

Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Maps

May 19, 2025



Fire Hazard Severity Zones

What are the zones?

- The maps are required by Government Code 51178 & 51179
- They identify three levels of fire hazard:
 - Moderate, High, and Very High
 - San Leandro's new map only has High and Moderate



Model Updates

- Updated burn probabilities for wildland areas
- Updated fire environment footprints (urban/developed)
- Updated vegetation density for urban areas
- Inclusion of slope in the urban zoning model
- Localized fire weather used in both wildland and urban models
- New firebrand production and transport model using discrete local wind vector distribution



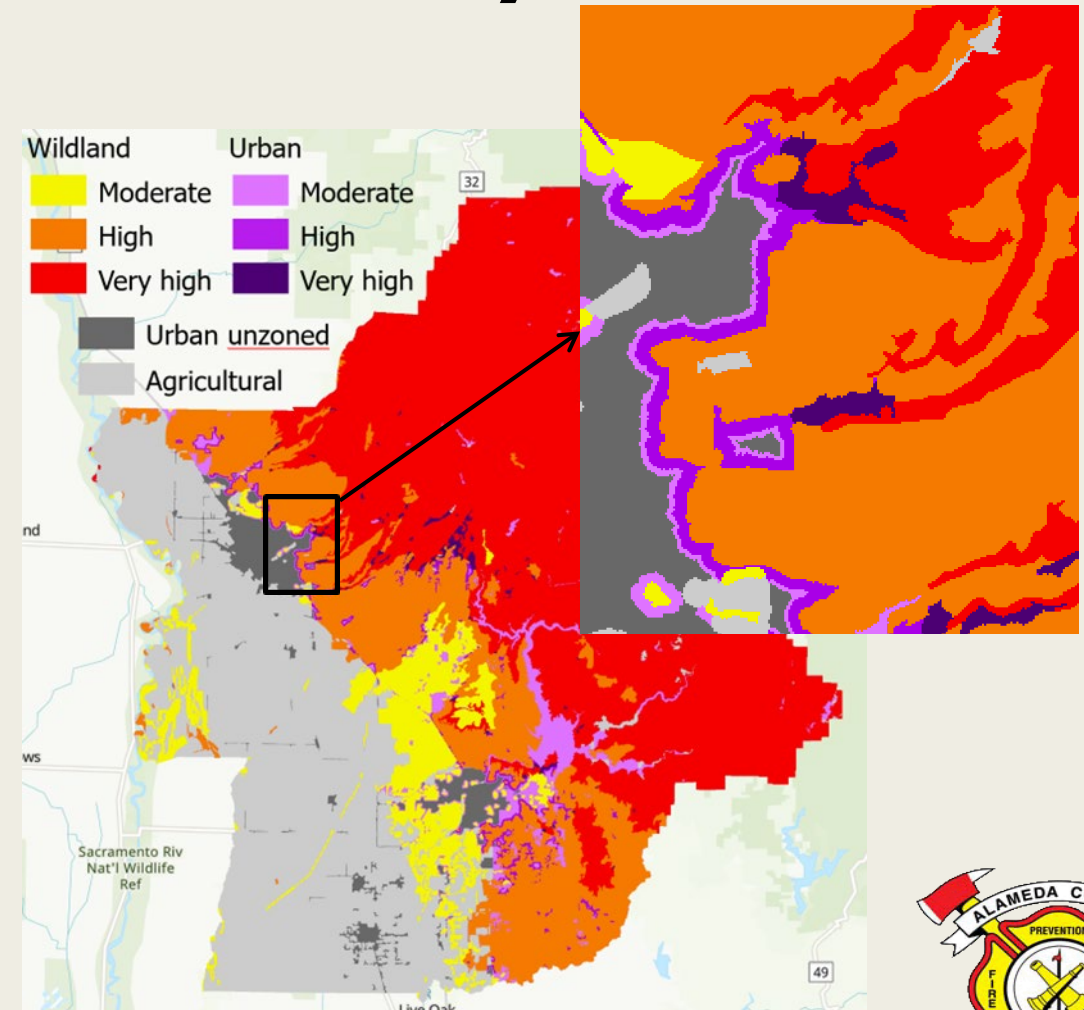
Wildland vs. Non-Wildland Zones

- Zones are areas with relatively homogeneous slope and vegetation
- Hazard map is produced at 30m resolution
- Scores are averaged within a zone
- Wildland is scored independently of urban and agricultural
- Urban zones scored using additional model steps



