

# Fire Safety Code Standards



CITY *of* CALABASAS

September 27, 2023

# Discussion Topics

- California Building Code
- LA County Fire Code
- Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)
- Home Fire Hardening
- Planning Commission Recommendations



# California Building and Fire Code

## Title 24 of the CA Code of Regulations

- Uniform standards for the construction of buildings in CA
- Updated every three years
- Includes both the Building Code and Fire Code
- Applies to all construction
- Enforced by the Building and Safety Department and LA County Fire Department
- Intent is to prevent fires and/or limit the spread of fires
- Fire standards include:
  - Type and use of building materials
  - Fire prevention
  - Fire containment



# LA County Fire Code

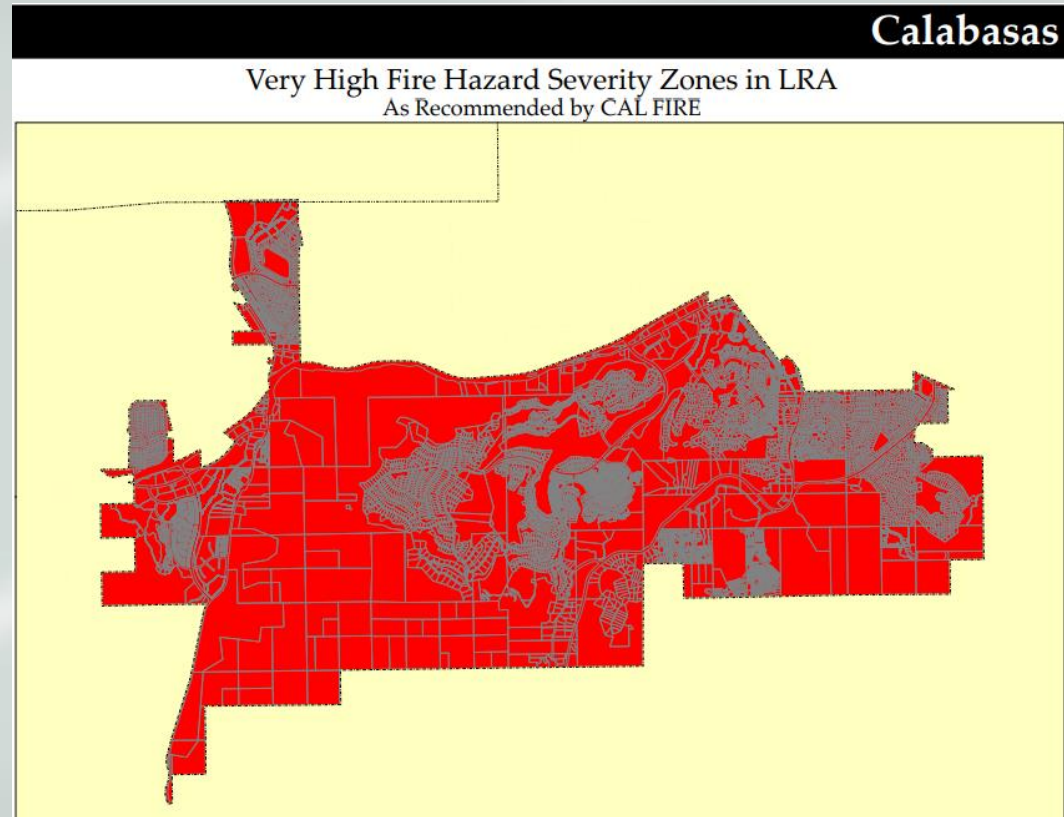
## Title 32 of the LA County Code

- Implementation of the State Fire Code with local amendments
- Fire Department Review at DRC and Plan Check
- Fire Department enforces requirements for:
  - Fire hydrants
  - Water supply
  - Fire equipment access
  - Lot identification
  - Weed abatement
  - Landscape / defensible space



# Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- Established by State Fire Marshall
- Based on hazard not risk
- Establishes building requirements based on zones
- Classifications include:
  - Moderate
  - High
  - Very High



# Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFSZ)



# Home Fire Hardening

90% of the City's housing stock was built prior to 2000's:

- Most existing homes do not meet current fire code standards.
- What is Fire (Home) Hardening?



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# Home Fire Hardening

## Available Resources:

- [City of Calabasas - https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/government/public-safety-emergency-preparedness/emergency-preparedness](https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/government/public-safety-emergency-preparedness/emergency-preparedness)
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains - <https://www.rcdsmm.org/what-we-do/home-ignition-zone-evaluations/>
- Emergency Preparedness in Calabasas (EPIC) – <https://epic-fsc.com/>
- Cal Fire - <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/hardening-your-home/>



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# Planning Commission Recommendations

June 15, 2023:

- Communications during an emergency.
  - This is the purview of the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Department.
- Consider a requirement that new construction provides back up power
  - Can be added to the Building Code.
- Identify sites for shelter during a fire.
  - Already identified in the Safety Element.
- Consider a requirement for rooftop rotary sprinklers in all new development.
  - Can be added as a building code requirement.
- Consider prohibiting gas hook ups in new development.
  - Can be added as a building code requirement.
- Consider prohibiting combustible plant material within five feet of structures.
  - Defensible Space requirements are under the purview of LA County Fire.



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# Recommendation

That the City Council provide further direction to staff.

