**Updates to Safety Element Requirements**

Since 2012, there have been several updates to safety element requirements to include climate change vulnerability and adaptation and greater attention to wildfire and evacuation routes. Jurisdictions are required to complete a vulnerability assessment, develop adaptation and resilience goals, policies and objectives, and develop a set of feasible implementation measures addressing climate change adaptation and resiliency (SB 379, 2015). Jurisdictions must review and update these portions of the safety element upon each revision of the housing element or local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP), but not less than once every 8 years. (SB 1035, 2018). Regarding wildfire hazards specifically, jurisdictions in State Responsibility Area (SRA) or jurisdictions with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), are required to revise their safety element to include information about wildfire hazards and risks, as well as goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures for the protection of the community from unreasonable fire risk (SB 1241, 2012). There are also new requirements regarding evacuation routes, (i) disclosing residential development without at least two points of ingress and egress (SB 99, 2019) and (ii) addressing the presence and adequacy of evacuation routes (SB 747, 2019). SB 1000 (2016), although not a requirement specifically for the safety element, requires jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities to address environmental justice in their general plans. SB 1000 is triggered upon adoption or revision of two or more elements concurrently; therefore, an update to the housing and safety element would trigger the environmental justice requirement.

**Summary of recent safety element requirements.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Pursuant to…*****Applicable to…*** | **Brief description of requirements** | **Trigger or deadline** |
| **SB 379**(2015)*All Jurisdictions* | Requires a Safety Element review and update to include ***climate vulnerability and adaptation***. The review and update must include: (i) a vulnerability assessment, (ii) adaptation and resilience goals, policies, and objectives, and (iii) feasible implementation measures. | Upon the next revision of the LHMP after 1/1/17, or by 1/1/22. |
| **SB 1035**(2018)*All Jurisdictions* | Builds off SB 379 and requires regular review and update to ***climate vulnerability and adaptation*** portions of the Safety Element. | Upon the housing element or LHMP update; at least every 8 years |
| **SB 99**(2019)*All Jurisdictions* | Requires safety elements revisions to ***identify evacuation routes*** for residential developments in hazard areas without at least two evacuations routes (i.e., ingress/egress). CALFIRE expects to release a survey of subdivisions without two routes in 2021. | Upon the next revision to the housing element on or after 1/1/20 |
| **AB 747**(2019)*All Jurisdictions* | Requires jurisdictions to identify ***evacuation routes*** and ***evaluate*** their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. | Upon the next revision of the LHMP on or after 1/1/22, or by 1/1/22. |
| **SB 1241**(2012)*Jurisdictions in SRA or with VHFHSZ* | Requires safety element revisions to include ***wildfire*** hazards and risks, as well as goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures to protect the community from unreasonable fire risk. It includes State Board of Forestry review at least 90 days prior to the safety element adoption. | Upon the next update to the housing element or after 1/1/14. |
| **SB 1000**(2016)*Jurisdictions w/ disadvantaged communities* | Requires jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities to address ***environmental justice*** in their general plans. May be a separate EJ element, or integrated into other general plan elements, or both. | Upon revision of 2 or more elements. A housing and safety element update would trigger SB 1000. |
| **AB 2140**(2006)*All Jurisdictions* | Incentivizes jurisdictions to ***link their LHMP to the safety element***. Could result in the State covering the local share of future post-disaster projects |  |