

SECTION 7. WILDFIRE

The Nature of the Wildfire Threat

Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem in Southern California. However, wildfires present a substantial hazard to life and property in communities such as the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region that are built within or adjacent to hillsides and mountainous areas. Consequently there is a significant potential for losses due to fire in the Region (including wildland and urban fires). According to the California Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), for the years 2011 and 2010 the following fire season totals were reported in California (CAL FIRE jurisdiction fires):

Interval	Fires	Acres
January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011	5,871	52,007
January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010	4,014	31,298
5 year average (same interval)	5,908	238,846

Table 113: CAL FIRE Number of Fires and Acres Burned for 2010 and 2011

While the number of fires in 2011 and 2010 were less than average, Los Angeles County suffered a great deal of damage from wildfires in the three preceding years, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Recent major fire events include the 2009 Station Fire, the 2008 Sayre Fire, and the 2007 Ranch and Buckweed Fires.

Historical Record of Significant Fires

The following table provides examples of significant fires in Los Angeles County from 1993 to 2009.

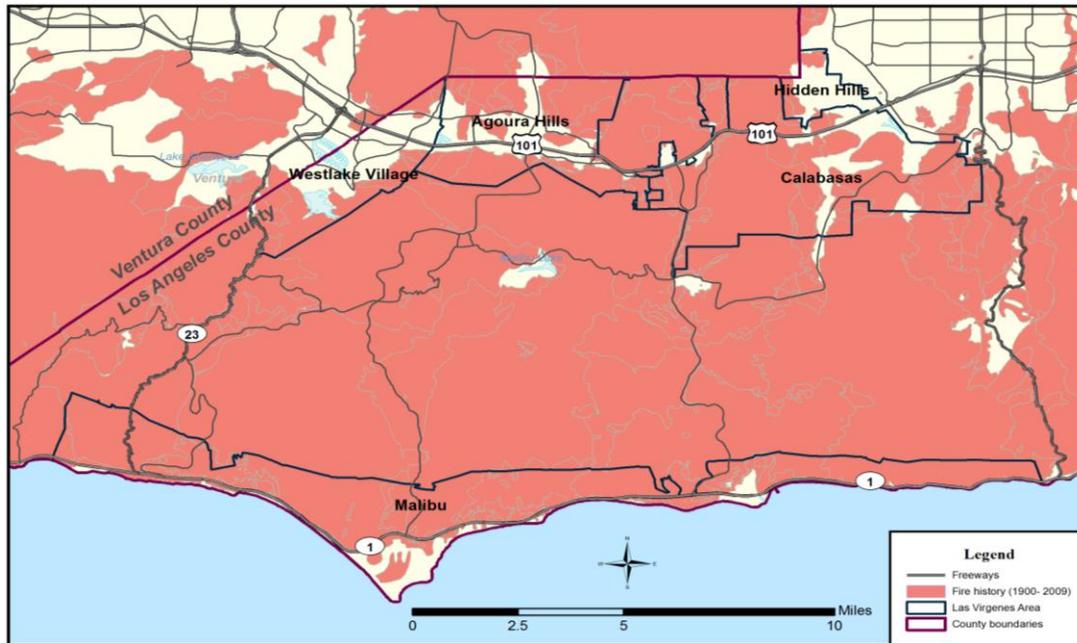
Fire Name	Start Date	Acres Burned	Structures Destroyed	Deaths
Station	Aug-2009	160,557	209	2
Sayre	Nov-2008	11,262	634	0
Ranch (Castaic/Piru)	Oct-2007	58,401	10	0
Buckweed	Oct-2007	38,356	63	0
Topanga	Nov-1993	18,000	323	3

Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention

Table 114: Los Angeles County Significant Fire Examples from 1993 to 2009

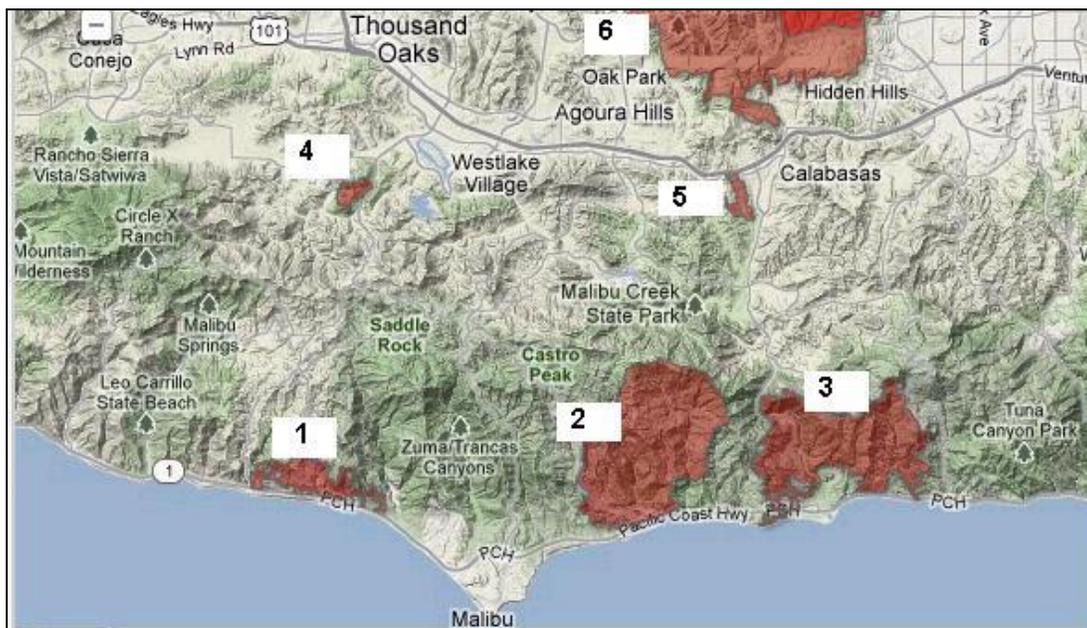
History of Fire Events in the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region

The Las Virgenes-Malibu COG Region has a long history of wildland fires. The map below depicts the fire history of the area from 1900 to 2009. Over the past 110 years nearly the entire Las Virgenes Malibu Region has been impacted by fire.



Map 44: Fire History In The Las Virgenes-Malibu Region

The map below depicts major fires since 2003 in the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region.



Source: Fresno Bee

Map 45: Major Fires Near or In the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region Since 2003

Map Location	Name	Year	Estimated Acres	Structure Loss
1	Pacific Fire	2003	806	0
2	Corral Fire	2007	4,708	53
3	Malibu Canyon Fire	2007	3,839	14
4	Sherwood Fire	2006	168	0
5	Lost Fire	2008	167	0
6	Topanga Fire	2005	24,175	323

Table 115: Major Fires Near of In the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region

Causes and Characteristics of Wildfires

Southern California has two distinct areas of risk for wildland fire. First, the foothills and lower mountainous areas which are often covered with scrub brush or chaparral. Second, the higher elevation mountains which are contain large forest areas. In fact, the magnitude of the 2003 fires that struck Southern California were the result of three primary factors: (1) severe drought, accompanied by a series of storms that produced thousands of lightning strikes and windy conditions; (2) an infestation of bark beetles that has killed thousands of mature trees; and (3) the effects of wildfire suppression over the past century that led to a build-up of brush and small diameter trees in the forests.

Wildfire Hazard Identification

Urban/Wildland Interface Fires

The Las Virgenes-Malibu Region is like many Southern California communities that are challenged by the increasing number of houses being built on the urban/wildland interface. The National Wildland Coordinating Group defines urban/wildland interface as “the line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuel.

In terms of urban/wildland interface fires, there are three categories of concern:

- The classic urban/wildland interface exists where well-defined urban and suburban development presses up against open expanses of wildland areas;
- The mixed urban/wildland interface is characterized by isolated homes, subdivisions and small communities situated predominantly in wildland settings;
- Occluded urban/wildland interfaces exist where islands of wildland vegetation occur inside a largely urbanized area.

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

For the purposes of describing the severity of fire hazard areas, the Los Angeles County Fire Department classifies areas according to criteria established in the State legislation commonly referred to as the “Bates Bill”. The Bates Bill Process determines **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones** (VHFHSZs) in Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs).

In order to comply with the Bates Bill, the cities within the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region completed an evaluation of the following factors to determine the areas of the Region which would qualify as a Very High Wildland Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

- Fuel
- Topography
- Dwelling density
- Weather
- Infrastructure
- Fire codes and ordinances as they relate to brush issues

Each factor was given a value of 1-4 with a 4 being the highest danger rating. Any total score over 10 qualified the area as being one of VHFHSZ. Each of the three areas evaluated rated 10 or above with the highest area receiving a 12.

