State Fire Safe Regulations, if adopted.]

1270.06, "Inspections": (f) When inspections are conducted, they shall occur prior to: the issuance of the use permit or certificate of occupancy; the recordation of the parcel map or final map; the filing of a notice of completion; or the final inspection of any project or building permit.	[The new Regulations would require mandatory field inspections, presumed to fall on the County Fire Prevention Officer or the City of Sonora Fire Chief, at each of the project milestones identified. Presently, these inspectors are responsible for performing the inspections listed in the proposed Rule, in their respective jurisdictions, as required.]
Article 2, "Ingress and Egress," 1273.00, "Intent," Roads and driveways, whether public or private, unless exempted under 14 CCR § 1270.02(d) [exempting ADU's or Junior ADU's], shall provide for safe access for emergency wildfire equipment and civilian evacuation concurrently, and shall provide unobstructed traffic circulation during a wildfire emergency consistent with 14 CCR §§ 1273.00 through 1273.09.	[While a generalized statement of the functional intent of the Regulations, this could potentially open up local agencies having jurisdiction over roads (and approval or inspection of private driveways) for lawsuits if, in the case of a fire evacuation, a functional realization of a definition of "safe access" or "unobstructed traffic circulation" was not maintained during a wildfire emergency, and these Regulations do not define "safe" or "unobstructed."]
1273.01, "Width," (a) All roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of two ten (10) foot traffic lanes, not including shoulder and striping. These traffic lanes shall provide for two-way traffic flow to support emergency vehicle and civilian egress, unless other standards are provided in this article or additional requirements are mandated by local jurisdictions or local subdivision requirements. Vertical clearances shall conform to the requirements in California Vehicle Code section 35250. (b) All one-way roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one twelve (12) foot traffic lane, not including shoulders. The local jurisdiction may approve one-way roads. (1) All one-way roads shall, at both ends, connect to a road with two traffic lanes providing for travel in different directions, and shall provide access to an area currently zoned for no more than ten (10) residential units. (2) In no case shall a one-way road exceed 2,640 feet in length. A turnout shall be placed and constructed at approximately the midpoint of each one-way road. (c) All driveways shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one (1) ten (10) foot traffic lane, fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance, and unobstructed vertical clearance of thirteen feet, six inches (13' 6").	11.12.010, "Geometrics and roadbed design," (A.) [width of traveled way and shoulders varies per the table, by road classification. Local road minimum width is 20 feet; one-way roads are 12 feet with 2 foot shoulders.] 11.12.060, "Driveways," (A.) Driveways shall provide a minimum twelve (12) foot traffic lane with an all weather surface, have fifteen (15) feet of unobstructed vertical clearance and fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance... 11.12.065, "One-way roads": All one-way roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one twelve (12) foot wide traffic lane. All one-way roads shall connect to a two lane roadway at both ends, and shall provide access to an area currently zoned for no more than a total of ten (10) dwelling units, including both primary and secondary units. No such road shall exceed two thousand six hundred forty (2,640) feet in length. Turnouts shall be constructed as follows: (A.) For one-way roads which exceed 300 feet but are less than 800 feet in length, a turnout shall be provided at approximately the mid point of the one-way road. (B.) B. For one-way roads which equal or exceed 800 feet in length, turnouts shall be provided at four hundred foot intervals along the one-way road.
1273.02, "Road Surfaces," (a) Roads shall support the imposed load of Fire Apparatus weighing at least 75,000 pounds, and provide an aggregate base. (b) Driveways and Road and Driveway Structures shall support at least 40,000 pounds. (c) The project proponent shall provide engineering specifications to support design, if requested by the Local Jurisdiction.	11.12.020, "Structural design standards," (A.) The structural section of the road surface shall be designed based on a twenty (20) year design life, or a thirty (30) year design life subject to approval by the County Engineer, and using stabilometer "R" value, and the expected traffic index, which are not less than those indicated below. In no event shall the structural section of a road include less than the following compacted depths of asphalt concrete and aggregate base <table> (B.) All road structures shall be capable of supporting a 40,000 pound axle load and shall be constructed to carry at least the maximum load and provide the minimum vertical clearance as required by AASHTO and Vehicle Code sections 35550, 35750 and 35250.
1273.03, "Grades," a) At no point shall the grade for all roads and driveways exceed 16 percent. (b) The grade may exceed 16%, not to exceed 20%, with approval from the Local Jurisdiction and with mitigations to provide for same practical effect.	11.12.030, "Profiles," (B.), The maximum gradient for local roads below the three thousand foot elevation shall be sixteen percent (16%); (C.) The maximum gradient for local roads above the three thousand foot elevation shall be twelve percent (12%). 11.12.060, "Driveways," (B.), Where residential dwellings are less than one hundred fifty (150) feet from the roadway, the driveway grade may exceed sixteen percent (16%) to a maximum twenty-two percent (22%), but the driveway shall be paved with asphalt concrete or concrete. In addition, a parking bay at least ten (10) feet wide and forty (40) feet long with a uniform surface shall be provided at road grade.

1273.04, "Radius," (a) No road or road structure shall have a horizontal inside radius of curvature of less than fifty (50) feet. An additional surface width of four (4) feet shall be added to curves of 50-100 feet radius; two (2) feet to those from 100-200 feet. (b) The length of vertical curves in roadways, exclusive of gutters, ditches, and drainage structures designed to hold or divert water, shall be not less than one hundred (100) feet.	11.12.010, "Geometrics and roadbed design," (M.) Alignments. Alignment for horizontal curves shall be based upon the posted speed limit or minimum design speed, whichever is greater, and shall be no smaller than a fifty (50) foot interior curve radius with a minimum taper length of fifty (50) feet. Vertical curves shall provide for a sight distance consistent with the posted speed limit or the minimum design speed, whichever is greater, and shall have a minimum length of one hundred (100) feet. (E.) Curve Widening. Curve widening shall be added to the required shoulder width on curves having a radius less than two-hundred (200) feet. The widening shall be at least equal to four-hundred (400) divided by the radius of the curve. The widened area shall have a uniform surface with the adjacent road.
1273.05, "Turnarounds," (a) Turnarounds are required on driveways and dead-end roads. (b) The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be forty (40) feet, not including parking, in accordance with the figures in 14 CCR §§ 1273.05(e) and 1273.05(f). If a hammerhead/T is used instead, the top of the "T" shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet in length. (c) Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length, but less than 800 feet in length, shall provide a turnout near the midpoint of the driveway. Where the driveway exceeds 800 feet, turnouts shall be provided no more than 400 feet apart. (d) A turnaround shall be provided on driveways over 300 feet in length and shall be within fifty (50) feet of the Building. (e) Each dead-end road shall have a turnaround constructed at its terminus. Where parcels are zoned five (5) acres or larger, turnarounds shall be provided at a maximum of 1,320 foot intervals. (f) Figure A. Turnarounds on roads with two ten-foot traffic lanes. Figure A/Image 1 is a visual representation of paragraph (b).	11.12.010, "Geometrics and roadbed design," (B.) Turnouts. Turnouts shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet in width and a minimum of thirty (30) feet in length with a minimum twenty-five (25) foot taper at each end, and shall have a uniform surface with the adjacent road. (C.) Turning Bulbs. Turning bulbs shall have a minimum radius of forty (40) feet and shall have a uniform surface with the remainder of road. (D.) Hammerhead Turnarounds. Hammerhead turnarounds may be used. The slope of the turnaround shall not exceed 6%, and the turnaround shall have a uniform surface conforming with the remainder of the road. 11.12.040, "Cul-de-sacs," (A.) A cul-de-sac road shall be posted "Not a Through Road" and shall terminate in a turnaround bulb or hammerhead turnaround. (B.) ...Where parcels are zoned five acres or larger, turnaround bulbs shall be provided at intervals of a maximum of one thousand three hundred twenty (1,320) feet.
1273.06, "Turnouts," Turnouts shall be a minimum of twelve (12) feet wide and thirty (30) feet long with a minimum twenty-five (25) foot taper on each end.	11.12.060, "Driveways," (A.) ... Turnouts shall be provided at midpoint for driveways between one hundred fifty (150) feet and eight hundred (800) feet in length and at four hundred (400) foot intervals for driveways over eight hundred (800) feet in length. Turnouts are not required on common driveways which are required to have a minimum eighteen (18) foot wide traffic lane.
1273.07, "Road and Driveway Structures," (a) Appropriate signing, including but not limited to weight or vertical clearance limitations, One-way Road or single traffic lane conditions, shall reflect the capability of each bridge. (b) Where a bridge or an elevated surface is part of a Fire Apparatus access Road, the bridge shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges, 17th Edition, published 2002 (known as AASHTO HB-17), hereby incorporated by reference. Bridges and elevated surfaces shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of Fire Apparatus. Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges when required by the local authority having jurisdiction. (c) Where elevated surfaces designed for emergency vehicle use are adjacent to surfaces which are not designed for such use, barriers, or signs, or both, as approved by the local authority having jurisdiction, shall be installed and maintained. (d) A bridge with only one traffic lane may be authorized by the Local Jurisdiction; however, it shall provide for unobstructed visibility from one end to the other and turnouts at both ends.	11.12.010, "Geometrics and roadbed design," (B.) Turnouts. Turnouts shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet in width and a minimum of thirty (30) feet in length with a minimum twenty-five (25) foot taper at each end, and shall have a uniform surface with the adjacent road. 11.12.020, "Structural design standards," (B.) All road structures [to include bridge structures] shall be capable of supporting a 40,000 pound axle load and shall be constructed to carry at least the maximum load and provide the minimum vertical clearance as required by AASHTO and Vehicle Code sections 35550, 35750 and 35250. [Bridge rating signage is inconsistent throughout the road network in the county, and some existing bridges in the County-maintained system are old and structurally deficient, or geometrically deficient by current AASHTO standards. These bridges are known and many are programmed for replacement with reengineered structures which do meet current standards, including minimum clear width per Fire Code. Current County Title 11 Road Standards do not include requirements or specifics having to do with the installation of bollards or other barriers to keep other road users or traffic from using dedicated emergency vehicle access routes.]

