

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
ORDINANCE NO. 25-014

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15.60 "STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS OF THE COUNTY" OF TITLE 15 "BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION" OF THE ORDINANCE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO AND RENAMING THAT CHAPTER, "STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA AND LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS OF THE COUNTY."

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno ordains as follows:

**Section 1.** That Chapter 15.60 of the Ordinance Code of Fresno County is hereby renamed, "State Responsibility Area and Local Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations of the County."

**Section 2.** That Section 15.60.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15.60.010 Short title and purpose.

This Chapter shall be known as and may be cited as the State Responsibility Area and Local Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations of the County, and is necessary in order to provide minimum uniform standards for basic emergency access, perimeter wildfire protection measures, signing and building numbering, private water supply reserves for emergency fire use and vegetation modification. The purpose of these regulations is to: create a safer environment for citizens within the wildlands of Fresno County; reduce the destruction and damage to structures and resources; and provide defensible space protecting citizens and firefighters.

(Ord. No. 23-001, § 1(Exh. 2), 2-28-2023; Ord. No. 19-025, § 1(Exh. B), 12-10-2019; Ord. No. 11-005, § 1, 5-24-2011; Ord. 07-049, Exh. A)

**Section 3.** That Section 5.60.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15.60.110 Definitions.

- A. "Accessory structure" means any structure used as an accessory to residential, commercial, recreational, industrial or educational purposes for which a Building Permit is required.

- 1 B. "Board" means Board of Supervisors of the County.
- 2 C. "Building" means any structure used for residential, commercial, recreational, industrial
- 3 or educational purposes including mobile and manufactured homes.
- 4 D. "Building Official" means the Director of the Department of Public Works and Planning or
- 5 his/her designee.
- 6 E. "Cal Fire" means California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
- 7 F. "Cul-de-sac" means a road which terminates in a permanent turnaround and which by
- 8 design is not intended to continue beyond its terminal point.
- 9 G. "Dead-end road" (stub road) means a road which is terminated at the boundary line of a
- 10 parcel or lot but which will be extended at a later date to provide access to abutting land.
- 11 H. "Defensible space" means the area within the perimeter of a parcel development,
- 12 neighborhood or community where basic wildland fire protection measures are
- 13 implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or defense
- 14 against encroaching wildfires or escaping structure fires. The perimeter as used in this
- 15 regulation is the area encompassing the parcel or parcels proposed for construction
- 16 and/or development, excluding the physical structure itself. The area is characterized by
- 17 the establishment and maintenance of emergency vehicle access, emergency water
- 18 reserves, road names and building identification, and fuel modification measures.
- 19 I. "Department" means the Department of Public Works and Planning of the County.
- 20 J. "Director" means the Director of the Department of Public Works and Planning of the
- 21 County.
- 22 K. "Driveway" means vehicular access that serves no more than three (3) dwelling units
- 23 within no more than two (2) buildings constructed after January 1, 1991.
- 24 L. "Dwelling unit" means two (2) or more rooms in a building designed for or occupied by
- 25 one (1) family for living or sleeping purposes and having only one (1) kitchen and
- 26 separate toilet facilities.
- 27 M. "Fire Apparatus" A vehicle designed to be used under emergency conditions to transport
- 28 personnel and equipment or to support emergency response, including but not limited to
- the suppression of fires.
- N. "Fire Authority" A fire department, agency, division, district, or other governmental body
- responsible for regulating and/or enforcing minimum fire safety standards in the Local
- Jurisdiction.
- O. "Fire Hazard Severity Zone" means a geographical area determined to have a
- "moderate," "high" or "very high" determination based on the severity of fire hazard that
- is expected to prevail in the respective area.
- P. "Fuel Break" A strategically located area where the volume and arrangement of
- vegetation has been managed to limit fire intensity, fire severity, rate of spread, crown
- fire potential, and/or ember production.
- Q. "Fuel modification area" An area where the volume of flammable vegetation has been
- reduced, providing reduced fire intensity and duration.
- R. "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.
- S. "Hammerhead/T" means a "T" shaped, three-point (3-point) turnaround space for
- emergency equipment, being no narrower than the road it serves.

