

Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting



June 20, 2023

CAL FIRE -

Office of the State Fire Marshal





Call to Order

Welcome!

- ► If you have technical difficulties during this meeting, please contact Kara Garrett at:
 - (916) 201-5539 or Kara.Garrett@fire.ca.gov





- ► Acting State Fire Marshal
 - Daniel Berlant
- Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
 - Mike Parkes
- Department of Conservation
 - Keali'i Bright
- ► Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
 - Caroline Thomas Jacobs or Sandy Cooney
- State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
 - J. Lopez





- ► Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - Ryan Buras or Robert Troy
- ► California Department of Insurance
 - Deborah Halberstadt or Mike Peterson
- ► Governor's Office of Planning and Research
 - Neil Matouka
- California Fire Safe Council
 - Jacy Hyde
- ► Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
 - Roy Wright





- ► California Fire Chiefs Association
 - Dave Winnacker or Todd Lando
- ► California Building Industry Association
 - Christopher E. Ochoa or Nick Cammarota
- University of California Cooperative Extension
 - Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson
- ► California Fire Science Consortium
 - Yana Valachovic
- Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Maziar Movassaghi or Clay Kerchof

Continued on next slide





- Rural County Representatives of California
 - Staci Heaton
- ► California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
 - Sophia Lemmo
- ► League of California Cities
 - Sean McGlynn
- California State Association of Counties
 - Catherine Freeman
- ► A representative from tribal government
 - Don Hankins



Approval of Past Meeting Minutes Motion Required

Scan the QR Code Below to Access the Complete Meeting Minutes Document!



WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 16, 2023 Posted: June 6, 2023



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
Sandy Cooney, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Michal Maguire, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)
Michael Newman, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (Virtual)
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Chris Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension (Virtual)
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (Virtual)
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California (Virtual)
Ryan Reger, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico (Virtual)

Members Absent

Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council Vacant, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal (Virtual)

Frank Bigelow, Assistant Deputy Director
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief
Steve Hawks, Retired Annuitant
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief
John Morqan, Deputy Chief
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief
Chris Ramey, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)
Will Brewer, Research Data Specialist III (Virtual)
Tony Andersen, Deputy Director (Virtual)
Anale Burlew, Assistant Deputy Director
Crystal Sujeski, Deputy State Fire Marshal Supervisor (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

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Approval of Meeting Agenda Motion Required

Scan the QR Code Below to Access the Complete Meeting Agenda Document!



WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Meeting Agenda – Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Posted: June 6, 2023



Location:

CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221(A-C) Sacramento, CA 95814

Zoom Meeting Information -

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

 $\underline{https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85192423489?pwd=dnZYaUhXVFliUTFmT21nMzJYYVlxQT09}$

Passcode: 462073

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome
- B. Roll Call/Quorum Established
- C. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (Motion Required)
- D. Agenda Review (Motion Required)

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Division Report

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Wildfire Plan Overview
- B. CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal -
 - 1) Risk Modeling Workgroup Update
 - 2) Land Use Planning Program Overview
- 4. ROUNDTABLE
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2023

- A. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.
- a. July 18, 2023
 - CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221 Sacramento, CA 95814
- 7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT (Motion Required)





Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

Wildfire Prevention Grants

► Applications are currently in the final steps of the review process.

Firewise

► California continues to lead the nation with 688 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA Communities in good standing.





Wildfire Planning and Statistics

Wildfire Planning

- ▶ Unit Fire plans have been submitted to Regions and are being reviewed.
- Units testing the new success stories application
- Staff continues to review over 1100 public comments for FHSZ and likely to have another public comment period.



Wildfire Planning and Statistics

California Incident Data & Statistics Program

- ► NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) is transitioning to what will be called NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System)
 - Still in development phase and should not have a significant impact to the CALFIRS system.



Wildfire Planning and Statistics

Fire Prevention Efforts (July 2022 - May 2023)

- Fuel Reduction Projects:
 - 526 projects, 105% of the goal
- ► Combined Fuel Reduction:
 - 54,208 acres treated, 54% of the goal
 - Unit Projects 28,672 acres
 - Grant Projects 22,847 acres
- Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
 - 21,502 acres treated, 43% of the goal



► Home Hardening:

- Work continues on the Joint Powers Authority with CalOES in the initial three pilot communities.
 - San Diego, Shasta, and Lake.
- Staff continue to expand pilots beyond the initial three.
 - San Diego, Tuolumne, El Dorado, and Shasta.
 - The JPA recently approved a 100% State funded Defensible Space project in Siskiyou County.