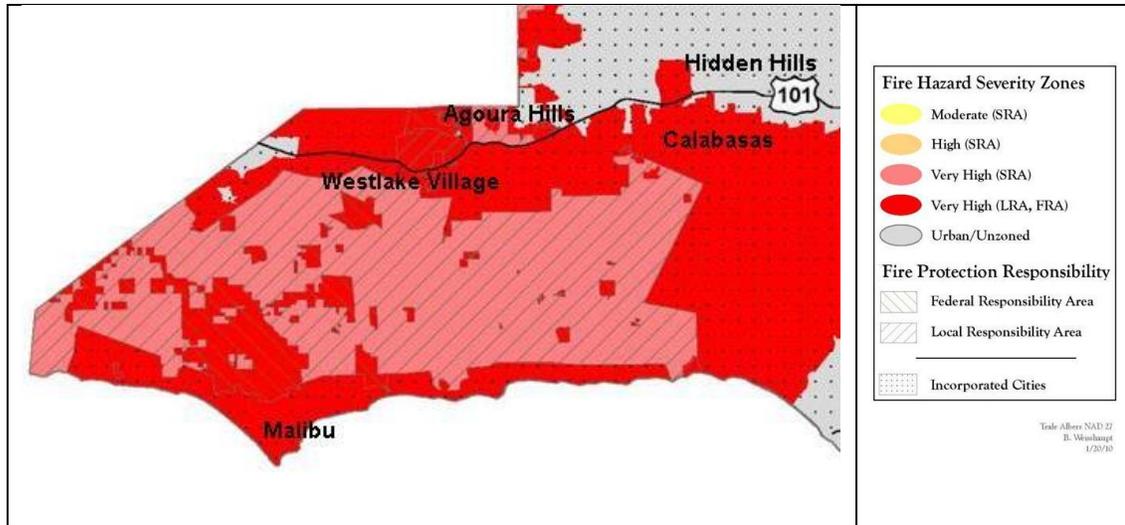
All five cities within the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region have been designated as VHFHSZs. Fire zone areas are rated on a scale of I – IV, with IV representing the most severe fire hazard zone. The Region contains both Zone III and Zone IV areas.

Identifying the hazard area as set forth above is the first step in assessing each city’s vulnerability to wildland fires. Other key factors in assessing wildfire risk include:

- Ignition sources
- Building materials and design
- Community design
- Structural density
- Slope
- Vegetative fuel
- Fire occurrence
- Weather, as well as occurrences of drought

The Natural Hazard Disclosure Map on the following page depicts the two types of fire hazard areas referred to in legislation as disclosure items in real estate transactions. These areas are:

- Wildland Areas that may contain *substantial* forest fire risks and hazards (Wildland Areas)
- Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ)



Map 46: Las Virgenes – Malibu Region Fire Map

<p>Very High State Responsibility Areas (SRA)</p>	<p>The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection classify areas in which the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires is that of the state. These include: lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, undergrowth or grass, whether of commercial value or not; lands which protect the soil from erosion, retard run-off of water or accelerated percolation; lands used principally for range or forage purposes; lands not owned by the Federal government; and lands not incorporated. By Board regulations, unless specific circumstances dictate otherwise, lands are removed from SRA when housing densities average more than 3 units per acre over an area of 250 acres.</p>
<p>Very High Local Responsibility Areas (LRA)</p>	<p>Government Code 51175-89 directs the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to identify areas of very high fire hazard severity zones within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). Mapping of the areas, referred to as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), is based on data and models of, potential fuels over a 30-50 year time horizon and their associated expected fire behavior, and expected burn probabilities to quantify the likelihood and nature of vegetation fire exposure (including firebrands) to buildings. Local Responsibility Area VHFHSZ maps were initially developed in the mid-1990s and are now being updated based on improved science, mapping techniques, and data. In late 2005 to be effective in 2008, the California Building Commission adopted California Building Code Chapter 7A requiring new buildings in VHFHSZs to use ignition resistant construction methods and materials. These new codes include provisions to improve the ignition resistance of buildings, especially from firebrands. The updated very high fire hazard severity zones will be used by building officials for new building permits in LRA. The updated zones will also be used to identify property whose owners must comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at time of property sale and 100 foot defensible space clearance. It is likely that the fire hazard severity zones will be used for updates to the safety element of general plans.</p>
<p>Very High Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA)</p>	<p>The State and Federal Agencies jointly develop and review the Annual Operating Plan for the protection of Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA) located within State DPAs. As identified in the Annual Operating Plan, the State provides wildland fire protection at a level, which is most nearly equivalent to the wildland fire protection that would be provided directly by the Federal Agencies on FRA of equal hazard, risk, and value. Federal Agencies retain all land management responsibilities except for wildland fire protection on FRA within the area where the State has direct protection responsibility. This does not preclude the Federal Agencies from conducting fire prevention activities on these lands.</p>