- 1 T. "Hazardous Land Use" A land use that presents a significantly elevated potential for the  
2 ignition, prolonged duration, or increased intensity of a Wildfire due to the presence of  
3 flammable materials, liquids, or gasses, or other features that initiate or sustain  
4 combustion. Such uses are determined by the Local Jurisdiction and may include, but  
5 are not limited to, power-generation and distribution facilities; wood processing or  
6 storage sites; flammable gas or liquids processing or storage sites; or shooting ranges.
- 7 U. "Local Responsibility Area," as defined by the state, means incorporated cities, urban  
8 regions, agricultural lands and portions of the desert where the local government is  
9 responsible for wildfire protection.
- 10 V. "Municipal-Type Water System: A system having water pipes servicing Fire Hydrants  
11 and designed to furnish, over and above domestic consumption, a minimum of 250 gpm  
12 (950 L/min) at 20 psi (138 kPa) residual pressure for a two (2) hour duration.
- 13 W. "Occupancy" The purpose for which a Building, or part thereof, is used or intended to be  
14 used.
- 15 X. "Residential Unit" Any Building or portion thereof which contains living facilities, including  
16 which include including provisions for sleeping, and can include provisions for eating,  
17 cooking and/or sanitation, for one or more persons. Manufactured homes, mobile  
18 homes, and factory-built housing are considered Residential Units
- 19 Y. "Roads" means new roads or extensions of existing roads, whether public or private,  
20 providing vehicular access to more than one (1) parcel, constructed after January 1,  
21 1991; access to any industrial or commercial occupancy; or vehicular access to a single  
22 parcel with more than two (2) buildings or four (4) or more dwelling units.
- 23 Z. "Roadway" means any surface designed, improved, or ordinarily used for vehicle travel.
- 24 AA. "Road or Driveway Structures" Bridges, culverts, and other appurtenant Structures which  
25 supplement the Traffic Lane or Shoulders.
- 26 BB. Same Practical Effect: As used in this subchapter, means an Exception or alternative  
27 with the capability of applying accepted wildland fire suppression strategies and tactics,  
28 and provisions for fire fighter safety, including:
- a. access for emergency wildland fire equipment,
  - b. safe civilian evacuation,
  - c. signing that avoids delays in emergency equipment response,
  - d. available and accessible water to effectively attack Wildfire or defend a Structure  
from Wildfire, and
  - e. fuel modification sufficient for civilian and fire fighter safety.
- CC. State Responsibility Area (SRA): As defined in Public Resources Code sections 4126-  
4127; and the California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 1.5, chapter 7, article 1,  
sections 1220-1220.5.
- DD. "Subdivision" means the division, by any subdivider, of any unit or units of improved or  
unimproved land, or any portion thereof, shown on the latest equalized County  
assessment roll as a unit or as contiguous units, for the purpose of sale, lease or  
financing, whether immediate or future. Property shall be considered as contiguous units,  
even if it is separated by roads, streets, utility easement or railroad rights-of-way.  
"Subdivision" includes a condominium project, as defined in Subdivision (d) of Section  
1351 of the Civil Code, or the conversion of five (5) or more existing dwelling units to a  
stock cooperative, as defined in Subdivision (m) of Section 1351 of the Civil Code. For the  
purposes of this Ordinance, the definition of a "subdivision" includes the subdivision of  
four (4) or more parcels.

1 EE. "Strategic Ridgeline" a Ridgeline identified pursuant to § 1276.02(a) that may support fire  
2 suppression activities or where the preservation of the Ridgeline as Undeveloped would  
reduce fire risk and improve fire protection.

3 FF. "Structure" That which is built or constructed, or any piece of work artificially built up or  
4 composed of parts joined together in some definite manner.

5 GG. "Turnaround" An area which allows for a safe opposite change of direction for Fire  
Apparatus at the end of a Road or Driveway.

6 HH. "Turnout" means a widening in a roadway to allow vehicles to pass.

7 (Ord. No. 23-001, § 1(Exh. 2), 2-28-2023; Ord. No. 19-025, § 1(Exh. B), 12-10-2019; Ord. No.  
8 15-021, § 2(Exh. B), 11-17-2015; Ord. No. 11-005, § 1, 5-24-2011; Ord. 07-049, Exh. Amended  
by Ord. 10-008, Ord. 03-0001 (part), Ord. 91-025 §1 (part))

9 **Section 4.** That a new Article VI. Local Responsibility Area and Section 15.60.600 are hereby  
10 added as follows:

11 Article VI. Local Responsibility Area

12 15.60.600 Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

13 The County of Fresno hereby designates the Fire Hazard Severity Zones as recommended by  
14 the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Government Code Section  
15 51178.

16 The map, approved by the County of Fresno, is hereby incorporated by reference and entitled  
"County of Fresno Fire Hazard Severity Zones."

17 The Official map is also located electronically at:

18 [https://www.fresnocountyca.gov/Departments/Public-Health/Emergency-Services/Office-of-](https://www.fresnocountyca.gov/Departments/Public-Health/Emergency-Services/Office-of-Emergency-Services-OES/Fire-Disaster-Information)  
19 [Emergency-Services-OES/Fire-Disaster-Information.](https://www.fresnocountyca.gov/Departments/Public-Health/Emergency-Services/Office-of-Emergency-Services-OES/Fire-Disaster-Information)

20 *[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]*


1 The FOREGOING was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of  
2 Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 24th day of June, 2025, to wit:

3  
4 AYES: Supervisors Bredefeld, Chavez, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco

5 NOES: None

6 ABSENT: None

7 ABSTAINED: None

8  
9   
10 Ernest Buddy Mendes, Chairman of the Board of  
Supervisors of the County of Fresno

11 **ATTEST:**

12 Bernice E. Seidel  
13 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Fresno, State of California

14  
15 By:   
16 Deputy

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18  
19 FILE # 25-0546

20 AGENDA # 33

21 ORDINANCE # 25-014  
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