



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
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## GUIDELINE 412

# DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM (FHRP)

### Purpose:

This guideline has been developed to familiarize persons of the definitions applicable to the Fire Hazard Reduction Program administered by the Ventura County Fire Protection District. These definitions are compiled from various codes and ordinances, including but not limited to: VCFPD Ordinance 31, California Building Code (CBC), California Public Resources Code (PRC), California Government Code (GC),

### DEFINITIONS

**COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL.** Includes seasonal and recurrent weeds, stubble, brush, dry leaves, mulch, tumbleweeds, rubbish, recyclable material, litter or flammable materials of any kind.

**CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER.** As determined by the Fire Code Official, a set of weather conditions (usually a combination of low relative humidity, warmer temperatures and/or high winds) favorable to the ignition and the effect of which on fire behavior makes control of a fire difficult and threatens fire fighter and public safety. This includes "Red Flag Warnings" and "Fire Weather Watches" as issued by the National Weather Service.

**DEFENSIBLE SPACE.** An area either natural or man-made, where material capable of allowing a fire to spread unchecked has been treated, cleared or modified to slow the rate and intensity of an advancing wildfire and to create an area for fire suppression operations to occur.

**FIRE AND LIFE HAZARD.** "Fire and Life Hazard" means any condition, arrangement, or act which will increase, or may cause an increase of, the hazard or menace of fire or a hazardous material release (spill, leak, etc.) to a greater degree than customarily recognized as normal by Persons in the public service of preventing, suppressing or extinguishing fire and responding to hazardous material releases; or which may obstruct, delay, or hinder egress from a facility or Building, or may become the cause of obstruction, delay or hindrance to the prevention, suppression, or extinguishment of a fire or hazardous material release.

**FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES (FHSZ).** Are geographical areas designated pursuant to California Public Resources Codes Sections 4201 through 4204 and classified as Very High, High, or Moderate in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) or as Local Agency Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (LAVHFHSZ) designated pursuant to California Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189. (Ref: CBC 702A, CCR T-14 Sec 1280)

**FIRE PROTECTION PLAN.** Is a plan that shall be based upon a site-specific wildfire risk assessment that includes considerations of location, topography, aspect, flammable vegetation, climatic conditions and fire history.

**FUEL BREAK.** An area, strategically located for fighting anticipated fires, where the native vegetation has been permanently modified or replaced so that fires burning into it can be more easily controlled. Fuel Breaks divide fire-prone areas into smaller areas for easier fire control and to provide access for firefighting.

**FUEL MODIFICATION.** A method of modifying fuel load by reducing the amount of non-fire-resistive vegetation or altering the type of vegetation to reduce the fuel load.

**FUEL MOSAIC.** A Fuel Modification system that provides for the creation of islands and irregular boundaries to reduce the visual and ecological impact of Fuel Modification.

**GREENBELTS.** A facility or land-use, designed for a use other than fire protection, which will slow or resist the spread of a wildfire. Includes parking lots, irrigated or landscaped areas, golf courses, parks, playgrounds, maintained vineyards, orchards or annual crops that do not cure in the field.

**HAZARDOUS FIRE AREA (HFA).** Is land which is covered with grass, grain, brush, or forest, whether privately or publicly owned, which is so situated or is of such inaccessible location that a fire originating upon such land would present an abnormally difficult job of suppression or would result in great and unusual damage through fire or resulting erosion and includes any location within 500 feet of a forest or brush, grass, or grain covered land, exclusive of small individual lots or Parcels of land located outside of a brush, forest, or grain covered area. Such areas are designated by the Fire Code Official. The Fire Code Official is authorized to utilize, as references, the definition of Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area, State SRA maps, Local Agency Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps designated pursuant to California Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189 and the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code.

**ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPE.** All grasses, plants, trees and other vegetation installed by a property owner. This is usually for aesthetic or privacy screening.

**PARCEL.** A portion of land of any size, the area of which is depicted on or described by a tentative map, final map, parcel map, instrument of conveyance or determined by the assessor's maps and records and which may be identified by an assessor's parcel number whether any Buildings are present or not.

**PERSON.** An individual, a natural Person, heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, and includes a firm, partnership whether general or limited, company, corporation, unincorporated association, union or organization, cooperative and trust, it's or their successors or assigns, or the agent of any of the aforesaid. It shall include the plural as well as the singular number, the male and female gender, and all governmental entities subject in whole or in part to this Code and the codes adopted by reference herein.

**PUBLIC NUISANCE.** A declaration by the Fire Code Official that the presence of Combustible Material on a Parcel creates a fire hazard.

**STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA (SRA).** As defined in Public Resources Code sections 4102, 4125-4127; and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, division 1.5, chapter 7, article 1, sections 1220.

**WILDFIRE.** An uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, exposing and possibly consuming Structures.

**WILDFIRE RISK AREA.** See "Hazardous Fire Area (HFA)".

**WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE (WUI) AREA.** That geographical area where Structures and other human development meet or intermingle with wildland or vegetative fuels. (Ref: CBC 702A)