Urban Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- Based on distance to wildland and hazard level of adjacent wildland
- Ember production based on vegetation type and fire weather
- Ember transport based on wind speed/direction observed under the most extreme fire weather at a given location
- Width of moderate, high and very high bands in urban are based on ember load, urban tree cover, and slope

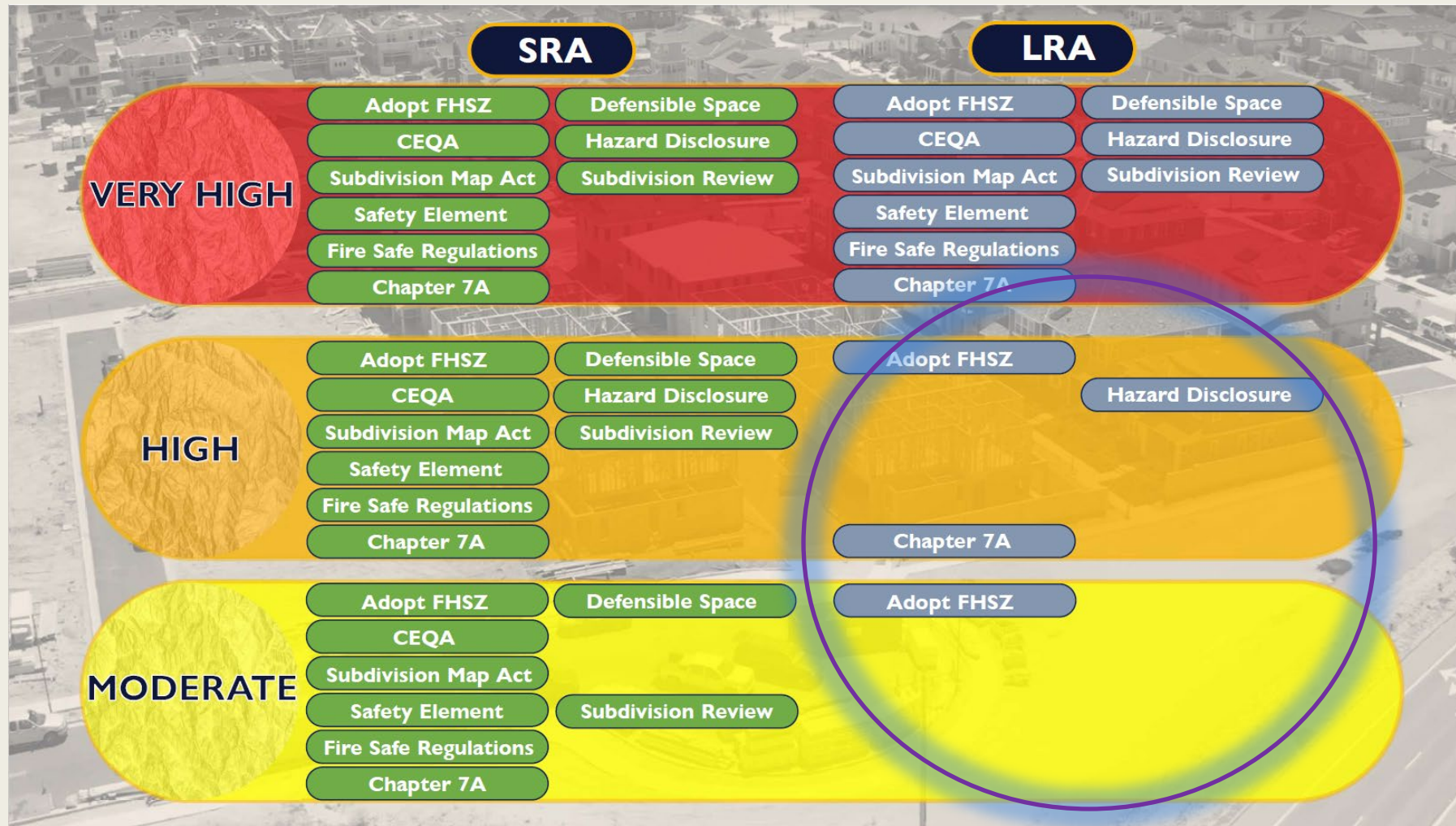


Map Purpose

What is the map for?

