

Upper Feather River IRWM Planning Area

Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Fire Hazard Severity

Fire Hazard is a way to measure the physical fire behavior so that people can predict the damage a fire is likely to cause. Fire hazard measurement includes the speed at which a wildfire moves, the amount of heat the fire produces, and most importantly, the burning fire brands that the fire sends ahead of the flaming front.

Fire Hazard Elements

Vegetation - Vegetation is "fuel" to a wildfire and it changes over time. Fire hazard considers the potential vegetation over a 50 year time horizon.

Topography - Fire burns faster on steep slopes.

Weather - Fire burns faster and with more intensity when air temperature is high, relative humidity is low, and winds are strong.

Crown fire potential - Under extreme conditions, fires burn the up into trees and fall back.

Ember production and movement - Fire brands are blown ahead of the main fire spreading the fire and getting into buildings and splitting.

Likelihood of an area burning over a 30 - 50 year time period.

Hazard Map Uses

- Building construction standards on building permit
- Natural hazard disclosure at time of sale
- Defensible space clearance around buildings
- Property development standards such as road widths, water supply, address signs
- Consistent in City and County general plans

Hazard Severity Zones are not intended for:

- Tactical fire fighting
- Seasonal fire severity
- Insurance
- Setting project priorities"

Source:
http://www.fire.ca.gov/files_prevention/prevention_wildland_zones_development.php

