



- b. In addition to the standards and guidelines of the Uniform Building Code and Uniform Fire Code fire safety provisions, require additional standards for high-risk, high occupancy, dependent, and essential facilities where appropriate. These shall include assurance that structural and nonstructural architectural elements of the building will not:
  - impede emergency egress for fire safety manpower, equipment, and apparatus; nor
  - hinder evacuation from fire, including potential blockage of stairways or fire doors.
- c. Proposed development in High Fire Hazard areas shall provide secondary public access, unless determined otherwise by the County Fire Chief.
- d. Proposed development in High Fire Hazard areas shall use single loaded roads to enhance fuel modification areas, unless otherwise determined by the County Fire Chief.

### **Wind-Related Hazards**

Widespread fires following an earthquake, coupled with Santa Ana winds, constitute a worst-case fire suppression scenario. Because of dry vegetation conditions and Santa Ana winds, the fire danger for Riverside County is considered extremely high for 25% of each year. Therefore, there is a statistically significant chance that this worst-case fire suppression scenario could occur.

#### **Policies:**

- S 5.2 Reduce fire threat and strengthen fire-fighting capability so that the County could successfully respond to multiple fires (AI 88).
- S 5.3 Require automatic natural gas shutoff earthquake sensors in high-occupancy industrial and commercial facilities, and encourage them for all residences.
- S 5.4 Utilize ongoing brush clearance fire inspections to educate homeowners on fire prevention tips. (AI 96)

### **Long-Range Fire Safety Planning**

In the wildland/urban interface, flammable structures may be within reach of ignition sources from burning wildland and structural fuels. These are extremely dangerous and complex fire conditions that pose a tremendous threat to public and firefighter safety.

New developments frequently purport to maximize the amount of land left as natural open space. Cuts and/or fills are stopped at the natural interface. This leaves the backyard as the only buffer between the highly flammable natural vegetation and the house. Brush clearance is required, but can occasionally run into endangered species obstacles.

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*Santa Ana winds create a special hazard. Named by the early settlers at Santa Ana, these hot, dry winds enhance the fire danger throughout southern California.*