## CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE – MATRIX ADOPTION TABLE CHAPTER 49 – REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREAS

(Matrix Adoption Tables are non-regulatory, intended only as an aid to the user. See Chapter 1 for state agency authority and building applications.)

Adopting Agency	BSC	SFM		HCD			DSA		OSHPD				BSCC	рце			CEC	~	SL	SLC
		T-24	T-19*	1	2	1/AC	AC	SS	1	2	3	4	DOCC	лэ	AGR	DWR	CEU	CA	эL	SLU
Adopt Entire Chapter		Х																		
Adopt Entire Chapter as amended (amended sections listed below)																				
Adopt only those sections that are listed below																				
[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1]																				
Chapter / Section																				

\* The *California Code of Regulations* (CCR), Title 19, Division 1 provisions that are found in the *California Fire Code* are a reprint from the current CCR, Title 19, Division 1 text for the code user's convenience only. The scope, applicability and appeals procedures of CCR, Title 19, Division I remain the same.

### CHAPTER 49

# REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREAS

#### SECTION 4901 GENERAL

**4901.1 Scope.** The mitigation of conditions where a wildfire burning in vegetative fuels may readily transmit fire to buildings and threaten to destroy life, overwhelm fire suppression capabilities, or result in large property losses shall comply with this chapter.

**4901.2 Purpose.** The purpose of this code is to provide minimum standards to increase the ability of a building to resist the intrusion of flame or burning embers being projected by a vegetation fire and contributes to a systematic reduction in conflagration losses through the use of performance and prescriptive requirements.

#### SECTION 4902 DEFINITIONS

**4902.1 General.** For the purpose of this chapter, certain terms are defined as follows:

**CDF DIRECTOR.** Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

**FIRE PROTECTION PLAN.** A document prepared for a specific project or development proposed for a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area. It describes ways to minimize and mitigate potential for loss from wildfire exposure.

The Fire Protection Plan shall be in accordance with this Article. When required by the enforcing agency for the purposes of granting modifications, a fire protection plan shall be submitted. Only locally adopted ordinances that have been filed with the California Building Standards Commission in accordance with Section 101.14 or the Department of Housing and Community Development in accordance with Section 101.15 shall apply.

FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES. Geographical areas designated pursuant to California Public Resources Codes, Sections 4201 through 4204 and classified as Very High, High, or Moderate in State Responsibility Areas or as Local Agency Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones designated pursuant to California Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 1280 entitles the maps of these geographical areas as "Maps of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the State Responsibility Area of California."

LOCAL AGENCY VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVER-ITY ZONE. An area designated by a local agency upon the recommendation of the CDF Director pursuant to Government Code, Sections 51177(c), 51178 and 5118, that is not a state responsibility area and where a local agency, city, county, city and county, or district is responsible for fire protection.

**STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA.** Lands that are classified by the Board of Forestry pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4125 where the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing forest fires is primarily the responsibility of the state.

**WILDFIRE.** Any uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels that threatens to destroy life, property, or resources as defined in Public Resources Code, Sections 4103 and 4104.

WILDFIRE EXPOSURE. One or a combination of radiant heat, convective heat, direct flame contact and burning

embers being projected by vegetation fire to a structure and its immediate environment.

**WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREA.** A geographical area identified by the state as a "Fire Hazard Severity Zone" in accordance with the Public Resources Code, Sections 4201 through 4204, and Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189, or other areas designated by the enforcing agency to be at a significant risk from wildfires.

#### SECTION 4903 PLANS [RESERVED]

#### SECTION 4904 FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

**4904.1 General.** Lands in the state are classified by the CDF Director in accordance with the severity of wildfire hazard expected to prevail in those areas and the responsibility for fire protection, so that measures may be identified which will reduce the potential for losses to life, property, and resources from wildfire.

**4904.2** Classifications. The CDF Director classifies lands into fire hazard severity zones in accordance with California Public Resources Code, Sections 4201 through 4204 for State Responsibility Areas and accordance with Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189 for areas where a local agency is responsible for fire protection.

#### SECTION 4905 WILDFIRE PROTECTION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

**4905.1 General.** Materials and construction methods for exterior wildfire exposure protection shall be applied within geographical areas where a wildfire burning in vegetative fuels may readily transmit fire to buildings and threaten to destroy life, overwhelm fire suppression capabilities, or result in large property losses.

**4905.2** Construction methods and requirements within established limits. Within the limits established by law, construction methods intended to mitigate wildfire exposure shall comply with the wildfire protection building construction requirements contained in the California Building Standards Code, including the following:

- 1. California Building Code, Chapter 7A,
- 2. California Residential Code, Section R327,
- 3. California Referenced Standards Code, Chapter 12-7A and this chapter.

