
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE rolls out proposed fire hazard maps statewide Public hearings to be held in 56 counties this summer

Sacramento – CAL FIRE, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, will begin introducing proposed updates to the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for state responsibility area lands in mid-June. California law requires CAL FIRE to produce maps identifying areas that face moderate, high or very high fire hazard within property for which the state has financial responsibility for wildland fire protection.

The maps are used to determine legal requirements affecting property owners including building construction standards. The maps were last updated in the mid-1980s. It is necessary to update the maps to ensure accuracy and incorporate improved fire science and mapping techniques.

“Identifying hazard is an important part of planning for wildfire and reducing the loss of lives and property,” explained State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan. “Fire Hazard Severity Zones influence how people construct buildings and protect their property, which are actions that can help a home survive a wildfire.”

The proposed map updates were developed using a field-tested model that addresses the probability of the area burning and potential fire behavior in the area. Many factors are considered such as fire history, existing and potential fuel, flame length, blowing embers, terrain and weather.

The maps will be introduced at public hearings held in each of the 56 counties with state responsibility area lands. The hearings will include an overview of the process used to develop the maps. Large format versions of the map for the host county and the statewide map will be on display at the hearing. The public will have an opportunity to submit a public comment on the maps at the hearing and by mail or e-mail following the hearing. All comments received will be reviewed and responded to prior to adoption or revision of the maps by the CAL FIRE Director.

Comprehensive information on the map update process is available at www.fire.ca.gov/wildland. The Website includes an interactive map that allows users to find the proposed hazard rating for a specific address. For more information on the public hearing, contact Chief Christopher Zimny at (916) 653-9418.

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