- Building standards for new construction in the Wildland-Urban Interface (CBC Chapter 7A)
- Property development standards such as road widths, water supply and signage (Fire Safe Regulations)
- Defensible Space Requirements (Government Code 51182)
- Natural hazard real estate disclosure

Examples of State Minimum Requirements



Zones

- High Severity Zones (Orange on Map).
 - New construction subject to applicable sections of CBC Chapter 7A
 - Hazard Disclosure subject to real estate transfer inspection by fire staff.
- Moderate Severity Zone (Yellow on Map).
 - No impact other than on the map



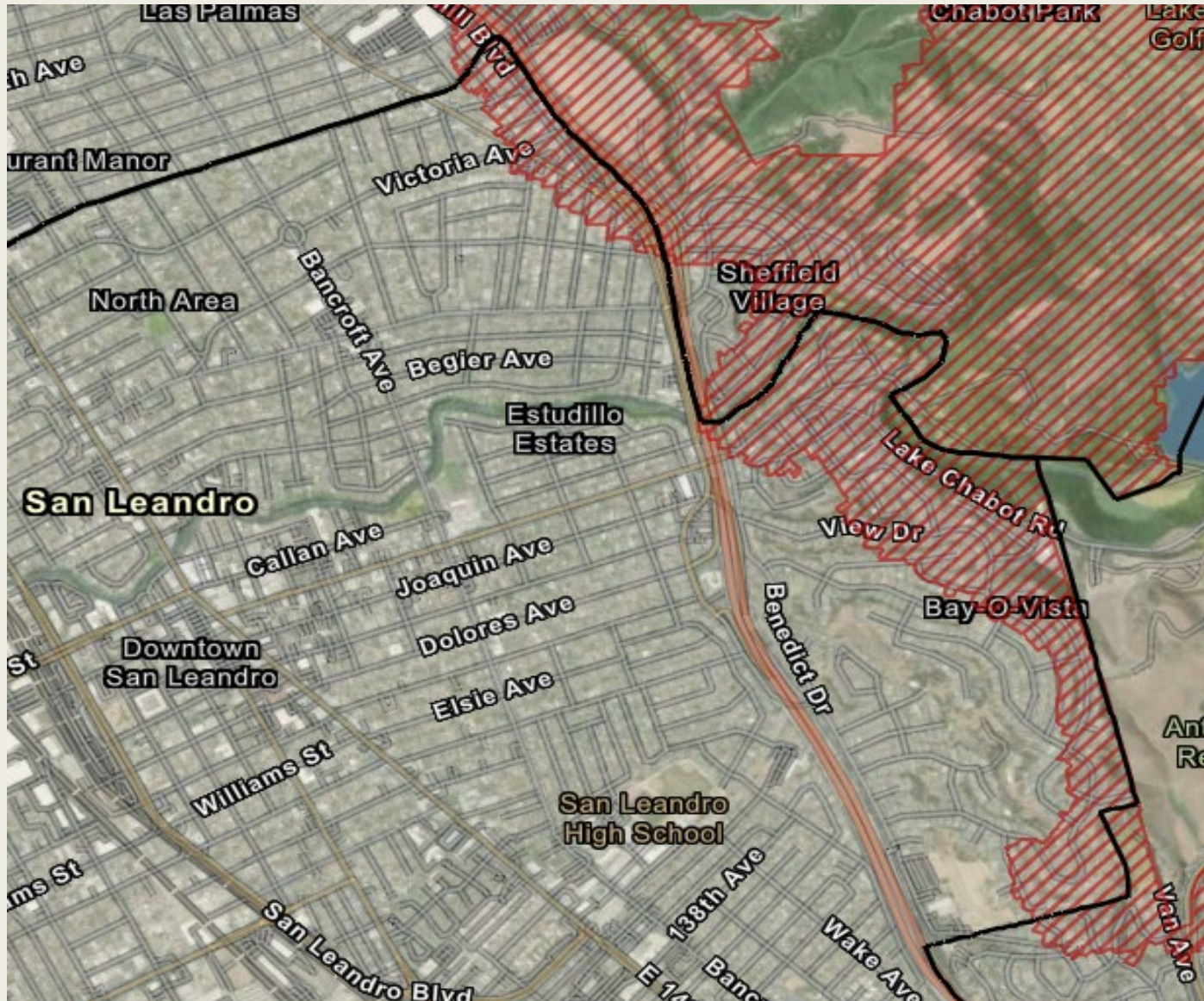
2025 Map



- The LRA 2025 evaluation included Very High, High, and Moderate
- Results:
 - 443 parcels in High
 - 184 parcels in Moderate
 - Grand total of 627