Estimated Impact of an Event

If a major wildfire were to occur, the consequences to local populations and housing in urban interface areas will be significant. The table below provides the estimated impact of a disaster using a 5% loss baseline.

Category	Agoura Hills	Calabasas	Hidden Hills	Malibu	Westlake Village	Impact if a 5% Loss Occurs
Population	20,330	23,058	1,856	12,645	8,270	3,300
Total Housing Units	7,681	8,686	606	6,252	3,322	1,325
Median Home Value	\$740,200	\$962,700	More than \$1,000,000	More than \$1,000,000	More than \$1,000,000	More than \$1.3B

Table 116: Estimated Population and Economic Loss of a Wildfire

Based on a 5% loss projection, more than 3,300 people would be displaced or significantly impacted and more than 1,325 homes could be damaged or destroyed resulting in over \$1.3 billion in losses (see [Community Profile](#) section for population, housing, and economic data).

Wildfire Vulnerabilities

Base Hazard Factors

In order to determine the "base hazard factor" of specific wildfire hazard sites and interface areas, several factors must be taken into account. Categories used to assess the base hazard factor include:

- Topography (location, characteristics and
- Fuels
- Development (site/building construction and design, landscaping, defensible space, accessibility, etc.)
- Weather

Topography

Topography influences the movement of air, thereby directing a fire's course. In general, if the percentage of uphill slope doubles the rate of fire spread doubles. Gulches and canyons can funnel air and act as chimneys, which intensify fire behavior and cause the fire to spread faster. Unfortunately, hillsides with hazardous topographic characteristics are also desirable, residential areas in many communities. This underscores the need for wildfire hazard mitigation and increased education and outreach to homeowners living in interface areas. Numerous canyons, saddles, and ridges in the VHFHSZ will also contribute to erratic fire behavior due to the funnel and subsequent acceleration effect it will have on wind traveling through the area.

Fuels

An important element in understanding the danger of wildfire is the availability of diverse fuels in the landscape, such as natural vegetation, manmade structures and combustible materials. A house surrounded by brushy growth rather than cleared space allows for greater continuity of

fuel and increases the fire's ability to spread. After decades of fire suppression "dog-hair" thickets have accumulated, which enable high intensity fires to flare and spread rapidly.

In addition, fuel is a key factor in wildfire behavior. Fuel is classified by volume and by type. Volume is described in terms of "fuel loading," or the amount of available vegetative fuel. In the Las Virgenes- Malibu Region, there are several types of fuel including a large amount of chaparral and woodland vegetation that is a catalyst for fire activity.

Like much of Southern California, chaparral is a primary fuel prevalent in the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region along with grasses, non-native vegetation and large trees such as junipers, palm, eucalyptus, pines, and locally prevalent oaks.

Added to this is the fact that a large percentage of the fuel beds in the Santa Monica Mountains contain dead and downed vegetation. This "die back" condition is due largely to drought conditions. These fuel beds are extremely receptive to ignition and spread of wildfires more quickly than live vegetation. This type of fuel mode is of particular concern when fires are wind driven, which can lead to short and long range spotting - which can affect the entire Region.

Development

Growth and development in scrubland and forested areas is increasing the number of structures in the Las Virgenes-Malibu interface areas. Wildfire has an effect on development, yet development can also influence wildfire. Owners often prefer homes that are private, have scenic views, are nestled in vegetation and use natural materials. There are many types of these homes within the Region that use vegetation as privacy barriers. A private setting may be far from public roads, or hidden behind a narrow, curving driveway. These conditions make evacuation and firefighting difficult. Similarly, narrow and winding roads in these developed areas tend to make evacuation of civilians slow and difficult especially when fire resources are trying to gain access to the area utilizing the same roads.