1273.08, "Dead-End Roads," (a) The maximum length of Dead-end Roads, including all Dead-end Roads accessed from that Dead-end Road, shall not exceed the following cumulative lengths, regardless of the number of parcels served: - parcels zoned for less than one acre - 800 feet - parcels zoned for 1 acre to 4.99 acres - 1,320 feet - parcels zoned for 5 acres to 19.99 acres - 2,640 feet - parcels zoned for 20 acres or larger - 5,280 feet All lengths shall be measured from the edge of the Road surface at the intersection that begins the Road to the end of the Road surface at its farthest point. Where a Dead-end Road crosses areas of differing zoned parcel sizes requiring different length limits, the shortest allowable length shall apply. (b) See 14 CCR § 1273.05 for Dead-end Road turnaround requirements.	11.12.040, "Cul-de-sacs," (B.) The maximum length of a cul-de-sac road, including all cul-de-sac roads accessed from the cul-de-sac, shall not exceed the following cumulative lengths regardless of the number of parcels served: - Parcels zoned for less than one acre - 800 feet - Parcels zoned for 1 acre to 4.99 acres - 1320 feet - Parcels zoned for 5 acres to 19.99 acres* - 2640 feet - Parcels zoned for 20 acres or larger* - 5280 feet All lengths shall be measured from the edge of the roadway surface at its intersection with a through road to the end of the road surface at its farthest point. Where a cul-de-sac crosses areas of differing zoned parcel sizes, requiring different length limits, a turnaround bulb shall be required at each of the cumulative limits listed above for every zoning district it passes through. [There are existing de facto cul-de-sacs and functional cul-de-sacs (sub-network of roads with one connection to the greater road network; i.e., Lyons Bald Mountain Road and neighborhoods accessed via it) in the county greater than 1 mile in length; terrain often has dictated this. As presently drafted, the new regulations would eliminate any possibility of obtaining a building permit or constructing anything on any parcel on one of those cul-de-sacs beyond the maximum length, until the road is linked to another through roadway, to alleviate that dead-end length. The latest draft would potentially prohibit the creation, permitting or approval of new parcels, excluding lot line adjustments; applications for building permits for new construction not relating to an existing structure; applications for use permits; road construction including construction of roads that do not currently exist, or extension of existing roads, if the location is beyond the lengths identified, per lot sizes. Research would need to be done to establish when the current lots were established, as there is a distinctive to the regulation based on when the lots were originally established: January 1, 1991 in the SRA and July 1, 2021 within the VHFHSZ.]
1273.09, "Gate Entrances," (a) Gate entrances shall be at least two (2) feet wider than the width of the traffic lane(s) serving that gate and a minimum width of fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance and unobstructed vertical clearance of thirteen feet, six inches (13' 6"). (b) All gates providing access from a Road to a Driveway shall be located at least thirty (30) feet from the Roadway and shall open to allow a vehicle to stop without obstructing traffic on that Road. (c) Where a One-way Road with a single traffic lane provides access to a gated entrance, a forty (40) foot turning radius shall be used. (d) Security gates shall not be installed without approval. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation. Approval shall be by the local authority having jurisdiction. The security gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times.	11.12.062, "Gates on driveways," A. The installation of a gate across a fire apparatus access road shall be approved by the Tuolumne County Fire Prevention Division. B. Each gate entrance shall be at least two (2) feet wider than the width of the traveled way serving the gate with a minimum width of fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance and fifteen (15) feet vertical clearance. C. Keys, codes, or other means of access through the gate shall be provided to all emergency response agencies. D. Where electric gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation. The electric gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be listed in accordance with UL 325. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F 2200. E. Where a road is proposed to be gated, a turnaround bulb or a hammerhead turnaround shall be constructed between the gate and the adjacent intersecting road for the purpose of allowing vehicles to safely reverse direction in front of the gate without backing onto the adjacent un-gated road.