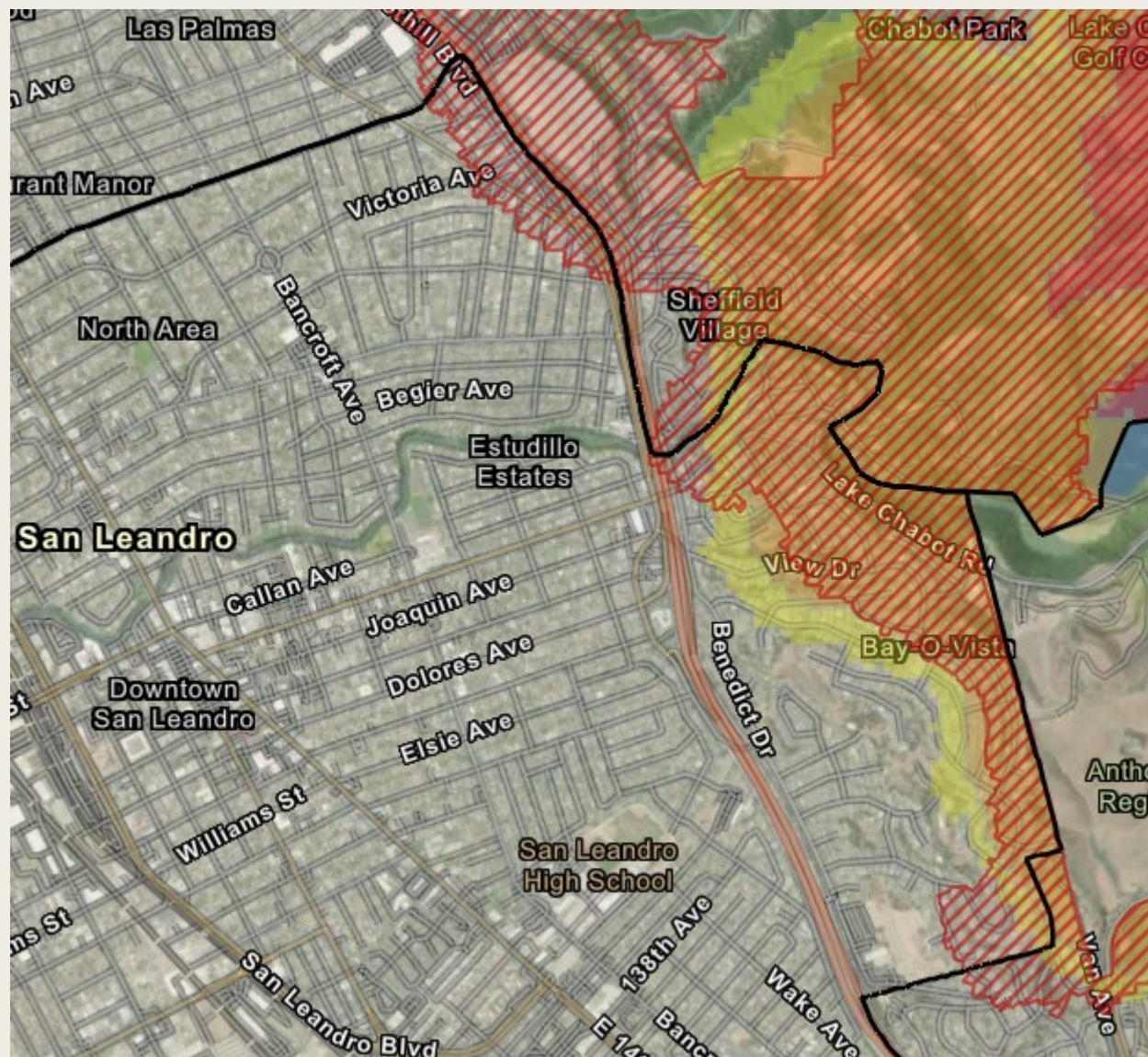
2009 Map



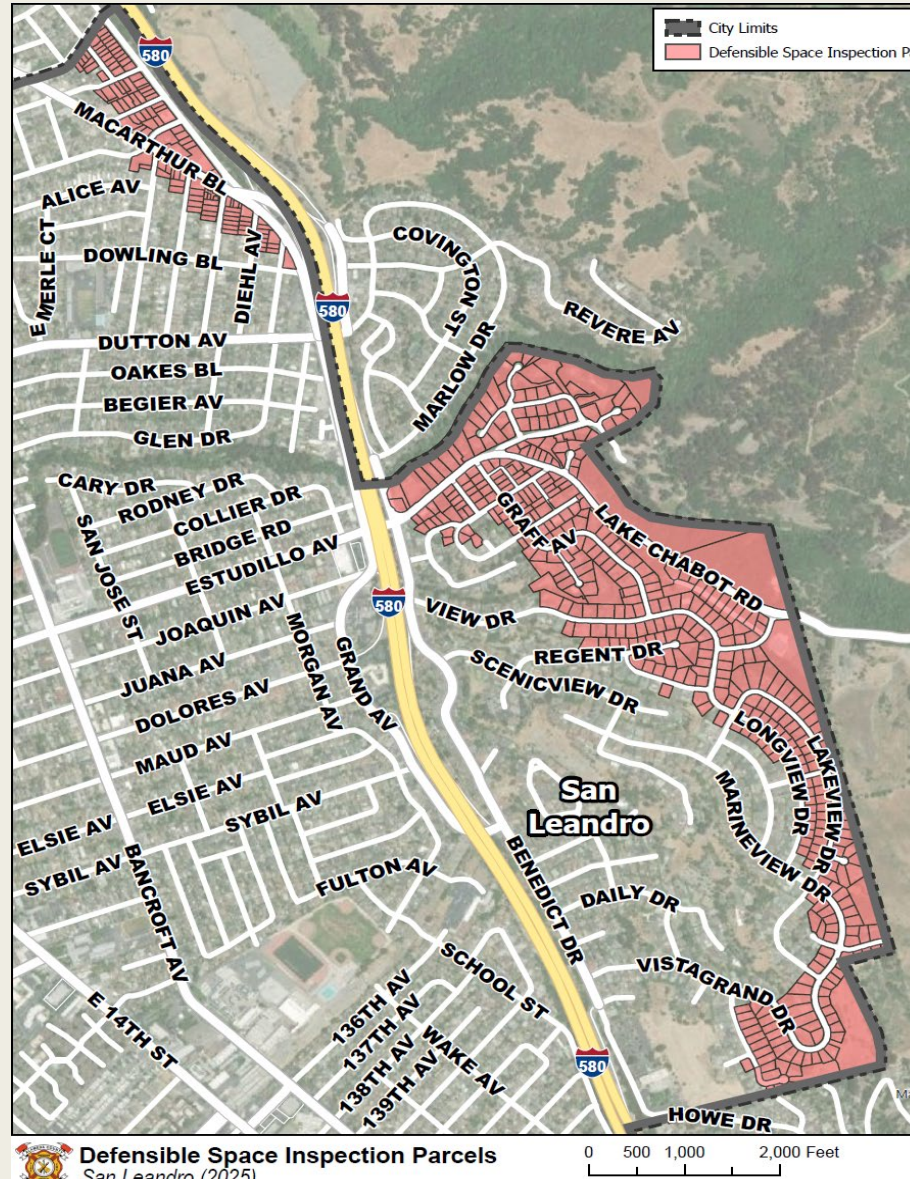
- Only the Very High Zone was evaluated in the Local Response Area (LRA) in 2007-2011.
- San Leandro had 557 parcels in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone



Map Comparison



Defensible Space Inspections



State Mandated Adoption Process

- Senate Bill 63 (Stern, 2021) now requires all zones to be adopted.
- Maps Released on February 24, 2025.
- City of San Leandro has 30 days to make maps available for the public (Government Code 51178.5).
- Maps made available on March 3, 2025.
- City has 120 days from receiving maps to adopt an ordinance (Government Code 51179).
- Local agency shall transmit a copy of the adopted ordinance to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection with 30 days of adoption.