- Defensible Space Inspections:
 - 297,392 inspections, 119% of the goal
 - Nearly 80 individuals from Qualified Entities within El Dorado County have been trained to conduct Defensible Space and Home Hardening assessments.
 - This is the pilot group, and the results of their efforts will be highlighted in the coming months.
 - This came to us from Senate Bill No. 63 (CHAPTER 382 2021).



▶ Burn Permits:

- Since Jan 1, 2023, we've issued 45,883 burn permits throughout the state using the new electronic burn permit system.
 - More than 5,900 treatment acres approved through General Burn Permit (LE-5) and Broadcast Burn Permit (LE-7) permits.
- https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/



- ► Utility Wildfire Mitigation:
 - DSI Powerline Fire Prevention Training Update
 - Operation Santa Ana
 - Continue to provide Consultation in Wildfire Mitigation Plan review to Energy Safety.







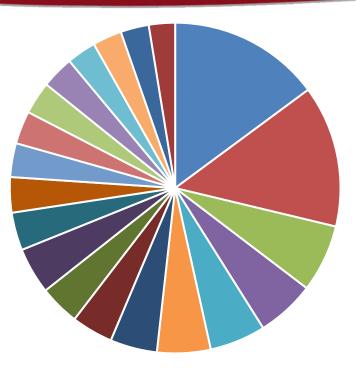


CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)

Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division

LAND USE PLANNING PROGAM

Largest & Destructive Wildfires

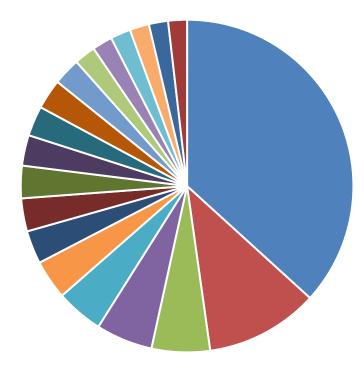




- SCU Lightning Complex
- North Complex
- Rush
- Carr
- Matilija
- Klamath Threater Complex Marble Cone

- Dixie
- Creek
- Thomas
- Rim
- Monument
- River Complex

- Mendocino Complex
- LNU Lightning Complex
- Cedar
- Zaca
- Caldor
- Witch



- Camp
- Cedar
- Witch
- Glass
- Nuns
- Caldor
- Jones

- Tubbs
- Noth Complex
- Woolsey
- LNU Lightning Complex CZU Lightning Complex
- Dixie
- Old
- August Complex

- Tunnel
- Valley
- Carr
- Thomas
- Butte



Land Use Planning

Today's Topics of Discussion

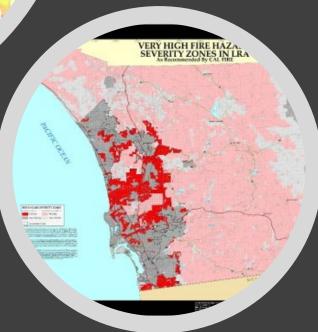
- 1. General Plans (Safety Elements)
- 2. Sub-Division Review Program
- 3. NFPA FIREWISE USA



SAN DIEGO COL

General Plans (Safety Elements)

Background



- Senate Bill 1241(2012)
 - Very High Fire Hazard
 Severity Zones must comply
 with Government Code
 Section 65302(g)(3).

Scan for more information!



Fire Hazard Planning requirement within the Safety Element

• GC 65302(g)(3) – Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire. For land classified as SRA and land classified as VHFHSZ.



GC 65302(g)(3)

- GC 65302(g)(4) Upon the next revision of the LHMP or if a local jurisdiction has not adopted a LHMP, beginning on or before January 1, 2022, the safety element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county.
- SB 379 (Jackson, 2015)



GC 65302(g)(4



SB 379

Requirements

- Protect the community from unreasonable risk of wildfire.
- Draft Element review State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.
- State Board may recommend changes.



