

State Fire Prevention Fee Frequently Asked Questions

What is the State Responsibility Area (SRA)?

State and privately-owned forest, watershed, and rangeland for which the primary financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing wildland fires rests with the State. The SRA definition can be found in PRC 4126: <http://law.onecle.com/california/public-resources/4126.html>

Why is the State Responsibility Area Fee important?

The fee provides a stable source of funding for a portion of CAL FIRE's budget spent on fire prevention activities. These vital activities are aimed at reducing the increased risk of fire ignition and fire damage within the state's wildlands that the presence of structures can pose as outlined in the law: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/abx1_29_bill_20110630_enrolled.pdf

Who is assessed the SRA Fee?

A fee assessed on all habitable structures within State Responsibility Area (SRA), which is roughly 800,000 buildings within 31 million acres across California.

What is a habitable structure?

Defined as a building used or intended to be used for human habitation. Includes, but is not limited to, a mobile home or manufactured home.

How much is the fee?

\$150 per habitable structure per year – an average of \$12.50 per month per structure.

What if I'm also protected by another fire agency?

The fee is discounted \$35 per habitable structure if the structure is within the boundaries of a local agency that provides fire protection services. In these cases, the fee will be \$115 per habitable structure. Most structures within the SRA fall within this fee category.

What about apartments?

The apartment building is assessed the fee for the structure but not multiplied by each unit.

Example: One apartment building would pay \$150.

What about condominiums?

In a condominium complex with multiple owners, each owner would have a corresponding parcel number and, therefore, each condominium unit would individually be assessed the fee.

Are ALL structures assessed the fee?

The fee is not assessed on all structures. Barns, woodsheds, outbuildings, and other structures not used for human habitation are not assessed the fee.

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What is fire prevention?

The work done to prevent a fire from igniting. This includes activities like brush clearance, defensible space inspections, fire breaks and public education programs. A portion of the fee may also be used to fund the extraordinary efforts taken by CAL FIRE to prevent the expansion of wildland fires during emergency situations.

How will the fees be collected?

The Board of Equalization is charged with collecting the fee. It is anticipated the fee will be a stand alone bill much like the Vehicle Registration Renewal.

What's the next step?

The Board of Forestry & Fire Protection is in the "Permanent Regulation" process which includes a 45 day public comment period.

How do I find out if a home is in SRA?

Visit the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's website and click the "State Responsibility Area Viewer" http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/sra_viewer/

Emergency Regulation Language

The exact language can be found at:

http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/regulations/proposed_rule_packages/sra_fire_prevention_benefit_fee_2012/oalapprovesrafeeemergencyregulation.pdf