

2022

Fire Code Adoption

City of Berkeley

Video Courtesy Of:

History Colorized
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWVeP2dlb_5v6BLTQxru3mw



What

State

As part of a regular three-year cycle, the California Building and Standards Commission promulgated the 2022 California Fire Code. The California Fire Code (Title 24, Part 9 of the California Code of Regulations) will take effect on January 1, 2023. ***The California Fire Code provides minimum standards for fire and life safety.***

City

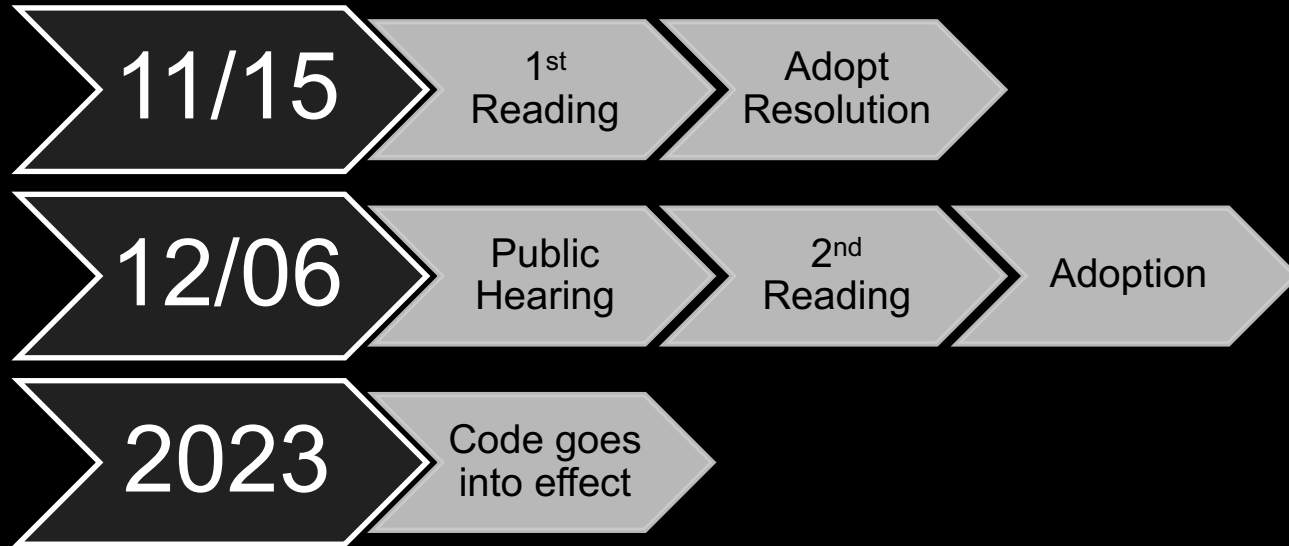
A city, county, or city and county may establish more restrictive building standards as reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions.

Accordingly, in light of the changes to the California code, the City may now adopt local amendments to maintain the local standards previously established, as well as additional recommended local standards

Local Amendments

The majority of amendments to previously established local standards consist primarily of renumbering local amendments to maintain consistency with the structure and organization of the new California Fire Code. Where new or modified code language is being proposed by staff, ***the recommended changes can generally be divided into two categories - general code provisions and code provisions specifically oriented towards wildfire safety.***

How & When



Revisions to Tonight's Agenda

Attachment 1, Page 16

Staff corrected an error in the below passage which originally identified Zone 1 as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and Wildland Urban Interface Area.

Fire Zone **Two** is declared as a Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and Wildland-Urban Interface fire area.

FIRE ZONE 3 [Additional definition] encompasses those areas designated as Environmental Safety - Residential Districts on the Official Zoning Map of the City of Berkeley, as it may be amended from time to time. Fire Zone Three is declared as a Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and Wildland-Urban Interface fire area.

Section JJ: Fire Sprinklers, Page 8

This Amendment was placed in the code in 2007 and was intended to require sprinklers for new construction or expanding the footprint of an existing structure within Fire Zone 3 when the costs of doing so would exceed \$100,000.

Staff has removed this amendment and reserved the section for future use to to allow additional dialog with the panoramic hill community.