Wildfire hazard areas are commonly identified in Regions of the urban/wildland interface. Ranges of the wildfire hazard are further determined by the ease of fire ignition due to natural or human conditions and the difficulty of fire suppression. The wildfire hazard is also magnified by several factors related to fire suppression/control such as the surrounding fuel load, weather, topography, and property characteristics. Generally, hazard identification rating systems are based on weighted factors of fuels, weather and topography.

Within the cities in the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region, increased development in and adjacent to naturally vegetated areas exposes additional structures to potential wildland fires. With sound construction practices, sufficient water flows, brush clearance and provision of adequate access the risk can be reduced.

Weather

Weather patterns combined with certain geographic locations can create a favorable climate for wildfire activity. Areas where annual precipitation is less than 30 inches per year are extremely fire susceptible. This is a definite classification of the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region. Southern California is known for its lack of precipitation and its years of droughts.

High-risk areas in Southern California share a hot, dry season in late summer and early fall when high temperatures and low humidity favor fire activity. The “Santa Ana” winds, which are heated by compression as they flow down to Southern California from Utah, create a particularly high risk, as they can rapidly spread what might otherwise be a small fire.

The Las Virgenes-Malibu Region experiences Santa Ana Wind conditions typically in the fall months. This poses a threat in two ways. A fire starting in the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region will spread rapidly and has the potential of overwhelming initial attack forces and destroying structures within minutes of ignition. A fire starting adjacent to the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region could quickly burn into the area either by direct flame contact or by fire brands being carried by the winds and spotting onto structures or combustible vegetation.

Wind bends the flames to pre-heat the fuel ahead and can carry fire brands up to a quarter mile or more ahead of the flame front. The majority of catastrophic fires that Southern California has experienced have occurred in the months of September, October, and November when Santa Ana Winds typically occur. Wind is considered to be the primary factor that influences fire spread. Furthermore, in the City of Malibu, severe wind gusts can occur through local canyons and valleys, propelling and increasing the intensity of wildfires.

Recent concerns about the effects of climate change (particularly drought) have contributed to concerns about wildfire vulnerability. Drought also leads to less frequent irrigation which can contribute to wildfires. For example, from 2007 to 2009 Southern California experienced drought conditions. This corresponds to the most recent years when significant wildfires have occurred.

The Threat of Urban Conflagration

An urban conflagration could start either as a result of a lightning strike, arson, human error, earthquake or other phenomenon. Possible scenarios include a fire in planned community that quickly spreads to nearby homes due to a combination of high winds and high temperatures.

Business structures are also at risk however this threat is mitigated by requirements for commercial sprinkler systems. Nevertheless, there is still a risk of widespread fire if local water supplies are disrupted due to extremely high demand, power outage, or line breaks (cause by an earthquake or other damage). Examples include high rise offices, large hotels, and retail centers.

Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

Federal Programs

The role of the federal land managing agencies in the wildland /urban interface is to reduce fuel hazards on the lands they administer; cooperate in prevention and education programs; provide technical and financial assistance; and develop agreements, partnerships and relationships with property owners, local protection agencies, states and other stakeholders. These relationships focus on activities before a fire occurs, which render structures and communities safer and better able to survive a fire occurrence.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Programs

FEMA is directly responsible for providing fire suppression assistance grants and, in certain cases, major disaster assistance and hazard mitigation grants in response to fires. The role of FEMA in the wildland /urban interface is to encourage comprehensive disaster preparedness plans and programs, increase the capability of state and local governments and provide for a greater understanding of FEMA programs at the federal, state and local levels.

Fire Suppression Assistance Grants

Fire Suppression Assistance Grants may be provided to a state with an approved hazard mitigation plan for the suppression of a forest or grassland fire that threatens to become a major disaster on public or private lands. These grants are provided to protect life and improved property as well as encourage the development and implementation of viable multi-hazard mitigation measures. The grant may include funds for equipment, supplies and personnel. A Fire Suppression Assistance Grant is the form of assistance most often provided by FEMA to a state for fires. The grants are cost-shared with states. FEMA's Fire Administration (USFA) provides public education materials addressing wildland/urban interface issues and the USFA's National Fire Academy provides training programs.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Following a major disaster declaration, the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding for long-term hazard mitigation projects and activities to reduce the possibility of damages from all future fire hazards and to reduce the costs to the nation for responding to and recovering from the disaster.

