

ANNEX 13 UNINCORPORATED AREAS WITHOUT LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION

There are areas in Santa Clara County that are not within any local government fire protection organization's jurisdiction. Specifically the Mt. Hamilton area, San Antonio Valley, Pacheco Pass, and the portion of the Stanford University campus outside the City of Palo Alto. Fire protection in these unincorporated areas is the responsibility of the County of Santa Clara, but there is no state statute or local ordinance that requires providing any services. Most of these unincorporated areas are designated State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) by state law, and therefore the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has jurisdiction for wildland fire protection in SRAs. CAL FIRE does not have jurisdictional responsibility for non-wildland fire emergencies, but will respond as a good Samaritan or through mutual aid during the fire season when they staff their fire stations. The Stanford University campus outside the City of Palo Alto is wildland but is designated a Local Responsibility Area (LRA); therefore, CAL FIRE has no jurisdictional responsibility.

Since all these areas are unincorporated, land use planning, building permit processes, and local ordinances and regulations are under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Supervisors. The County Fire Marshal has jurisdiction for new construction permit fire/building code approval and inspection. There are no maintenance or defensible space inspections conducted by the Fire Marshal.