

22. Wildfire Hazards

Overview

This section provides guidelines for evaluating a project's potential impacts related to wildfire hazards in areas classified as Hazardous Fire Areas, which includes designated Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The impact analysis includes assessing wildfire risks due to terrain, vegetation, infrastructure requirements, and evacuation routes, as well as compliance with local and state fire protection regulations to mitigate potentially significant wildfire risks.

This topic section is updated from **Section 18, Fire Hazards** in the existing ISAGs.

Thresholds of Significance

Impact analysis guidelines (formerly referred to as “Methodology”) are provided accordingly for the following updated thresholds.

If located in or adjacent to a Hazardous Fire Area, a project may have a significant impact if it would:

WIL-1 Exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

WIL-2 Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildfire, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

WIL-3 Require the installation or maintenance of infrastructure to accommodate the project (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in substantial temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.

WIL-4 Substantially impair or obstruct implementation of the Ventura County Emergency Operations Plan.

WIL-5 Substantially impair or obstruct primary or alternative evacuation routes.

Legend:

 Derived from standards specific to the County

 Derived from Appendix G of CEQA

 Derived from a combination of specific County standards and Appendix G of CEQA

Related Technical Terms

The following technical terms related to this topic section have been updated or incorporated:

- Fire hazard
- Fire Hazard Severity Zones
- Fire Protection Plan
- Hazardous Fire Areas