



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 568-3800
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



November 1, 2024

Dear: County Chief Administrative Officer,

CAL FIRE – The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) finalized the adoption of the State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) map which became effective April 1, 2024. We have now begun the update process for the classification of Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). Government Code (GC) 51178 mandates that the State Fire Marshal identify moderate, high, and very high FHSZs based on consistent statewide criteria and the expected severity of fire hazards. Government Code 51179 requires the State Fire Marshal to make recommendations to local agencies, as defined per GC 51177(e), for their designation and adoption by ordinance.

CAL FIRE's fire scientists, and wildfire mitigation experts, developed the map using a science-based and field-tested model that assigns a hazard score based on the factors that influence fire likelihood and fire behavior. Many factors are considered, such as fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), predicted flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical fire weather for an area. These zones fall into the following classifications – moderate, high, and very high.

Your jurisdiction has been identified as potentially having Moderate, High, Very High or a combination of Fire Hazard Severity Zones within your jurisdiction. The maps and data will be made available during the month of January 2025. We will send you a letter and email with a link for you to download the maps and data. We are currently finalizing maps for each City and County and developing a data package.

We have developed a "Hub" website where you can access information for the local adoption process. <https://fire-hazard-severity-zones-rollout-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/>

The Hub includes:

- a) Training video on the LRA process
- b) Pertinent reference material
- c) OSFM regional contact information
- d) A bookings application to schedule a meeting with assigned OSFM staff
- e) Public FHSZ model information and videos
- f) Model ordinance

County Chief Administrative Officer

Page 2

November 1, 2024

g) Surveys

- The Contact Survey is to identify your jurisdictions contact person during the process.
- The Public Contact Survey will be used for a public Webmap on the OFSM website to guide your constituents to the appropriate contact person or website for LRA FHSZ in your jurisdiction, please enter public-facing jurisdictional contact information that the public can use to submit feedback or ask questions to your jurisdiction directly.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact our Team at

FHSZinformation@fire.ca.gov

Sincerely,



Daniel Berlant

State Fire Marshal

CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal