



**GOAL SAF-3:** Effectively manage forests and watersheds, and to protect homes and businesses from fire and wildfire and minimize potential losses of life and property.

*Note to the Reader:* Please see the *Wildlife Fire Background Report* for background information, including the regulatory setting, historical fire data, and existing and planned land uses in areas subject to wildland fire hazards.

Policy SAF-14: Identify and address potential fire hazards through the Napa Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan and continue, enhance, and implement programs seeking to reduce losses and costs associated with catastrophic fires.

Action Item SAF-14.1: Regularly review and update the Napa Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan to ensure that projects identified in the plan are implementable, appropriate, and feasible to address the County's needs.

Policy SAF-15: The County shall coordinate with CAL FIRE and fire agencies in local cities and neighboring counties to plan for future fire prevention and suppression needs.

Policy SAF-16: Consistent with building and fire codes, new development and infrastructure in high wildland fire hazard and wildland/urban interface areas shall be designed to minimize hazards to life and property.

Action Item SAF-16.1: Develop site criteria and construction standards for development, roads, and infrastructure in high fire hazard and wildland/urban interface areas that avoid or minimize the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land, and adopt standards to restrict urbanizing these areas as defined in Policy AG/LU-27 unless adequate fire services are provided.

Action Item SAF-16.2: If new development is located in a state responsibility area or in a very high fire hazard severity zone, require adequate infrastructure, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.

Policy SAF-17: Work cooperatively with CAL FIRE and other agencies and organizations to educate landowners on fire-safe measures to reduce fire risks for existing facilities, residences, other structures, and infrastructure.

Action Item SAF-17.1: Continue to implement "Napa Firewise" through information and education programs, community outreach, and fuel modification.

*Note to the Reader:* Please see the *Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Element* for policy related to the reconstruction of uses destroyed by fire or natural disaster.

Policy SAF-18: The County supports the use of prescribed fuel management and reduction programs, including prescribed burns, brush clearing, and other fuel load reduction measures, for managing fire hazardous areas, and to reduce wildfire hazards, improve watershed capabilities, promote wildlife habitat diversification, and improve grazing.

*Note to the Reader:* Please see also Policy CON-11 for related policy statements on this topic.



- Policy SAF-19: The County should set a good example and meet or exceed fire safety standards and defensible space requirements for all County buildings and roads.
- Policy SAF-20: The County supports the development and use of new technology in the suppression and prevention of fires.
- Action Item SAF-20.1: The County will work with CAL FIRE to develop improved methods of fire planning and firefighting for use in Napa County.
- Policy SAF-21: All new development shall comply with established fire safety standards. Design plans shall be referred to the appropriate fire agency for comment as to:
- 1) Adequacy of water supply.
  - 2) Site design for fire department access in and around structures.
  - 3) Ability for a safe and efficient fire department response.
  - 4) Traffic flow and ingress/egress for residents and emergency vehicles.
  - 5) Site-specific built-in fire protection.
  - 6) Potential impacts to emergency services and fire department response.
- Policy SAF-22: To the extent feasible and appropriate, the County shall protect essential public facilities from the unreasonable risk of wildfire.
- Action Item SAF-22.1: To the extent feasible and appropriate, locate new essential public facilities – including hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities – outside of very high and high fire hazard severity zones. If new essential public facilities are located in a state responsibility area or very high fire hazard zone, the facilities shall be constructed to meet or exceed the minimum California Building Standards Code requirements, as adopted by the County, established to address wildland fire hazards.
- Policy SAF-23: Encourage CAL FIRE to enforce State law requirements for defensible space around structures and infrastructure.
- Policy SAF-24: Strive to maintain adequate water supplies to provide reasonable protection of County assets from wildfire without disruption to community water supplies.
- Policy SAF-25: Achieving desired levels of fire protection in Napa County is directly related to the community's values and its participation, as well as available financial resources.
- Policy SAF-26: While the County supports preservation and maintenance of existing fire trails, professional practices have shifted to emphasize defensible space and community fire breaks.



Action Item SAF-26.1: Continue to implement the defensible space projects identified in the Napa Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Goal SAF-4: Protect residents and businesses from hazards caused by flooding.

Policy SAF-27: New construction in flood plains shall be evaluated and placed above the established flood elevation or flood-proofed to minimize the risks of flooding and provide protection to the same level as required under County's Floodplain Management Ordinance.

Policy SAF-28: The County recognizes that agricultural open space also serves a valuable purpose in promoting safety, and that maintaining areas subject to flooding in agricultural or open space uses minimizes the impacts of flooding on homes and businesses.

*Note to the Reader: Please see Figure SAF-3 in this Safety Element for a map of areas subject to flooding*

Policy SAF-29: The review of new proposed projects in a floodway as mapped on the County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)3 (Figure SAF-3) shall include an evaluation of the potential flood impacts that may result from the project. This review shall be conducted in accordance with the County's FEMA approved Flood Plain Management Ordinance, incorporated herein by reference, and at minimum include an evaluation of the project's potential to affect flood levels on the Napa River; the County shall seek to mitigate any such effects to ensure that freeboard on the Napa River in the area of the Napa River Flood Protection Project is maintained.

Policy SAF-30: To the extent feasible and appropriate, the County shall protect essential public facilities from the unreasonable risk of flooding.

Action Item SAF-30.1: To the extent feasible and appropriate, locate new essential public facilities – including hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities – outside of flood hazard zones. If new essential public facilities are located in a flood hazard zone, the facilities shall be built in accordance with best practices and shall be flood-resistant or shall incorporate methods to minimize flood damage, such as being adequately anchored to prevent flotation or collapse, constructed with flood resistant materials below the base flood elevation, and designed or located such that floodwater is prevented from entering or accumulating in the components that are not flood resistant.

Policy SAF-31: Development proposals shall be reviewed with reference to the dam failure inundation maps in order to determine evacuation routes.

Policy SAF-32: Dam and levee maintenance is considered by the County to be the responsibility of the owner/operator of each dam and/or levee. The County will support other agencies in their efforts to ensure that proper maintenance and repairs are accomplished.

**FIGURE SAF-2: FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES**

