

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## Notice of *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone*

June 14, 2012

Certain properties located in the Culver Crest area, have been identified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE) as being in a “**Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ)**.” The City Manager was officially notified by the Director of CAL Fire of this designation on May 16, 2012 and pursuant to California Government Code Sections 51178.5 and 51179 (a through g) the City is required to notify the public of this designation and formally adopt a local ordinance designating this area as a VHFHSZ within 120 days. A map showing the homes in the VHFHSZ has been posted on the [City's website](#) and is on display at City Hall in Fire Prevention on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. You may also view the map and the requirements on the [State Fire Marshal's website](#). Currently we are working on developing the local ordinance to present to the City Council for adoption next month. In brief, the properties in the designated area will be required to:

- Meet State brush clearance/defensible space requirements - The fire department has been sending out brush clearance letters and inspecting homes in this area for many years, so this should not be a big change for most homeowners. Letters for 2012 will go out next week.
- All new structures built in the area will need to comply with specific CA Building Code requirements including: “Ignition Resistant Construction,” fire retardant roofing materials, enclosed eaves, vent mesh requirements, exterior wall coverings, windows and doors, and decking materials.
- Property owners will also have to disclose the VHFHSZ designation when transferring property ownership either through the *Local Option Real Estate Disclosure Statement* or the *Natural Hazard Disclosure Statement*.

Should you have any questions regarding these new requirements or the adoption of our local ordinance please contact our Fire Prevention Bureau at (310) 253-5925. You may also access more information at the Cal Fire website at [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org).