Approach

- CAL FIRE Land Use Planning Program recommendations.
- Refer to Municipal Code, Fire-Rescue Department policy, and other General Plan Elements.
- Review and update language.
- New policies to address risk of fire for very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZ).



Safety Element in the General Plan must be consistent with

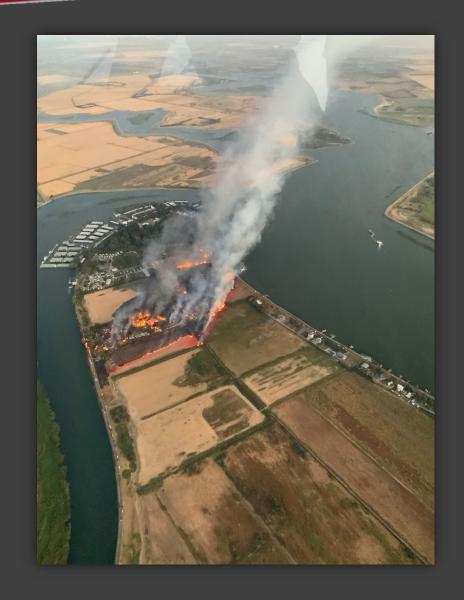


Goals. Policies. Objectives and Implementation Measures

- · Avoid or minimize wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land
- Water supply
- Fuel modification and defensible space
- Access/Egress, and visible home and street signs
- Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection
- Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high-risk areas
- Working with cooperating agencies responsible for fire protection

Summary

- All local governments with SRA (Counties) or LRA with VHFHSZ are now required to plan for wildland fires in the Safety Element of their General Plan and prior to adoption, submit it to the Board of Forestry.
- The Safety Element must be internally consistent with any other plans (LHMP, CWPP, Unit Fire Plan, etc.).



Land Use Planning

Resources

General Plan Information





OPR Fire Hazard Planning Technical Advisory



California Government Code 65302

Fire hazard planning in General Plan

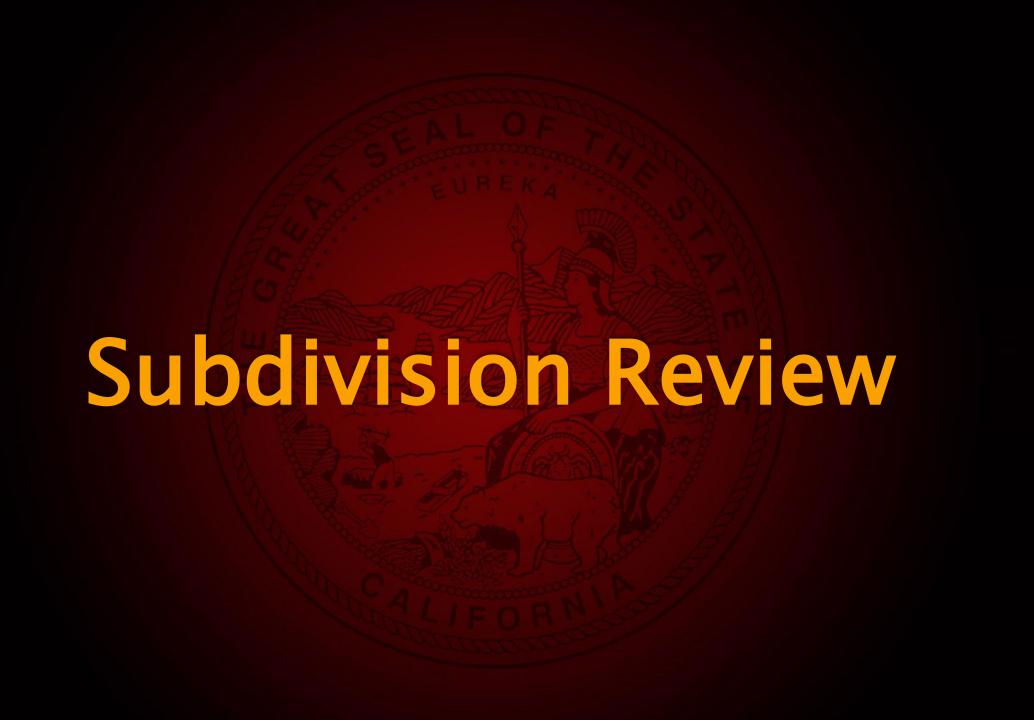


California Government Code 51175-51189

VHFHSZ in the LRA







• The Subdivision Review Program was formed as a result of Assembly Bill 2911 (Friedman, 2018)