JJ. **Section 903.2.24 Environmental Safety - Residential District [Additional subsection]** *Reserved.*

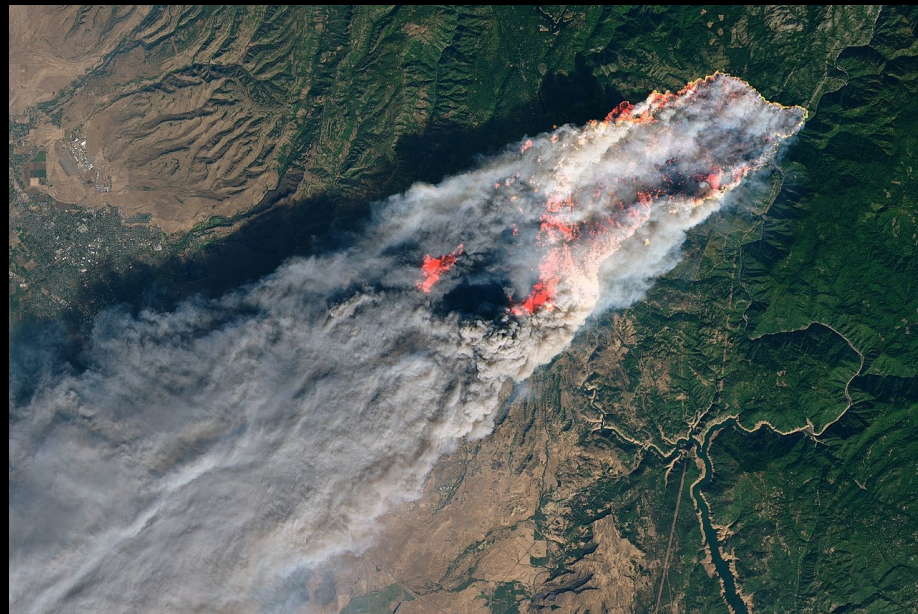
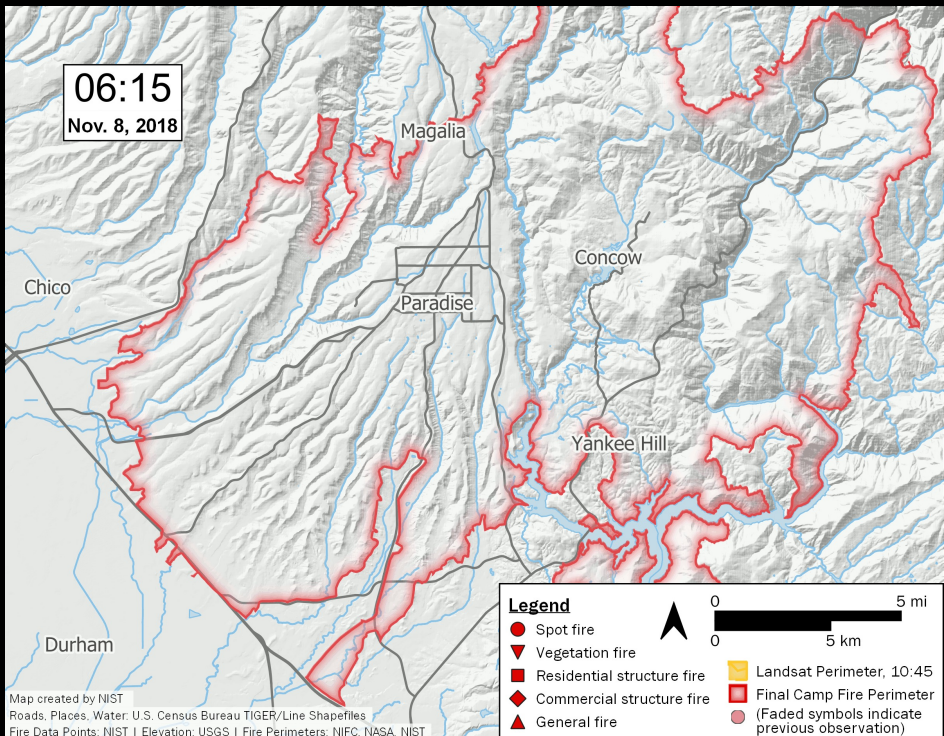
Focus of Presentation

How to we improve our communities resistance to wildfire?