National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Program

Federal agencies can use the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Program to focus on wildland/urban interface fire protection issues and actions. The Western Governors' Association (WGA) can act as a catalyst to involve state agencies, as well as local and private stakeholders, with the objective of developing an implementation plan to achieve a uniform, integrated national approach to hazard and risk assessment and fire prevention and protection in the wildland/urban interface. The program helps states develop viable and comprehensive wildland fire mitigation plans and performance-based partnerships.

U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is involved in a fuel-loading program implemented to assess fuels and reduce hazardous buildup on forest lands. The USFS is a cooperating agency and, while it has little to no jurisdiction in the lower valleys, it has an interest in preventing fires in the interface, as fires often burn up the hills and into the higher elevation US forest lands.

Los Angeles County Fire Department***First Responders***

The Las Virgenes-Malibu Region is located in the Central Region, Division of the Los Angeles County Department. Battalion 5 of the LACoFD serves the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region with a total of 12 stations assigned to serve five cities and over 72,000 residents. The cities include Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Westlake Village. Division VII and Battalion 5 headquarters are located at 3970 Carbon Canyon Rd., Malibu 90265.

Operating 9 divisions and 22 battalions, LACoFD answers approximately 300,000 emergency calls annually. The Department currently has 169 fire stations, 68 paramedic squads, 9 wildland fire suppression camps, 10 bulldozers, 9 helicopters, 23 Prevention Offices, 12 Forestry Units and numerous other response vehicles and facilities. It serves 58 incorporated cities, as well as the unincorporated areas of the County. Additionally, the Department has Planning, Information Management, Lifeguard, and Health Hazardous Materials Divisions which provide valuable services to the more than 4.1 million people who reside in the 1.2 million housing units located throughout the Department's 2,305 square mile area.

The LACoFD is one of six Contract Counties that maintain a contractual relationship with California Department of Forestry and utilizes the California Fire Plan within Los Angeles County as the primary wildland fire protection plan.

Other Agencies

It is important to work with other organizations and agencies to create a more comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan. There are numerous agencies with which Division VII of the LACoFD works closely, including but not limited to:

Political Entity	Jurisdiction
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department	Local Government/ Law Enforcement
City of Los Angeles	Local Government/LRA Fire Protection
Ventura County Fire Department	LRA and SRA Fire Protection
National Park Service	Public Land Ownership, DPA Fire Protection
City of Agoura Hills	Contract
City of Hidden Hills	Contract
City of Malibu	Contract
City of Westlake Village	Contract
City of Calabasas	Contract
California State Parks	Public Land Ownership, SRA Fire Protection
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	Public Land Ownership, Recreational Use
Public Utility Companies	State/County
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	State/County

Table 117: Political Entities that Coordinate with the LACoFD to Mitigate the Threat of Fire

Fire Prevention Division

The Las Virgenes-Malibu area is part of the LACoFD Fire Prevention Central Region. Fire prevention and code enforcement in this area historically requires concentrated efforts related to water supplies for fire protection and vehicular access for fire apparatus. Geographic and terrain limitations as well as the lack of water supply in mountainous terrain present challenges that LACoFD Inspectors review and inspect, often times providing alternative solutions for the owners/occupants to consider.

Special Operations Bureau

The Special Operations Bureau provides highly technical operational functions to County residents including Emergency Medical Services, Urban Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Air Operations, Fire Camps for wildland firefighting, Heavy Equipment and central Dispatch.

Fire Prevention Programs

The Los Angeles County Fire Department manages an active effort in order to prevent the possibility of a wildfire occurring within the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region. The following list provides a sample of the programs, activities and practices.

Prescribed Burning

The health and condition of brush will determine the magnitude of wildfire. The LACoFD does practice prescribed burning. If fuels (slash, dry or dead vegetation, fallen limbs and branches) are allowed to accumulate over long periods of time without being methodically cleared, fire can move more quickly and destroy everything in its path. The results are more catastrophic than if the fuels are periodically eliminated. Prescribed burning is the most efficient method to remove these fuels.

Pre-Fire Management Plan

As a preventative measure, the LACoFD also implements a Pre-Fire Management Plan whose overall goal is to reduce the total cost and losses from wildland fires in California by protecting assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and increased initial attacks.

