



Chapter 6: Safety Element

Introduction

One of the fundamental values of the Vision for Riverside County highlights the importance of safety to the people of Riverside:

“We acknowledge security of person and property as one of the most basic community needs and commit to designing our communities so that vulnerability to natural and man made hazards, as well as criminal activities, is anticipated and kept to a minimum.”

This “value” underlies the policy direction of the Safety Element and is further defined by the following Vision statement:

“Considerable protection from natural hazards such as earthquakes, fire, flooding, slope failure, and other hazardous conditions is now built into the pattern of development authorized by the General Plan.”

Based on the direction provided by the Vision, and in compliance with state law, the primary objective of the Safety Element is to "reduce death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social impact from hazards".

The Safety Element serves the following functions:

- Develops a framework by which safety considerations are introduced into the land use planning process;
- Facilitates the identification and mitigation of hazards for new development, and thus strengthens existing codes, project review, and permitting processes;
- Presents policies directed at identifying and reducing hazards in existing development; and
- Strengthens earthquake, flood, inundation, and wildland fire preparedness planning and post-disaster reconstruction policies.

RELATION TO OTHER DOCUMENTS



Technical Background Report

The Safety Element represents an extensive effort to reduce the impacts of future disasters in Riverside County. The Safety Element Technical Background Report (Appendix H), is a comprehensive, up-to-date assessment of natural and man-made hazards in the County, including, but not limited to: earthquakes, landslides, subsidence/settlement, floods, inundation, and wildland fire. The report serves as the foundation for the Safety Element and includes detailed Geographic Information System (GIS) hazard mapping and analyses.