Article 3, "Signing and Building Numbering," 1274.02, "Road Sign Installation, Location, and Visibility," (a) Road signs shall be visible and legible from both directions of vehicle travel for a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet.	11.12.050, "Street signing," All streets shall be identified and signed at intersections to allow for speedy response of emergency equipment. The design, application and installation of street signs shall comply with the requirements of the MUTCD. Signs shall be installed indicating special roadway conditions, including weight limits, width and vertical clearance restrictions and one-way traffic. Signs shall be installed indicating special roadway conditions, including weight limits, width and vertical clearance restrictions and one-way traffic. [Based on road geometrics, terrain, or vegetation, road signage may not always be visible from 100 feet away in both directions of vehicle travel.]
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California Wildfire Mitigation Program

As part of the State of California's effort to strengthen community-wide resilience against wildfires, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has partnered with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to develop a state home hardening initiative to retrofit, harden, and create defensible space for homes at high risk to wildfires, focusing on high socially-vulnerability communities and providing financial assistance for low- and moderate-income households. Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 38 in 2019 authorizing Cal OES and CAL FIRE to enter into a joint powers agreement to oversee the development and implementation of the Program.

Known as the Home Hardening Program, this effort encourages cost-effective wildfire resilience measures to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, public buildings, and public spaces. Mitigation measures such as home hardening, vegetation management, defensible space, and other fuel modification activities provide neighborhood or community-wide benefits against wildfire.

What Does Home Hardening Modification Include?

Wildfire Home Hardening includes retrofitting homes with fire-resistant materials and creating defensible space around homes and communities. Home modifications include replacing the roof with metal, clay, or tile, installing metal gutters, and upgrading to dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass.

The California Wildfire Home Hardening Program will also provide:

- Community and homeowner wildfire education on defensible space and home retrofitting.
- A framework for community collaboratives with local resources to perform Home Hardening and Defensible Space work using Cal FIRE's Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide, 10 Low-cost Retrofit List, and [Residential Defensible Space](#). Defensible space, coupled with home hardening, is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. Defensible space is the buffer between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire — either from embers, direct flame contact, or radiant heat. Proper defensible space also provides firefighters a safe area to work in, to defend your home.
- Direct financial assistance to support home hardening work for socially vulnerable and low- and moderate-income homeowners.

The following documents include additional information relating to the [business plan](#), [assembly bill \(no. 38\)](#), and [joint exercise of powers agreement between Cal OES and Cal FIRE](#) for the California Wildfire Home Hardening Program.

Pilot Phase

San Diego, Shasta, and Lake Counties were prioritized as pilot areas for this Program after conducting a statewide analysis at the parcel and census-tract level of areas with high wildfire risk and social vulnerability. Fire risk, climate change risk factors, and census data were included in the analyses.

The six social vulnerability factors prioritized for this Program include:

- Residents in poverty
- Residents with a disability
- Residents over 65 years of age

- Residents under 5 years of age
- Residents with language barriers
- Residents without a car

In addition, the analysis used social vulnerability data from the Center for Disease Control Social Vulnerability Index (2018) and only considered census tracts in the Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Qualifications

To qualify, participants must:

- Be the legal property owner in an eligible area at the time of application
- Be willing to participate in a home assessment to determine the measures which may be taken to safeguard your home
- Be willing to sign a right of entry to your property and allow contractors to implement the defensible space and home hardening activities

Application Details for Interested Homeowners

- [Dulzura.area.homeowners](#) in Shasta County (96096)
- [Whitmore.area.homeowners](#) in San Diego County (91917)
- [Kelseyville-Riviera.area.homeowners](#) in Lake County (95451)

If your application has been approved, the Program will provide a home hardening assessment to determine what improvements need to be made.

[Click here if you are a
homeowner residing in the
pilot phase community and
would like to participate in
the program](#)

California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Board Meetings

Upcoming Meetings

The California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Board Meetings will take place on the third Tuesday of every month from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM until further notice. The next Board Meeting will take place on **August 16, 2022**.

The in-person location will be at:

California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Building – 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Meeting date and location may vary, please check meeting notices for changes. These meetings are open to the public except when specifically noticed otherwise in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. The virtual meeting waiting room will open 15 minutes before via Zoom Meeting. Additional meeting documents and resources are listed below for your convenience.

Additional Resources and Meeting Documents:

- [Board Meeting Agenda, Meeting Location, and Zoom Link -- August 16, 2022](#)
- [Recently Adopted Changes to the Board Approved CWMP Business Plan](#)
- [CWMP Home Hardening Initiative Joint Powers Authority Public Meeting PowerPoint Presentation -- July 19, 2022](#)

Previous California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas:

- [Board Meeting Minutes -- July 19, 2022](#)
- [Board Meeting Agenda, Meeting Location, and Zoom Link -- July 19, 2022](#)
- [Board Meeting Minutes -- June 24, 2022](#)

Contact Us

San Diego County

Community Risk Reduction

Phone: 858-974-5929

Email: HomeHardening.SanDiego@sdcounty.ca.gov

Website: [Community Risk Reduction \(SD County Fire Website\)](#)

Lake County

North Coast Opportunities (NCO)

Phone: 707-461-0760

Email: homehardening@ncoinc.org

Website: [NCO-CA Wildfire Mitigation Program \(Website\)](#)

Shasta County

Shasta Fire Safe Council

Phone: 530-776-5144

Email: SafeHomes@shastafiresafe.org

Website: [Whitmore Demonstration Project \(Shasta Website\)](#)

California Wildfire Mitigation Program

Cal OES Recovery Hazard Mitigation

Email: CWMP@CalOES.ca.gov

Additional Resources

For additional information and resources relating to home hardening and wildfire preparation strategies, visit the [CAL FIRE website](#) or [404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program page](#).

