

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

1. What is the Wildland Urban Interface?

- A.** The Wildland Urban Interface is a geographic area identified by the State as a "Fire Hazard Severity Zone" or other area designated by the enforcing agency (Santa Clara County) to be at a significant risk from wildfires. The Board of Supervisors approved a map outlining the Santa Clara County Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area in January of 2008. The map is used to determine where the fire-resistive construction requirements of Chapter 7A of the County Building Code and the vegetation-management requirements in Chapter 47 of the County Fire Code apply.

Our Land Development Deputy can tell you whether your property lies within the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area. It is important to note that if your property lies within the **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone**, the vegetation requirements are more restrictive.

2. What do the acronyms "LRA" and "SRA" stand for?

- A.** "LRA" stands for "Local Response Area", which in unincorporated Santa Clara County lie within the Santa Clara County Central Fire District (including those areas served by San Jose Fire Department), the Saratoga Fire District, the Los Altos County Fire District and the South Santa Clara County Fire District. "SRA" stands for the "State Response Area", which is CAL FIRE's response area. Essentially you will see no difference in regulations between the two. Together they make up the Santa Clara County Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area map approved by the Board of Supervisors.

3. What do I have to do differently if my property is in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone within the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area?

- A.** Your area has been declared to have a higher degree of fire hazard by Cal Fire due to degree of slope, aspect (south or west-facing slope), topography, vegetation type and fire history. Because of this you will need to provide 30 feet of vegetation clearance and an additional 70 feet of fuel modification. See our Wildland Urban Interface webpage and brochure for details.

4. Where can I find the standards for vegetation clearance so that my property can meet the requirement prior to Final?

- A.** See Chapter 47 of the County Amendments and Wildland Urban Interface webpage for vegetation clearance requirements.

5. Do I need a permit to burn Agricultural or Hazardous Vegetation in the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County?

- A.** Yes, see our Burn Permit page for details

6. What classification of roof does my home need if I am in the Hazardous Fire Area?

- A.** If your home is the Wildland Urban Interface (yellow area on the WUIFA Map) or Very High Zone, Wildland Urban Interface (Red area on WUIFA Map) you are required to have a Class "A" roof.