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The draft fire hazard severity zones represent the adjusted 2006 fire hazard severity zones, which will be used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in the Wildland-Urban Interface. The updated zones will also be used by property owners to comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at the time of property sale and 100-foot defensible space clearance. It is likely that the fire hazard severity zones will be used for updates in 2008. These new codes include provisions to improve the ignition resistance of buildings, especially in 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.

For more information, contact CAL FIRE-FRAP, PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460, (916) 327-3939.