Ordinance Restrictions

- The law does not allow for a local jurisdiction to request changes or provide comments to the State Fire Marshal on the Fire Hazard Severity Zone designations.
- The local municipality shall not decrease the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction.
- Per Government Code 51179 (b)(1) A local agency may, at its discretion, include areas within the jurisdiction of the local agency, not identified as very high fire hazard severity zones by the State Fire Marshal, as very high fire hazard severity zones following a finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the requirements of Section 51182 are necessary for effective fire protection in the area.



Effect on Insurance

- Fire Hazard and Fire Risk are separate processes.
- Insurance companies measure risk and they each use their own models to measure risk.
- Risk is not being measured with this process.
- Contact your insurance company if you have questions regarding what they measure and how you can reduce the risk in their eyes.

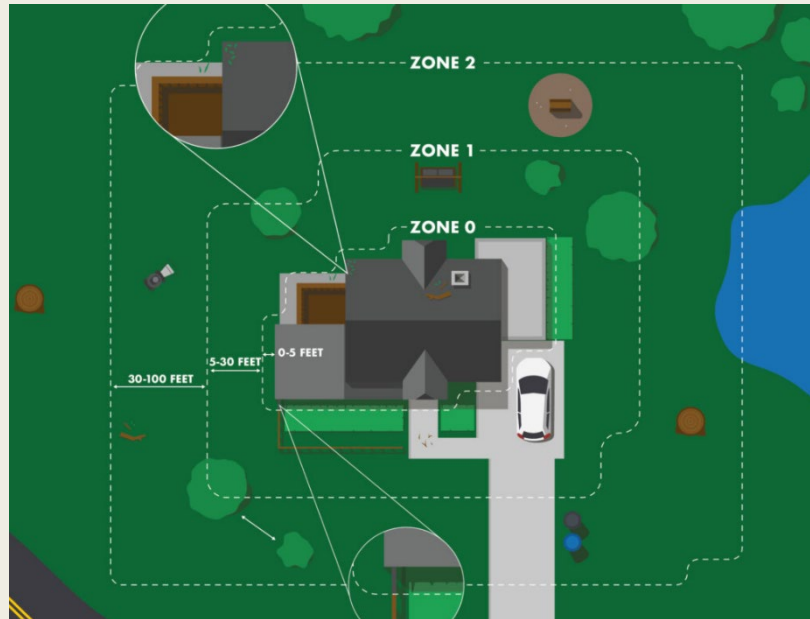


City Fire Safety Efforts

- Continued annual Defensible Space Inspections of High FHSZ areas
- Chipper Program
- Community Preparedness Training
 - Emergency Preparedness Workshop May 20 & June 11
 - Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)
 - May 29, 31, June 7
- Red Flag Days - Engine upstaffing and patrolling



Request a Defensible Space Inspection
acfddefensiblespace@acgov.org



Zone 0: Ember-Resistant Zone 0 – 5 feet from building

Zone 1: Lean, Clean, and Green Zone 5 – 30 feet from the building

Zone 2: Reduce Fuel Zone 30-100 feet from the building or to the property line

**Alameda County Fire Department
Defensible Space Program
Frequently Asked Questions**

The Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) is conducting defensible space inspections for residents who live in our Very High Fire Severity Zones. The program aims to educate residents on wildfire safety and managing vegetation around the home. Adequate defensible space acts as a barrier to slow or stop the progress of fire that could otherwise engulf your property. It also helps ensure the safety of firefighters attending your home. Defensible space is the first line of defense for your home against wildfire.

