

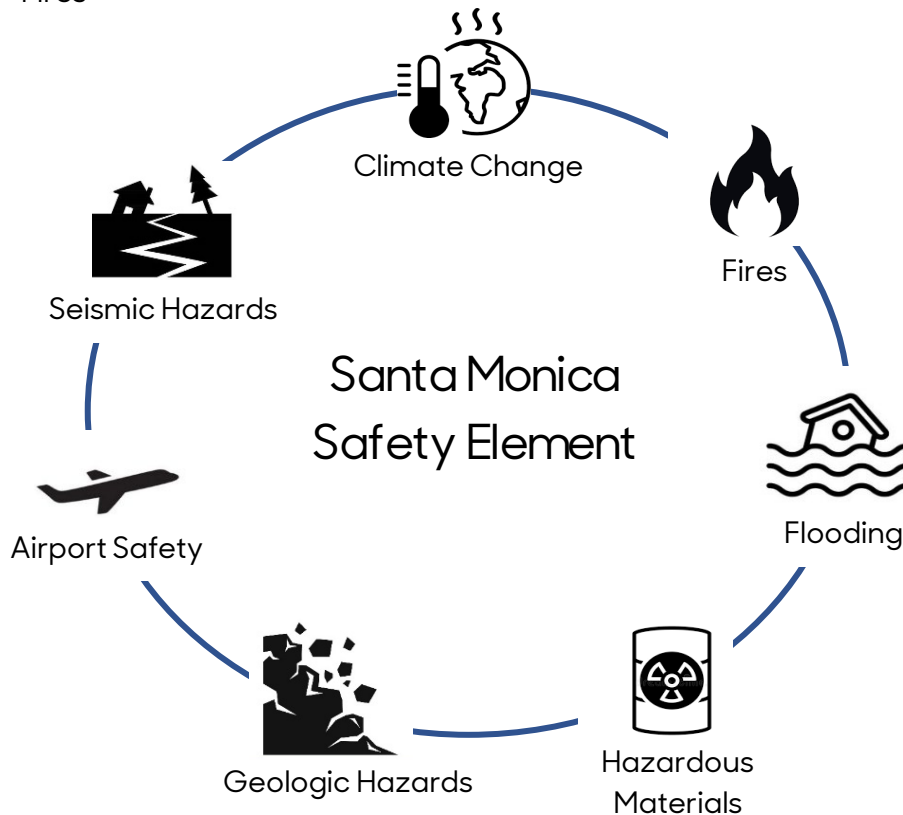
Safety Element Update

Santa Monica is in the process of updating its Safety Element. The Safety Element Update addresses associated Federal and State requirements to identify risks and vulnerabilities from natural and human-made disasters and other emergency events and would establish the strategies for creating a safer and more resilient City.

What is the Safety Element?

The Safety Element establishes the City's goals, policies, and programs to reduce the short and long term risk of death, injuries, property damage, and social dislocation due to natural and human-made hazards including:

- Geologic hazards, including earthquakes, ground failure, and landslides
- Flooding
- Hazardous materials and waste
- Airport Hazards
- Climate change effects, including sea level rise, droughts, and heat waves
- Fires



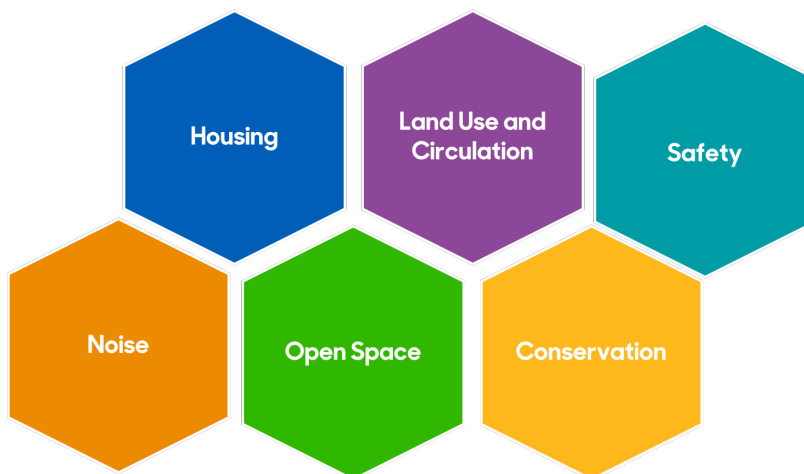
Why is the City updating the Safety Element?

The City's Safety Element was last updated in 1995. Over 20 years have passed and since that time, new information has become available on public safety risks including earthquake faults, climate change effects, and flooding. In addition, the State has established new statutory requirements pertaining to the Safety Element, which include:

- SB 379 (2017): Requires the City to address climate adaptation and resiliency through the preparation of a vulnerability assessment or reliance on a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan that addresses climate adaptation risks and vulnerabilities.
- SB 1035 (2018): Requires the update of the Safety Element upon adoption of the Housing Element update, which shall be updated at least every eight years to address new requirements and incorporate updated information during this time.
- SB 99 (2019): Requires the Safety Element to identify residential developments in any hazard area that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.
- AB747 (2019): Requires Safety Element to be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios.

How does the Safety Element relate to the City's General Plan Elements?

The Safety Element is one of the State-required components of the City's General Plan. State law requires that the Safety Element be consistent with other General Plan Elements, including the Housing Element and the Land Use and Circulation Elements. The Safety Element is intended to complement, and not compete with, the other General Plan Elements. As an example, the policies in the Safety Element establish the policies and programs necessary to ensure that new housing sites as planned for in the Housing Element are protected from earthquake hazards.



How does the Safety Element relate to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan?

The Safety Element will be updated concurrently with the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) update. A Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies local disaster hazards, assess the possibility of these hazards occurring and estimates potential costs, and identifies actions to mitigate disaster losses. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires plan revisions to be reviewed and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every five years. Santa Monica's existing plan was last approved in October 2016. The Santa Monica Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is actively coordinating the City's process for LHMP updates and mitigation planning efforts, in sync with the Safety Element planning team. The Safety Element will integrate the risk reduction and emergency response strategies identified in the LHMP.

The Safety Element and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan updates will complement and build upon the adaptation strategies in the City's adopted 2019 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) as well as the City's Local Coastal Plan to provide an integrated approach to building a safe and resilient community.

What is the timeline for updating the Safety Element?

Project Initiation/Community Outreach - Spring 2023

Prepare Draft - Summer 2023

Public Draft - Fall 2023

Adoption - Winter 2023



How can the public be involved and stay informed?

Sign up for updates at Rachel.Kwok@santamonica.gov or check the City's Safety Element webpage at www.santamonica.gov/Safety-Element-Update