

# Progress and Next Steps for Town of Fairfax Safety Element Update



Town Council Meeting  
December 15, 2021



EMC PLANNING GROUP

- Safety Element Background
- Tonight's Objectives
- Overview of Changes to the Safety Element
- Discussion and Feedback

- Safety Element is mandated by the State
- Better Understanding of Wildfire Behavior and Structure Hardening
- Updates Required by SB-379, SB-99, and AB-747:
  - Climate Change Vulnerability
  - Climate Change Resiliency
  - Single-egress Streets
  - Evacuation

- Safety Element update has been prepared early to inform decisions in the Housing Element
- Consultation with stakeholders and committees
- November 18 Planning Commission
- November 20 workshop
- Future Timepoints:
  - December 20 workshop
  - Spring 2022: check back with PC and Council
  - August 2022: Final Public Draft
  - Adoption expected in December 2022

Provide Feedback on:

1. Additional factors that should be considered.
2. Top Safety Element priorities
3. Community resources (MWPA, FireSafe, NRG, etc.)
4. How information in the Safety Element should inform the Housing Element update
5. Evacuation routes, refuges, storm water detention

- The Community Preparedness programs relating specifically to Geologic, Flooding, and Fire Hazards were consolidated / re-located
- Maps Updated
- Information from Marin Multi-jurisdictional Local Hazards Mitigation Plan added
- Planning Commission has concerns with emergency ingress and egress, power outages, flooding
- Recommends focus on action programs and giving responsibility to volunteer groups

- Relatively few updates for Geologic Hazards
- Updated Geologic Maps
- Minor Program Changes



- Effects related to Climate Change
- New or Revised Programs:
  - Hydrological Studies
  - Flood Certificates
  - Flood-resistant Design Criteria for Public Improvements





- Effects related to Climate Change
- Specificity added to Programs:
  - Street Dimensions, Shaded Fuel Breaks, Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- New or Revised Programs
  - Emergency Access at Hard-to-reach Houses
  - Home Hardening
  - Landscape Firescaping



# Issues for Discussion

- Temporary Emergency Refuges
- Vegetation Clearance on Evacuation Routes
- Meeting “Zero Zone” Fire Clearance Recommendations

- Stormwater Detention
- Town Hall Culvert



- Re-focused on:
  - Dissemination of information
  - Facilitating citizen emergency response
  - Evacuation planning
  - Response to disruptions
- New Programs:
  - Increasing resilience
  - Evacuation awareness
  - Assurance for mobility challenged / special needs
  - Personal safety during evacuations

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