**4905.3 Establishment of limits.** The establishment of limits for the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area's required construction methods shall be designated pursuant to the California Public Resources Code for State Responsibility areas or by a local agency following a finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the requirements of this section are necessary for effective fire protection within the area.

#### SECTION 4906 HAZARDOUS VEGETATION AND FUEL MANAGEMENT

**4906.1 General.** Hazardous vegetation and fuels shall be managed to reduce the severity of potential exterior wildfire exposure to buildings and to reduce the risk of fire spreading to buildings as required by applicable laws and regulations.

**4906.2** Application. Buildings and structures located in the following areas shall maintain the required hazardous vegetation and fuel management:

- 1. All unincorporated lands designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as State Responsibility Area (SRA) including:
  - 1.1. Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
  - 1.2. High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
  - 1.3. Very-high Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
- 2. Land designated as Very-high Fire Hazard Severity Zone by cities and other local agencies.

**4906.3 Requirements.** Hazardous vegetation and fuels around all applicable buildings and structures shall be maintained in accordance with the following laws and regulations:

- 1. Public Resources Code, Section 4291.
- 2. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Section 1299 (see guidance for implementation "General Guideline to Create Defensible Space").
- 3. California Government Code, Section 51182.
- 4. California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 7, Subchapter 1, Section 3.07.

#### SECTION 4907 DEFENSIBLE SPACE

**4907.1 General.** Defensible space will be maintained around all buildings and structures in State Responsibility Area (SRA) as required in Public Resources Code 4290 and "SRA Fire Safe Regulations" California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Section 1270.

Buildings and structures within the Very-high Fire Hazard Severity Zones of a Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) shall maintain defensible space as outlined in Government Code 51175 – 51189 and any local ordinance of the authority having jurisdiction.

#### SECTION 4908 VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO LOS ANGELES

**4908.1 Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone established.** The Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall be established as set forth in Sections 4908.1.1 through 4908.1.3.

**4908.1.1 Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone ordinance and map.** The Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones are hereby established and declared to be those districts and areas included within the boundary described and set forth in the most current map adopted by Ordinance (amended by Ord. 181,719, Eff. 6/26/11.) which is incorporated herein and made a part hereof, for all purposes and shall be available at the Fire Marshals office. See Figure 4908.1.1.

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**4908.1.2 Modified boundary lines.** When in the course of improvement of undeveloped areas of the City, new streets, lots and building sites are created where none existed before, and such new streets, lots and building sites overlap the existing boundary line of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, the boundary line of such zone shall be deemed to be relocated to coincide with the property boundary or along the center line of such newly created streets that lie closest to the original boundary line location.

**4908.1.3 Legal description.** The fire code official shall by regulation establish a legal description of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Such regulation shall be amended from time to time to reflect changes necessitated by Section 4908.1.2. hereof or for other necessary purposes. Every such regulation of the fire code official shall be established according to the requirements of Section 104.1.1 of this article.

**4908.2 Posting of signs prohibiting smoking and burning.** There shall be no open burning or smoking in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The Chief shall cause such districts to be posted at all times by suitable signs giving notice thereof.

**4908.3** Authority to construct, maintain and close fire roads, fire trails and firebreaks. The Chief shall have authority to construct fire roads and firebreaks in or upon any undeveloped lands in any mountain or hill area, whether or not such lands are public or private, with the consent of the owner thereof, and to maintain the same on a permanent basis when the Chief determines that such fire roads and firebreak are necessary for the protection of life and property against fire or panic.

**4908.3.1** Authority to secure. The Chief may install gates or cables, and securely lock the same, to prevent the use by unauthorized persons of any fire road, truck trail or other road which is not a public highway and over which the Fire Department has the right to pass, whether by easement, license, City ownership or otherwise, for purposes relating to fire protection or control.

**4908.4** Authority in State and Federal forests. All lands within the limits of the City of Los Angeles and lying within the boundaries of any State or Federal forest lands, whether public or private, may be closed to the public by the Chief or by any authorized State or Federal officer, provided such closure is not in conflict with any State or Federal law. No person shall enter upon any lands so closed except by valid special permit from the Chief pursuant to Section 105.8 of this article. Such land shall be properly posted by either the United States Forest Service or the Department.

**Exception:** Closure of private lands shall not prohibit the use or entry upon such lands by the owner, his guests or

invitees, provided such guests or invitees have written permission of the owner of such private lands to enter upon the same.