WHAT IS A HIGH OR VERY HIGH FIRE SEVERITY ZONE? The State Fire Marshal identifies areas in California as Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Severity zones based on statewide criteria and the severity of the hazard that is expected in these areas.

WHAT DOES SRA AND LRA MEAN? State Responsibility Area (SRA) is defined as the area where the state is responsible for firefighting, while the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) is where local agencies are responsible.

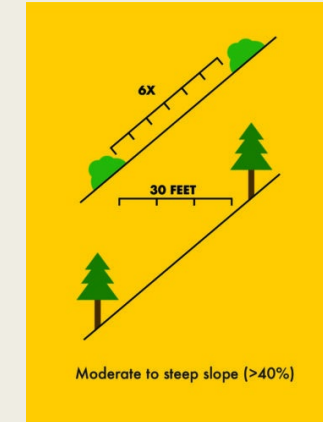
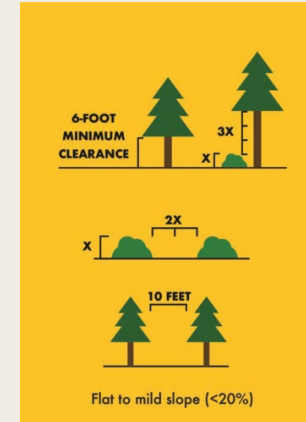
HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PROPERTY IS IN A SEVERITY ZONE? You can search by address to find your current designation on the web site fire.acgov.org/HZ.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS IN UNINCORPORATED ALAMEDA COUNTY? Residents in Very High Fire Severity zones in unincorporated Alameda County are responsible for maintaining defensible space around their property.

WILL I BE FINED IF I DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE? Currently, no fines are being assessed out. We are currently using a community educational approach to avoid residents in becoming compliant before fines are introduced. We are asking residents to take responsibility for compliance voluntarily while we increase the size and scope of the program.

DO I NEED AN INSPECTION IF I AM BUYING OR SELLING MY HOME? In California, a Defensible Space Real Estate Disclosure is required for residential property sales in high or very high fire hazard severity zones. This means the seller needs documentation of a compliant Defensible Space inspection for the property. The inspection ensures the property meets local vegetation management guidelines and fire safety standards.

IS THERE A FEE FOR HAZARD ANALYSIS FROM ACD? Currently there is no charge for the inspection by ACD in unincorporated Alameda County, but this may change as the department examines the need to recover the costs of administering the program.



ACFD Defensible Space Inspection FAQs



Take an interactive look at the CalFire Wildfire Action Plan

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

California's seasonally dry Mediterranean climate lends itself to wildfires, and in an effort to better prepare, CAL FIRE is required to classify the severity of fire hazard in areas of California.

HISTORY OF FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAPS

The History of Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps

Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps were born from major destructive fires, prompting the recognition of these areas and strategies to reduce wildfire risk. Legislative response led to nationwide mapping across California under the California Public Resources Code 4231.424, incorporating all State Responsibility Areas (SRA).

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Locator

**ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE / CAL FIRE
Chipper Program**

The **Free** community chipping program will run May 3 - June 7, 2025. This service is for residents in high fire areas aimed to reduce potential fire hazards by assisting with the *chipping of vegetation that exceeds green bin space but too small for commercial chipping providers. This service is being offered in collaboration with ACFD's Fuels Crew 8, CAL FIRE and their Fuel Management Teams, along with Reserve Firefighter Training and Education Program.

ACFD response areas and CAL FIRE state response areas are the program priorities, most of which are located in Alameda County unincorporated areas (excluding Fairview), and San Leandro. The purpose is to create defensible space around the home and access routes for first responders.

We will not enter private property; this is a curb side service. No work will be done during Red Flag days. *Chipped materials will not be hauled away.

May 3 - June 7, 2025

Chipper Weekly Priority Areas:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| May 3 — Sunol | May 24 — San Leandro |
| May 10 — Castro Valley | May 31 — Castro Valley |
| May 17 — Union City | June 7 — Sunol |

funded by: Coastal Conservancy

The program has limited availability. To participate, please visit our website at fire.acgov.org or email OneLessSpark@acgov.org. For additional resources, visit www.readyforwildfire.org.

ACFD Chipper Program