- This bill added Section 4290.5 to the Public Resource Code
 - o On or before July 1, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter, the board, in consultation with the State Fire Marshal, shall survey local governments, including counties, cities, and fire districts, to identify existing subdivisions located in a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone, identified pursuant to Section 51178 of the Government Code, without a secondary egress route that are at significant fire risk

Subdivision Review survey process

- In person survey of the subdivision
- ESRI based Apps and Web App
 - Field Maps Mobile App
 - Survey123 Final Report
 - Quick Capture Adds GIS Tracks
 - O Web App Office





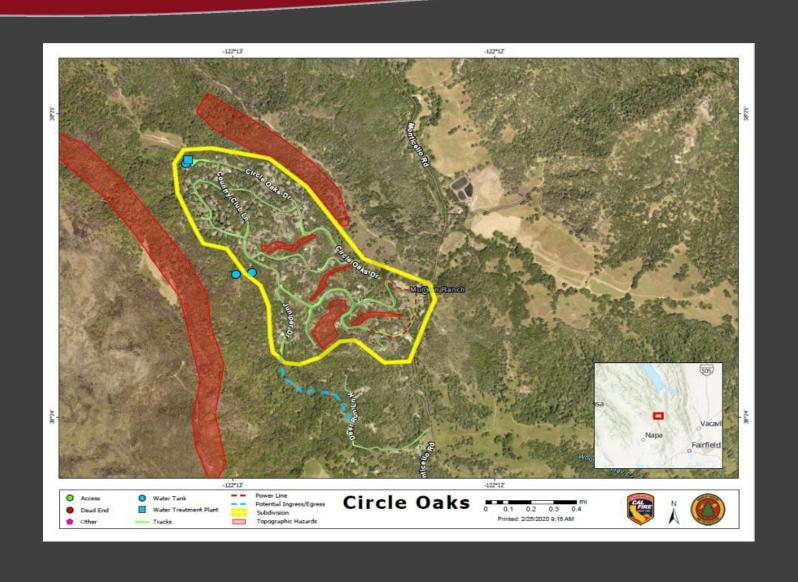
Subdivision Review final report

- Field collected data consolidated into a final report and submitted to the Board's next Resource Protection Committee Meeting.
- Final Report Notifications:
 - Board
 - Local AHJ
 - Residents
 - Other Stakeholders





| CAL FIRE matter | Subdivision Fire Safety Survey | |
|--|--|----------------|
| Part I: Site Information | | |
| Subdivision Information | | |
| Subdivision Name: ID Number: | | |
| Subdivision is located within: State Responsibility Area LRA Very High Fire Hazard Severity Area | | |
| Address: | | |
| City: County: | | |
| Administrative Unit: | CAL FIRE Unit Contact: | |
| Planning Director: | Local GIS Coordinator: | |
| Local Government Fire M | larshal: Structure Fire Protection Agency: | |
| Estimated date(s) of construction: | | |
| Estimated number of dwe | elling units: Estimated number of parcels: | |
| Area (estimated square acres): | | |
| Fire Suppression and Emergency Services | | |
| Structure fire protection agency (check all that apply): City Fire Department County Fire Department County Fire Department Dother: Comments: | | |
| Is there a mutual aid agreement between CAL FIRE and local agency? | | |
| ∐Yes ∐No Comments: | | |
| Is there an auto-aid agreement between CAL FIRE and local agency? | | |
| ☐Yes ☐No | | |
| Comments: | | |
| What is the typical emergency fire suppression response time? | | |
| < 5 minutes 6 to 15 minutes 16 to 25 minutes 30 minutes Comments: | | |
| Comments. | | |
| | | |
| 2 4 742 | | |
| Page 1 of 10 | | |
| "Subdivision Name-I.D #" | | Revised 7/1/20 |
| | | |
| | | |



Subdivision Review Program

RESOURCES

Assembly Bill 2911 Subdivision Review Program



California Code of Regulations 1270
SRA/VHFHSZ Fire Safe Regulations





NFPA Firewise USA®

- CAL FIRE is the California state liaison for the Firewise USA recognition program.
- Land Use Planning Program staff can assist the local communities in navigating through the application and community wildfire risk assessment process.
- A self-directed, community-oriented program (8-2,500 dwelling units) that teaches people how to prepare for wildfire.





