

Wildfire Evacuation

CEQA Thresholds of Significance Checklist (Preliminary – Not for Application)

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As part of our evacuation impact analysis project work and support for the California Attorney General's Office, Fehr & Peers has developed the following interim guidance about technical approach considerations for CEQA evacuation impact analysis.

The following checklist outlines six categories and subsequent yes/no questions to determine a project's potential CEQA evacuation impacts. Categories 1-5 examine project conditions that may increase wildfire risk, while Category 6 considers measures that may reduce wildfire risk.

Guidance for interpreting the checklist is as follows:



Numerous positive responses in topic areas 1-5 would lead to a **significant impact conclusion**.

Numerous positive responses to questions in category 6, in combination with limited positive responses in topic areas 1-5, could lead to a **less-than-significant impact conclusion**.

CEQA Wildfire Evacuation Checklist

[Preliminary – Not for Application] V051523



WILDFIRE EVACUATION THRESHOLD CATEGORY/QUESTION(S)	Yes	No	Requires Further Analysis
1 Proximity to Hazard			
Is the project located in or near an area designated as a high or very high fire hazard severity zone ¹ ?			
Is the project located in or near any other defined hazard zone (e.g., flood plain, seismic fault zone, liquefaction zone) that may affect existing evacuation routes to be used during a wildfire evacuation?			
2 Project Density			
Is the project characterized by low- to intermediate-density uses that are dispersed and increase the potential for wildfires to start or spread?			
3 Project Location			
Is the project located at the periphery of an existing community or in the wildland urban interface?			
Is the project located on ridges, on rugged terrain, or along high wind corridors?			
4 Emergency Access			
Does the project have only one access route for emergency vehicles?			
Is the project located in an area that is within the average response time of the nearest fire station?			
Does the road network and street design meet all California Fire Safe Regulations (Public Resources Code Section 4290) (e.g., roadway surface, grade, width, length)?			
Would the project generate a level of evacuation traffic that would require multiple access roads where only one is proposed?			
Does the project's jurisdiction have a current safety element compliant with AB 747, AB 1409, SB 99, and SB 1241?			
5 Evacuation Egress			
Would the project conflict with or remove any previously identified community evacuation routes?			
Have prior wildfire evacuations resulted in fatalities and/or significant injuries?			
Would a project substantially change the emergency response or evacuation plan for a community given its location and scale?			
Is there data that indicates wildfire spread would affect and could result in closure of key evacuation routes prior to a full community evacuation?			
Would the project worsen baseline evacuation times for existing community?			
6 Consideration of Project Wildfire Risk Reduction Measures			
Would the project meet all California Fire Safe Regulations (Public Resources Code Section 4290) for new streets and buildings?			
Does the project have multiple emergency access routes?			
Would the project provide new firefighting facilities or staffing?			
Would the project provide wildfire fuel breaks along roads or open space areas?			
Would the project provide early detection and/or enhanced notification systems?			
Does the project have sufficient on-site water sources for firefighting?			
Have first responders indicated in writing that they have significant resources to manage evacuation traffic, such that strategies like contraflow are feasible?			
Does the project or jurisdiction provide emergency evacuation buses and pickup sites through the school district or through public transportation?			

¹ <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/>

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 Source: Fehr & Peers.