Ordinance Designating Moderate, High And Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones as Recommended by CalFire

City Council Meeting

March 18, 2025

Paul Lowenthal

Division Chief Fire Marshal, Fire Department

Purpose

- Government Code Section 51179
  - Local jurisdictions are required to adopt, by ordinance, updated fire hazard severity zones in our jurisdiction within 120 days of receiving recommendations from the State Fire Marshal.
  - By locally adopting the updated CalFire maps released on 2/24/2025, the City of Santa Rosa will then meet the requirements of Government Code Section 51179.

History

- Assembly Bill 337 (Bates 1992), prompted by the devastating Oakland Hills fire of 1991, call for CAL FIRE to evaluate fire hazard severity in local responsibility area (LRA) and to make a recommendation to the local jurisdiction where Very High FHSZ exist.
- On February 24, 2009, the City Council adopted the ordinance Designating Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones as recommended by CalFire and designating wildland-urban interface (WUI) fire areas as designated by the Chief of the Fire Department.
- Under Senate Bill 63 (Stern, 2021) Government Code 51178 was amended to also identify Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones with the Very High in LRA.

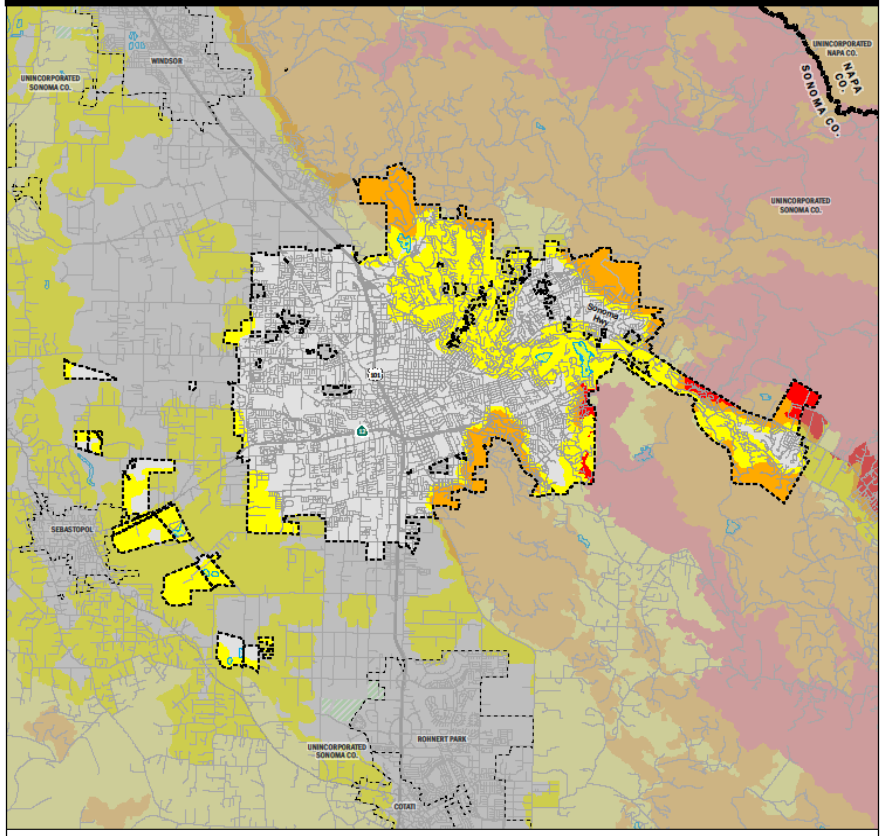
CITY OF SANTA ROSA – SONOMA COUNTY

Attachment 1

Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Identified by the State Fire Marshal

February 24, 2025



Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) in Local Responsibility Area (LRA), as Identified by the State Fire Marshal

Very High | High | Moderate

Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area (SRA), Effective April 1, 2024

Very High | High | Moderate

Mi 0 1 2 3 4 5

Km 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers
Scale: 1:101,000 at 11" x 17"

Incorporated City | Waterbody

Unzoned LRA | Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)

Government Code section 51178 requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity Zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. Moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones shall be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors including areas where winds have been identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a major cause of wildfire spread.

The State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the State nor the Department shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of, or arising from, the use of data or maps.

Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources, CA Natural Resources Agency

Joe Tyler, Director/Fire Chief, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Data Sources:

CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZSRA23_3, FHSZLRA_25_1)

CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA25_1)

City and County boundaries as of 10/22/24 (CA Board of Equalization)

WUI Update

- Possible expansion and/or contraction of City's current WUI boundary to reflect, at a minimum, to include both High and Very High FHSZ
- California's WUI Building codes (CBC Chapter 7A) apply to the design and construction of new buildings in High and Very High FHSZs in LRA.
- SRFD will work with internal and external stakeholders, including our community, on changes that could be proposed to our existing WUI area.

QUESTIONS?