



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL
CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE



130 S. Main St. • Lake Elsinore, California 92530
(951) 674-3124 Ext. 250 • LakeElsinoreOFM@lake-elsinore.org

HAZARDOUS/HIGH FIRE AREA-SINGLE FAMILY HOMES INSPECTION GUIDELINES

DEFINITION

"Hazardous Fire Area is land other than State designated fire hazard severity zone FHSZ or local designation of FHSZ 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." (Riverside County Ordinance 787.3, Ch. 2 Definitions)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Plan submittal is required prior to grading for or building a structure in the High Fire Severity Zone (HFA).

After preliminary review by the Fire Department the plans if acceptable, will be stamped and valid for up to 6 months.

After review by Land Use, the HFA plans will need to be resubmitted to the Fire Department for water requirements and final review.

The Property in Question (PIQ) will be required to have water available (for firefighting), or arrangements to have water available, prior to final approval. Letters from the Water District (EVMWD) will be required.

If gates are being installed, they will need to be identified as manual or automatic and a plan detail, including Knox rapid entry devices, will be required.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS

When reviewing HFA site plans, your plan checker is looking for the following items:

- Access-Does the property have legal and feasible access? Is the width of the access acceptable? Is the surface of the access acceptable? Is there secondary access, if applicable? Is the grade of the access within the City's acceptable range? If you are installing gates, are they automatic or manual? Have you provided A Knox access device?
- Water-Is there water available to this property? If there is water available, how far is it from the property in question? Are there hydrants in the area?



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- Fuel modification Areas/Setbacks-How far is the structure from property lines? How far is the structure from other structures? Is there unusual terrain or questionable foliage around the area for the proposed structure?
- Secondary Access-Will this property need a secondary means of egress/ingress? Is this secondary access feasible?

INSPECTION CRITERIA

When inspecting an HFA site, your inspector will be looking for the following items:

- Does the physical site match the site plan? If it does not, "revised" plans may be required.
- Do you have a set of stamped and approved plans on-site?
- Is there someone present to grant access, open gates, answer questions...etc?
- If there is a gate, is it unlocked and equipped with a Knox padlock, key box, or key switch device?
- Is the surface of your access/driveway acceptable?
- Is your property easily identifiable? Is your address posted in a conspicuous place?

***These lists are not all inclusive. All projects are "Case by Case" basis. Please use this as a GENERAL GUIDELINE**

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Approved Plans
- ☐ Verification Inspection