How to become a Firewise Community (getting started)

- Organize it
- Plan It
- Do it
- Tell us about it.
- * CA Requirements













Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States. At the same time, a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk.

While these fires will continue to happen, there are things you can do to protect your home and neighborhood as well as your family's safety. The Firewise USA® program is here to help you get started.

Prepare your home

Learn what action you can take to make your home safer from wildfire.

Get started

Understand more about the process and help your community get started on its wildfire preparedness journey.

Login to the portal

Create a new Firewise USA® site, complete your annual renewal application, or manage the communities you advise

- Work towards reduced wildfire risks:
 - Projects to create a more wildfire prepared community.
 - Reduced hazards to you and your community.
- Demonstrate commitment to insurance carriers:
 - Improves standing for grant applications.
 - May reduce fire insurance premiums –
 USAA and FAIR Plan.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE

W VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

To increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire, choose fire-resistant building materials and limit the amount of flammable vegetation in the three home ignition zones. The zones include the Immediate Zone; (0 to 5 feet around the house), the Intermediate Zone; (5 to 30 feet), and the Extended Zone; (30 to 100 feet).

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch, and deck and prune branches of large trees up to 6 to 10 feet (depending on their height) from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils, and waxes. Use crushed stone or gravel instead of flammable mulches in the Immediate Zone (0 to 5 feet around the house). Keep your landscape in good condition.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products, such as composite shingles, metal, concrete, and clay tiles, offer the best protection. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks and porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant slding such as brick, fibercement, plaster, or stucco, and use dual-pane tempered glass windows.



VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

B DE DDEDADED

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood have legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicle access.

- Develop, discuss, and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for handling pets, large animals, and livestock.
- Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a predesignated meeting place.
- Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay-don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.
- Conduct an annual insurance policy checkup to adjust for local building costs, codes, and new renovations.
- Create or update a home inventory to help settle



TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK WHERE YOU LIVE.

Firewise* is a program of the National Five Protection Association.
This publication was produced in cooperation with the USDA Fersits Service, US Department of the Interior, and the National Association of Date Forestern, NFPA is an equal opporturity provider. Firewise* and Firewise USA* are registered trademarks of the National Five Protect

Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at Firewise.org

Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division

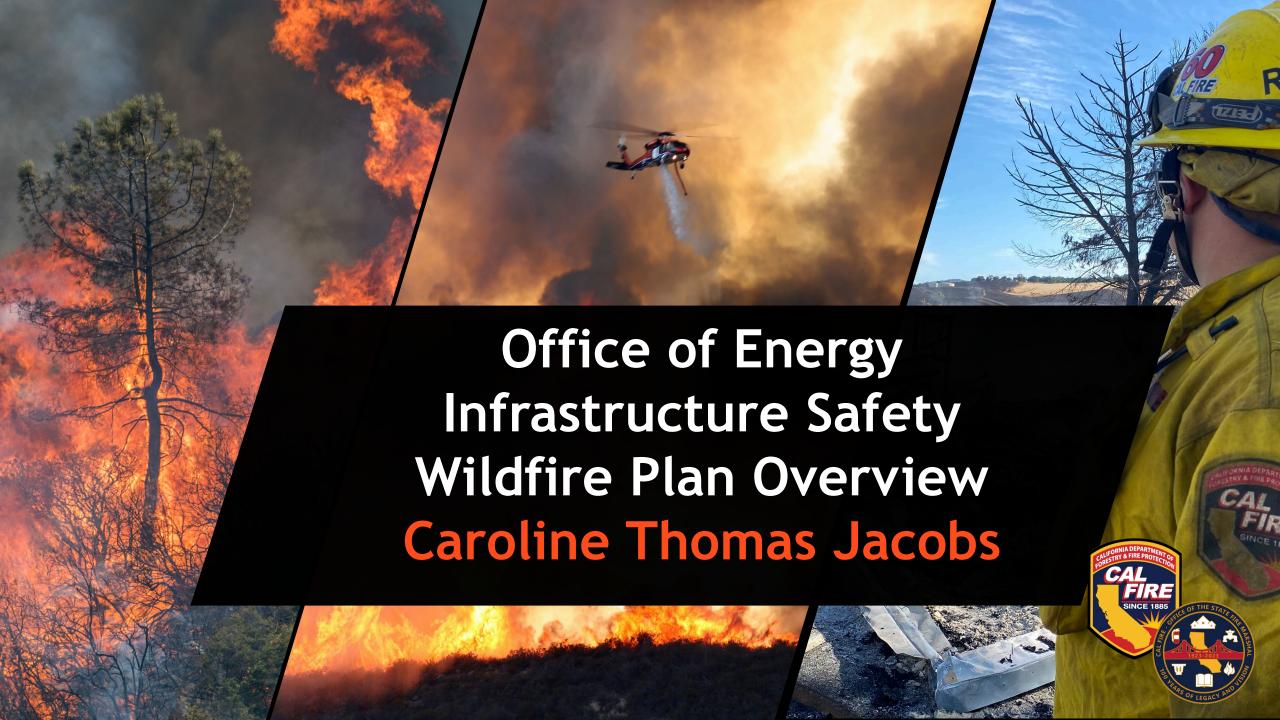


Community Wildfire Risk Assessment



NFPA Firewise USA®





CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CORPORATIONS' WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANS

Presentation to the Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting June 20, 2023

Director Caroline Thomas Jacobs Deputy Director Melissa Semcer



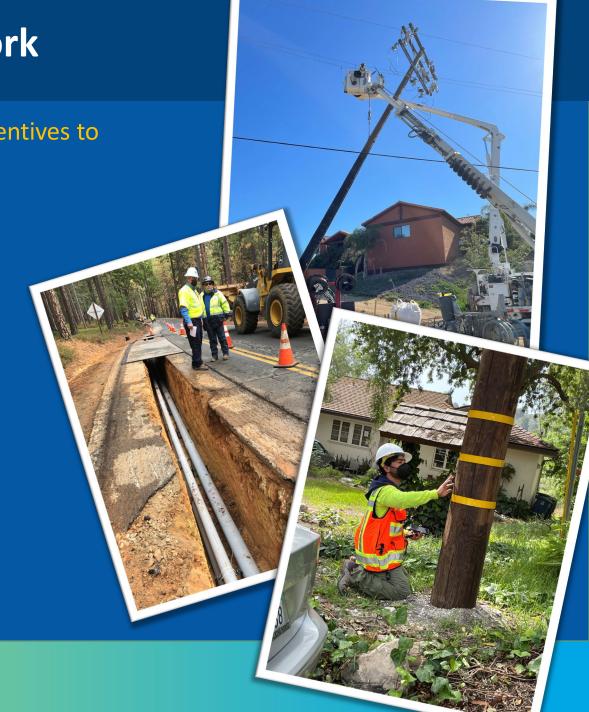


Novel Innovative Regulatory Framework

Enacted in 2019 to reduce utility-ignited wildfires through incentives to invest in electrical grid resiliency and safety improvements.

Key Elements

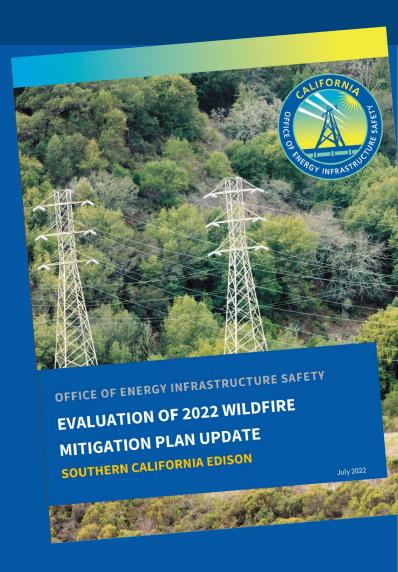
- 3-year Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- Wildfire Safety Advisory Board of technical experts
- Annual Safety Culture Assessments
- Work verification Field Inspections
- Voluntary Safety Certification
 - requires Executive Compensation Structure approval
- Voluntary 10-year Undergrounding Plan New: SB 884 (2022)



2020-2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Cycle

Since 2020 Electrical Corporations have:

