Local government has 120 days to designate, by ordinance, very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZ) to build in, nature of vegetation fire exposure (including firebrands) to buildings. Details on the project and specific modeling were initially developed in the mid-1990s and are now being updated based on improved science, mapping techniques, and the safety element of general plans.

The recommended zones are incorporated Cities, CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZL06_3), and CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA05_5).

There is no requirement for local government to report their final action to CAL FIRE when the recommended zones are adopted. Consequently, users are directed to the appropriate local entity (county, city, fire department, or Fire Protection District) to determine the status of the local fire hazard severity zone ordinance.

In late 2005 to be effective in 2008, the California Building Commission adopted California Building Code Chapter 7A, which includes provisions to improve the ignition resistance of buildings, especially from firebrands. The updated very high fire hazard severity zones will be used for updates in new building permits in LRA. The updated zones will also be incorporated into the state's fire management plans and used for updates in new building permits in LRA. For more information, contact CAL FIRE-FRAP at 916-327-3030.