

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**PREPARED BY:** M. Krug, Asst. Fire Chief

**SUBJECT:** Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Protection Recommendations. The following will be presented to Avalon City Council on July 17, 2012 for consideration.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):** Adopt California Building Code Chapter 7A, requiring new buildings in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) to use ignition resistant construction methods and materials. Amend the code to include patio decks and remodels that meet the Avalon Fire Department sprinkler requirements.

**REPORT SUMMARY:** Government Code 51175-89 directs the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify areas of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). This is based on data and models of potential fuels over a 30-50 year time horizon and expected fire behavior. This data is used to quantify the possibility and hazard of blowing embers and firebrands becoming ignition sources to structures. Avalon has been identified as a VHFHSZ and CALFIRE recommends adopting California Building Code Chapter 7A to provide for more ignition resistive structures.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

Expected to be minimal, additional fire prevention and building inspection activities per project.

**CONSEQUENCES OF NOT FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Having new and/or remodeled structures that are less protected against firebrands and embers that cause ignition points, thus not moving toward a more fire safe community. Not following CALFIRE recommendations could be dissected by many different parties following a significant fire or incident.