Public Resources Code (Section 4201-4202) directs the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to map fire hazard severity areas within the State. These fire hazard severity areas (FSA) are mapped by CAL FIRE using data and models provided for mapping fires to buildings. These maps are referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), provide the basis for application of various mitigation strategies to reduce risks to buildings associated with wild land fires. The zones also relate to the requirements for building codes designed to reduce the ignition potential to buildings in the wild-urban interface zones. These maps have been created by CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) using data and models describing development patterns, estimated fire behavior characteristics based on potential fuels over a 30-50 year time horizon, and expected burn probabilities to quantify the likelihood and nature of vegetation fire exposure to new construction. Details on the project and specific modeling methodology can be found at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov.

An interactive system for viewing map data is hosted by the UC Center for Fire at http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/fhsz/.

Questions can be directed to David Sapsis, at 916.445.5369, dave.sapsis@fire.ca.gov

Obtain FRAP maps, data, reports and publications on the Internet at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov

For more information, contact CAL FIRE-FRAP, PO Box 843245, Sacramento, CA 94244-2450, (916) 327-3638