Fuel Modification Plan

The Fuel Modification Plan is part of the Forestry Division of the LACoFD. This publication was prepared to establish a set of guidelines and landscape criteria for all new construction relating to fuel modification planning that will reduce the threat of fire in high hazard areas.

Vegetation Management Program

The Vegetation Management Program (VMP) is a cost-sharing program that focuses on the use of prescribed fire, mechanical, biological and chemical means for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) and Local Responsibility Area (LRA) lands. The use of prescribed fire mimics natural processes, restores fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems, and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department created the Vegetation Management Program in 1979 to develop strategies for responding to the growing fire hazard problem. These include:

- An ongoing effort to analyze the history of wildland fires in Los Angeles County
- Experimentation with different methods of reducing and removing fuels in fire prone areas
- Evaluation of the environmental impacts and effects of these practices

Brush Clearance Inspection Program

Mandated by the LA County Fire Code, all property owners in the region are presently required to maintain a firebreak around and adjacent to all buildings and structures by removing all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth for a minimum distance of 200 feet from the structure or to the property line, whichever is closer.

The Brush Clearance Program is a joint effort between the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, Weed Hazard and Pest Abatement Bureau (Weed Abatement Division). This unified enforcement legally declares both improved and unimproved properties a public nuisance, and where necessary, requires the clearance of hazardous vegetation. These measures create “Defensible Space” for effective fire protection of property, life and the environment. The Department’s Brush Clearance Unit enforces the Fire Codes as it relates to brush clearance on improved parcels, coordinates inspections and compliance efforts with fire station personnel, and provides annual brush clearance training to fire station personnel.

Fire Retardant Foam

All the Los Angeles County Fire Department fire engines are equipped with fire retardant foam capability. This type of program demonstrates the value of pre-suppression and prevention efforts when combined with property owner support to mitigate hazards within the wildland/urban interface.

Fire Codes

Fire codes have been amended throughout the years to assist fire department personnel with wildland firefighting in the rural/urban interface zones. Building construction in these areas may have additional requirements for non-combustible construction components and water supplies. Inspectors assigned to these regional offices provide developers and homeowners with information for fire safe construction and fire protection systems.

Building Codes

All five Malibu-Las Virgenes COG cities are located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity zone (VHFHSZ). Class A roofing material and one-hour rated exterior construction of structures is required by Fire and Building Codes.

Public Education and Involvement

The Fire Prevention Division within the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) focuses on educating the community about the benefits of proper safety practices and identifying and eliminating all types of hazardous conditions, which pose a threat to life, the environment and property.

Ready Set Go!

The Los Angeles County Fire Department has published a personal wildfire action plan for residents living in the interface region called Ready Set Go! The plan describes the actions and tools necessary to successfully prepare for a wildfire. It gives guidance on retrofitting houses with fire-resistive features and describes how to create the necessary defensible space around the home. This publication also helps families prepare well ahead of time so that they are ready to quickly evacuate from an area endangered by a fast-approaching wildfire.

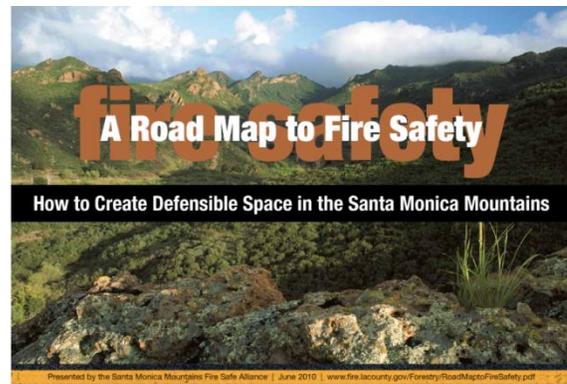


Additionally the County Fire Department makes a variety of Safety Handouts available on their website and at various fire stations in the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region. These documents include but are not limited to:

- Home Fire Safety Tips
- Brush Clearance Tips
- Exit Drills in the Home
- Storm Safety Guidelines
- Rolling Electric Outage Safety
- Link to Southern California Gas Company for safety tips on gas appliances

A Road Map to Fire Safety

The Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safety Alliance developed a booklet on how to create a defensible space for residents of the Santa Monica Mountains. *A Road Map to Fire Safety* includes fire hazard reduction guidance, FAIR Plan insurance material, environmental considerations, topography and vegetation facts, and fire prevention organization information. The booklet is distributed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and each LVMCOG city in hardcopy and softcopy formats.