- Increased their maturity levels across 10 broad categories, incl grid hardening, asset inspection & maintenance, and situational awareness & forecasting.
- Built and matured risk modeling & assessment capabilities and begun to integrate risk prioritization across their enterprise.
- Replaced and upgraded thousands of old components such as fuses, poles, and remote sensing devices.
- Begun redesigning and rebuilding their grid to new "hardened" standards.
- Installed a wide **network of weather stations and cameras** and built sophisticated situational awareness & forecasting capabilities.
- Enhanced the **quality and comprehensiveness** of asset and vegetation management inspections.
- Initiated strengthening of **enterprise data governance** and management activities.
- Reorganized to institutionalize wildfire risk into executive leadership.



Key Areas of Continued Improvement (ACIs) over 2020-2022 cycle

System Hardening – Asset Inspections – Vegetation Management – Grid Ops (PSPS & EPSS)

- Clear decision-making frameworks for system hardening selections.
- Improved targeting of mitigations to highest risk areas.
- Improved quality of inspections and maintenance programs.
- Integration of risk prioritization into grid operations.
- Joint effectiveness studies on enhanced vegetation management and covered conductor.
- Participation in utility wildfire risk modeling workgroup (ongoing).
- Collaboration on best practices for integrating climate forecasts and community vulnerability into risk modeling.
- Participation in development of utility vegetation management best practices.

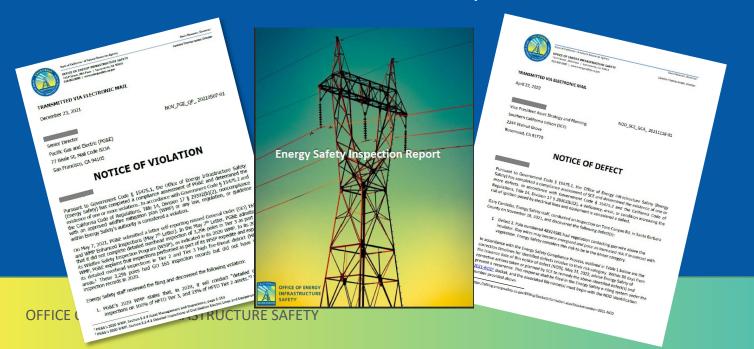


Wildfire Mitigation Plan Compliance

Inspections and Audits

since program inception in May 2020

- Conducted over **65,000 inspection activities.**
- Directed corrective action on over 1000 defects & violations.
- Directed Independent Evaluation of 2020-2022 Plans implementation.
- Issued **final compliance assessment report** for 2020 Plans.
- Final assessment of 2021 Plans underway.



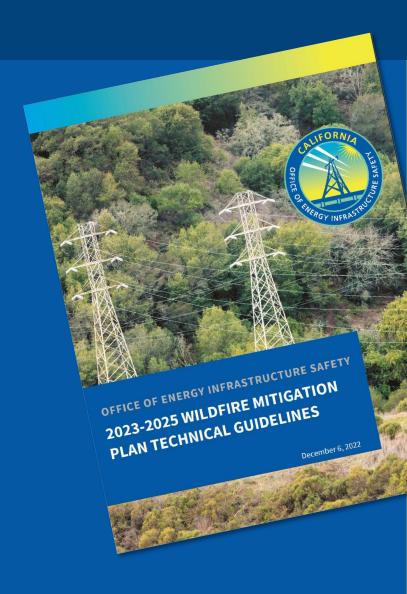


2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plans

Published new, updated WMP Guidelines for 2023-2025 plan cycle.

- Updated Submission Structure & Template
 - > 2023-2025 Base Plan with option for 2025 Plan Update submitted in 2024.
- Updated Performance Metrics & Template
- Revamped Maturity Survey
- Evaluation Criteria:
 - a) Completeness
 - b) Technical and programmatic feasibility and effectiveness
 - c) Resource Use Efficiency
 - d) Demonstrated year-over-year progress
 - e) Forward-looking Growth
 - f) Performance Metrics
 - g) Targets

Have authority to require revisions to a Plan before decision.