Image Courtesy Of: <https://snowbrains.com/what-is-the-wildland-urban-interface-and-why-is-it-important/>

Vegetation Management: **Why**



The Camp Fire as seen from the satellite on November 8, 2018



Aerial imagery of the Coffey Park neighborhood in Santa Rosa, California, (top) before the Tubbs Fire (2017) and (bottom) after the fire. Imagery courtesy of Google Earth.

FIRE SPREAD *in the WUI*

WUI fires ignite the exteriors of structures through flame **radiation**, **direct flame impingement**, and **embers**



Ember (Firebrand) Exposure

Press **esc** to exit full screen

Protect Your Property

Why Is Defensible Space Important?

Play

00:35



Direct Flame Impingement

Relatively fire-resistant homes can ignite during low-intensity wildfires if a path of combustible material, such as fences, stairs, decks, or support beams lead the fire to the home.



Flame Radiation

(Radiant Heat)



How Does the Fire Code Impact This Work?

Section SSS: Vegetation Treatment

Local Amendments

- Graduated (0-30, 30-100) vegetation treatment required out to 100' from a structure.
- Graduated vegetation treatment required out to 100' from structures on all adjacent lands whether developed or undeveloped.
- The Fire Department may require vegetation treatment beyond 100' from buildings when conditions warrant.

Zone 0 – Ember Resistant Zone [0-5']

- The ember-resistant zone is currently **not required by law, but science has proven it to be the most important of all the defensible space zones.**

Zone 1 – Lean, Clean and Green Zone [5-30']

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

Zone 2 – Reduce Fuel Zone [30-100']

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.



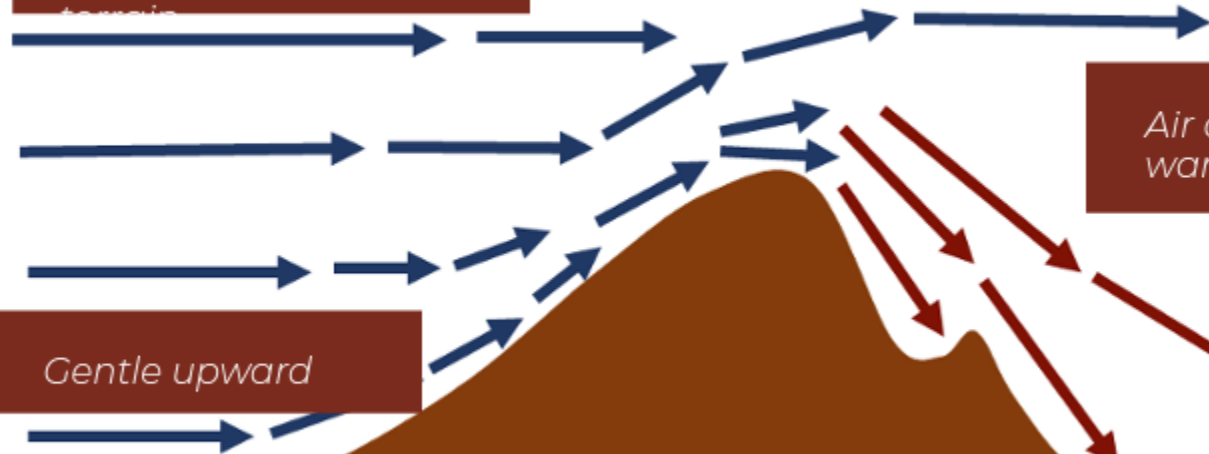
What is the City Doing?

- **WUI Task Force**
- **Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP)**
- **2023 Education Campaign (Wildfire Prep., Veg. Mgmt., Home Hardening, Evacuation)**
- **Dedicated Staff Assigned to Focus on Wildfire Education, Prevention and Defensible Space Inspections**
- **Public/Private Partnerships for Vegetation Management**
- **Chipping Program Enhancements**
- **Public/Private Partnerships for Home Hardening**
- **Leveraging Existing City Funds with Grant Dollars**
- **Increasing Capacity for On-Call Contractors**
- **Re-Starting the Work on the Safe Passages Program**
- **Working to Water Tender**
- **Working to Perform an Evacuation Time Study**

Thank you



Wind direction is perpendicular to the terrain



Gentle upward

Air compresses, dries, and warms as it accelerates down

East -----> West