**4908.5 Open flame prohibited.** There shall be no open flame or self-contained device capable of producing flame permitted or located upon any road, street or fire road within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

**4908.6 Smoking prohibited.** It shall be unlawful for any person to light, ignite or smoke any cigar, cigarette, tobacco in a pipe or other form of smoldering substance within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

**4908.7** Clearance of vegetative growth from electrical transmission lines. Any person owning, leasing, controlling, operating or maintaining any electrical transmission line over any mountainous forest, brush, or hazardous vegetation covered land shall at all times Cut, trim, or otherwise remove all forked, dead, decadent, rotten, diseased, or weakened branches of trees, or trees that may contact or fall upon any transmission line. Live trees shall remain pruned and trimmed to prevent exposure to electrical transmission or branch lines.

**4908.8 Restricted entry in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.** No person, other than those expressly exempted, shall enter into or be in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone except upon public roadways, inhabited areas or established trails and campsites which are open to the public, when said zone has been posted pursuant to Section 4908.2 of this article.

#### **Exceptions:**

- 1. This subsection shall not prohibit residents or owners of private property or their invitees or guests from going to or from such private property, provided that such invitees or guests have the permission of the owner or resident to be in or upon such private property.
- 2. This subsection shall not restrict any public officer in the pursuit of his duty.

**4908.8.1 Posted property.** No person shall enter into, upon or across any "posted" property without the permission of the owner. "Posted property" shall mean any property in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone which is marked with a substantial sign at the entrance, at each corner and at intervals of 600 feet (18 288 mm) along the boundary thereof, bearing the words "TRESPASSING AND LOITERING FORBIDDEN BY LAW" in letters not less than 3 inches (76 mm) in height.

**4908.8.2 Trespass.** No person shall travel or trespass upon any firebreak or fire road.

**4908.8.3 Special permit.** No person shall operate, drive or park any motorcycle, motor scooter or other vehicle within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, except upon clearly established public or private roads, without first having secured a special permit from the Chief pursuant to Section 105.8 of this article.



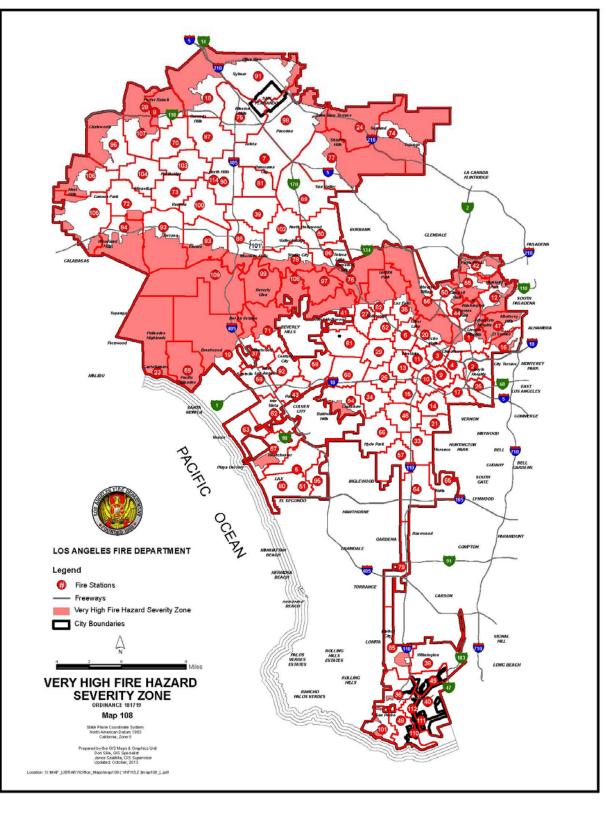


FIGURE 4908.1.1 VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP

L A L **4908.8.4 Unauthorized parking.** No unauthorized person shall park any vehicle so as to obstruct the entrance to any fire road, fire trail or firebreak.

**4908.9 Tampering with established locks, signs, barriers or water tanks.** No person, except one authorized and acting within the scope of his official duties, shall unlock, open, damage, or tamper with or cause to be unlocked, opened, damaged, or tampered with any lock, gate, door, barrier, seal, water tank enclosure, water valve, hydrant, or other fire protection equipment or facility installed by or under control of the Department or the Federal Division of Forestry. **4908.9.1 Defacing signs.** No person, except one authorized and acting within the scope of his official duties, shall remove, deface, mar, mutilate, or change the position of any sign, installed by the Chief pursuant to this article, designating "CLOSED AREA," "NO SMOKING," "NO OPEN FIRES," "RESTRICTED ENTRY," or other sign or device installed to give warning and to regulate persons' actions within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.