2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Evaluation Schedule & Status

| Date | Action |
|-------------|---|
| Jan/Feb | WMP Completeness Checks |
| March 7 | Large Investor-Owned Utilities (IOU) Submit 2023-2025 WMPs |
| April 27-28 | Large IOU WMP Workshop |
| May 8 | Small Multi–Jurisdictional Utilities (SMJU) and Independent Transmission Operators (ITO) Submit 2023-2025 WMPs |
| May 26 | Opening Comments Due for Large IOU WMPs |
| June 16 | SMJU/ITO WMP Workshop |
| June 29 | Opening Comments Due for SMJU/ITO WMPs |
| Mid-July | Revision Notices issued for IOUs, if necessary |
| Late August | Draft Decisions issued for IOUs without Revision Notices |
| Late August | Revision Notices issued for SMJU/ITOs, if necessary |
| September | Draft Decisions issued for IOU(s) with Revision Notices |
| Sept/Oct | Draft Decisions issued for SMJU/ITOs without Revision Notices |

2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Status

Current Cycle Evaluations

- Large IOU WMP evaluations are well underway; SMJU and ITOs are in their beginning stages
- Evaluation is focused on the entire plan period; looking for sufficient maturity and growth for 2023 and 2024.

2025 WMP Updates

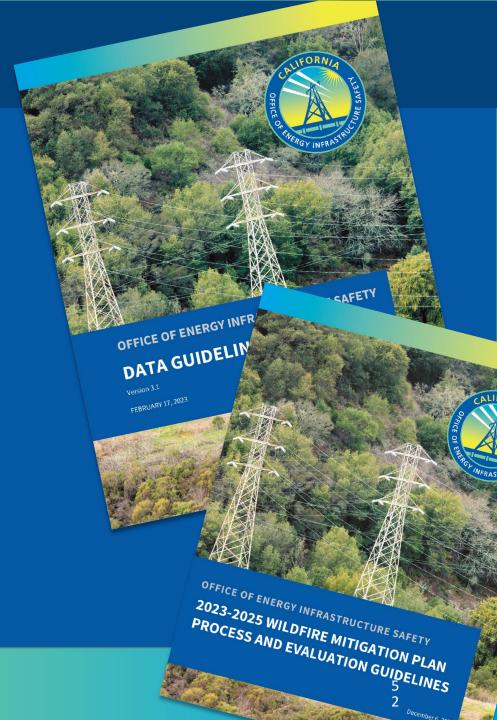
- Upcoming workshop to explore 2025 WMP Update Guidelines
- Issue **2025 WMP Guidelines** in the Fall of 2023
- 2025 WMP Updates submitted in Feb (approx.) of 2024.



2026 WMPs and Beyond

Energy Safety will move into another 3-year Base WMP for 2026-2028.

- Issue Comprehensive Guidelines in 2024.
 - Seeking to further refine 2023-2025 WMP Guidelines based on lessons learned.
- Public Process Input Welcomed!
- Possible Changes could include:
 - Revamp Maturity Survey
 - Update Performance Metrics
 - Streamline Data Reporting
 - Refine Risk Framework





DATA DRIVEN FORWARD-THINKING INNOVATIVE SAFETY FOCUSED

www.energysafety.ca.gov

OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY

A California Natural Resources Agency

715 P Street, 20th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 916.902.6000





Roundtable / Public Comment

- ► Roundtable
- ► Topic Suggestions for Next Meetings
 - https://forms.gle/Wefg6Ynrn UGYS8ua9
- ► Public Comment





Next Meeting Information

July 18, 2023

CNRA Building, 2-221(A-C) Conference Room 715 P St, Sacramento, CA

- National Institute of Standards and Technology:
 - Releasing the Camp Fire 4 report on:
 - Notifications
 - Evacuations
 - Traffic
 - Temporary Refuge Areas
 - Alex Maranghides





Meeting Adjournment (Motion Required)

Copies of the written materials have been posted on the Office of the State Fire Marshal web site at https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/.

For information concerning the Advisory Committee Meeting, please contact Kara Garrett at (916) 201-5539 or <u>Kara.Garrett@fire.ca.gov</u>.

NOTE: Items designated for information are appropriate for committee action if the committee chooses to act. The agenda order is tentative and subject to change. Agenda items may be taken out of order to facilitate the effective transaction of business. The Committee may not discuss or act on any matter raised during the public forum period, except to decide whether to place the matter on the notice and agenda of a future committee meeting.