Community Education

The cities within the Las Virgenes-Malibu Region provide ongoing community education on fire hazards through the following programs:

- CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) training
- The City of Calabasas offers Calabasas Emergency Response Program (CERP) and Volunteers on Patrol program.
- The City of Malibu offers an Emergency Preparedness Program

- The City of Westlake offers a Disaster Response Team and a Volunteers in Policing program

The Las Virgenes-Malibu Regional cities along with the LACoFD educate the public in terms of fire and life Safety by providing the following special programs upon request. Fire Safety Education Programs that consist of the following:

- Local cable television education and informational programs are shown throughout the year, but most often during the months considered being fire season.
- Informational brochures have also been prepared and are distributed informing citizens about the need for evacuation plans and tips on home protection.

Connect-CTY and Alert LA County Emergency Mass Notification System

Residents of the Las Virgenes- Malibu COG participate in the *Connect-CTY* service (Blackboard Connect Inc.) which allows authorized civic leaders to create and rapidly disseminate time-sensitive messages to every telephone number stored in the notification database. With the *Connect-CTY* service, authorized users can send thousands of messages in minutes. Only authorized officials are allowed access to the system.

In addition, Los Angeles County has implemented an emergency mass notification system that will be used to contact County residents and businesses via recorded phone messages, text messages or e-mail messages in case of emergency. The system, called **Alert LA County**, will be used by the County's Emergency Operations Center to notify residents and businesses of emergencies or critical situations and provide information regarding necessary actions such as evacuations.



BAER (Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation)

The Los Angeles County Fire Department working in cooperation with the City of Malibu, Public Works and Conservation, surveys burned areas after wildfires in order to determine what mitigation efforts are necessary to avoid mudslides in the event of a large rainfall (ex. strategically placing K-rails to deter mudslides) and to begin re-vegetation.

LVCOG Mitigation Activities

All cities within the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments provide information regarding wildfire mitigation along with other emergency information on their websites. Wildfire mitigation planning advice can be downloaded or viewed online.

Agoura Hills

The City of Agoura Hills has implemented local fire codes to supplement County and State requirements. Additionally, during the code adoption process the City adopted more restrictive provisions by identifying the entire city boundary within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. This provision requires that all structures built in Agoura Hills meet the more restrictive sections of the code including the method and material used for construction (i.e. Roof, Deck, Patio, Eave materials, window types, etc.)

The City has agreement with the Los Angeles County Fire Department for all Fire Services including Fire Prevention. In addition to the fire suppression and LA County Fire Prevention reviews plans and inspects construction projects for brush clearance, fire sprinkler and access to

and around the project site. The City of Agoura Hills staff and its consultants are also trained and ready to assist its community for a fast recovery from all natural disasters including but not limited to fire. Codes Sections specific to Agoura Hills which were modified to provide better protection against fire, include:

Section	Title
2010 CBC Sec. 701A.2.1	Fire Severity Zone Established
2010 CBC Sec. 701A.3	Exception #5 – Roof Repair
2010 CBC Sec. 705A.2	Roof Covering
2010 CBC Sec. 711A	Additions and Alterations
2010 CBC Sec. 903.2	Fire Sprinklers – Where Required

Calabasas

The City of Calabasas has a program that grants free Healthy Oak permits. The intent of this program is to encourage proper maintenance of oak trees that may create a public safety hazard during a fire or windstorm event.

Hidden Hills

The City of Hidden Hills has an extensive fire prevention program. The City reviews each new development to ensure that structures are adequately separated and that fire retardant materials are used in construction. In addition, the Hidden Hills Municipal Code requires that property owners maintain right-of-way improvements and public works in a clean, hazard-free condition to ensure safety.

The following Hidden Hills building codes are implemented as preventative measures for loss of life and property because of a fire hazard event.

Section	Title
Section 1. Chapter 3 of Title 4	Fire Code

Malibu

Rambla Pacifico Alternative Access Project

This project (currently under construction) provides direct access from Rambla to Las Flores Canyon, greatly reducing the commute for Rambla residents and improving fire safety. Additionally, this project is providing alternative emergency routes in case of any hazard emergency.

Westlake Village

The Building and Safety Division of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works serves under contract as the City's Building and Safety Department. Building and Safety is responsible for enforcing zoning restrictions and other regulations designed to reduce the threat of fire.