The version dated September 17, 2007 of the map shown here represents draft VHFHSZs within LRA, for review and comment by local government.

The draft VHFHSZs, as depicted on the map above, define areas of very high fire hazard within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). Mapping of the areas, referred to as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), is based on relevant factors such as fuels, terrain, and weather. VHFHSZ maps were initially developed in the mid-1990s but are now being updated based on improved science, mapping techniques, and data.

The California Building Code adopted the Wildland Urban Interface codes in 2008 to be effective in 2009. These new small community provisions require the ignition resistance of buildings, especially structures in construction, to be more resistant to fire than is the case with the old Wildland-Urban Interface codes. The wildfire danger rating system used in the codes includes a detailed classification of wildfire danger that includes zones based on VHFHSZs. It is likely that the fire hazard severity zones will be used to update small community building codes.

This map has been created by CAL FIRE-FRAP and Forest Assessment Program (FRAP). Using data and models describing vegetation patterns, expected fire behavior, and expected burn probabilities, draft VHFHSZ maps were created using the FRAP database and integrated with other information (including firebrands) to new construction. Details on the project and specific modeling methodology can be obtained at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov.

An interactive system for viewing map data is hosted by the UC Center for Fire at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov.

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