DRAFT FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES IN LRA

The California Building Code requires the California Building Commission to adopt the VHFHSZs within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) 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 Commission uses the VHFHSZs for Wildland Urban Interface areas in the state to direct development in areas where natural vegetation and human development meet. VHFHSZs help to identify areas where fires can cause significant damage and to guide community planning and development.

Questions can be directed to:

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

This map has been created by CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) using data and models from fire brands to new construction. The updated fire hazard severity zones will be used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in the Wildland-Urban Interface. The updated zones and expected burn probabilities to quantify the likelihood and nature of vegetation fire exposure to new construction.

The CalIfornIa Building Commission adopted the Wildland-Urban Interface codes in late 2005 to be effective in 2008. These new codes include provisions to improve the ignition resistance of buildings, especially from firebrands. The updated fire hazard severity zones will be used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new construction in the Wildland-Urban Interface. The updated zones and expected burn probabilities will be used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new construction in the Wildland-Urban Interface.

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