

7. Our Safe Community



GOAL

Increase awareness and be prepared for emergency, minimize threat to life and damage to structures from natural and human-caused hazards.



A. INTRODUCTION

The Safety Chapter addresses natural and human-caused threats and hazards. South Pasadena is a full service city with its own Police and Fire Departments. The Public Safety Commission is a seven member body that serves in a support capacity to the City Council in an endeavor to improve the City's existing emergency response capability. The Public Safety Commission is charged with making recommendations regarding matters affecting:

- Public perceptions of effectiveness;
- Crime incidences;
- Crime trends;
- Life-safety issues;
- Neighborhood watch;
- Fire prevention and awareness;
- Emergency preparedness; and
- Traffic calming measures.



B. POLICE



The South Pasadena Police Department (SPPD) is a full-service police agency serving the community with 37 sworn officers, 17 non-sworn full-time employees, six part-time non-sworn employees, and two volunteers, including one reserve officer. The department is also augmented with seven Reserve Officers. The department also contracts with a private company for parking enforcement and crossing guards.

The department is divided into the Support Services and Field Services divisions.

1. The Support Services Division provides support to officers in the field and administrative services to the public. This includes Police Assistants (Dispatchers), Recruitment, Property/Evidence, Training, Records Bureau, Police Cadets Program, Parking Control (Parking Enforcement), and Volunteers.
2. The Field Services Division includes Patrol Officers, Reserves, Detective Bureau, Crime Analysis/Crime Prevention, K9 Unit, Traffic Unit, Bicycle Unit, Office of Professional Standards, Foothill Air Support

Team (helicopter), and Area “C” Mutual Aid.

The Department is committed to a high quality of service with a strong emphasis on maintaining the City’s rapid response to demands for police service (within 3 minutes for in progress calls, under 10 minutes for most requests for police service) coupled with high quality

service once the officers arrive on the scene. There is regular cooperation and coordination with surrounding police agencies (Pasadena, San Marino, Alhambra, and Los Angeles). This offers the best opportunities for apprehension of criminals and reduction of losses and crime in South Pasadena.

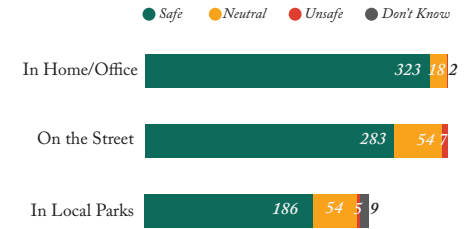


Figure B7.2. Survey results, 2017. A large majority of people feel safe in South Pasadena.

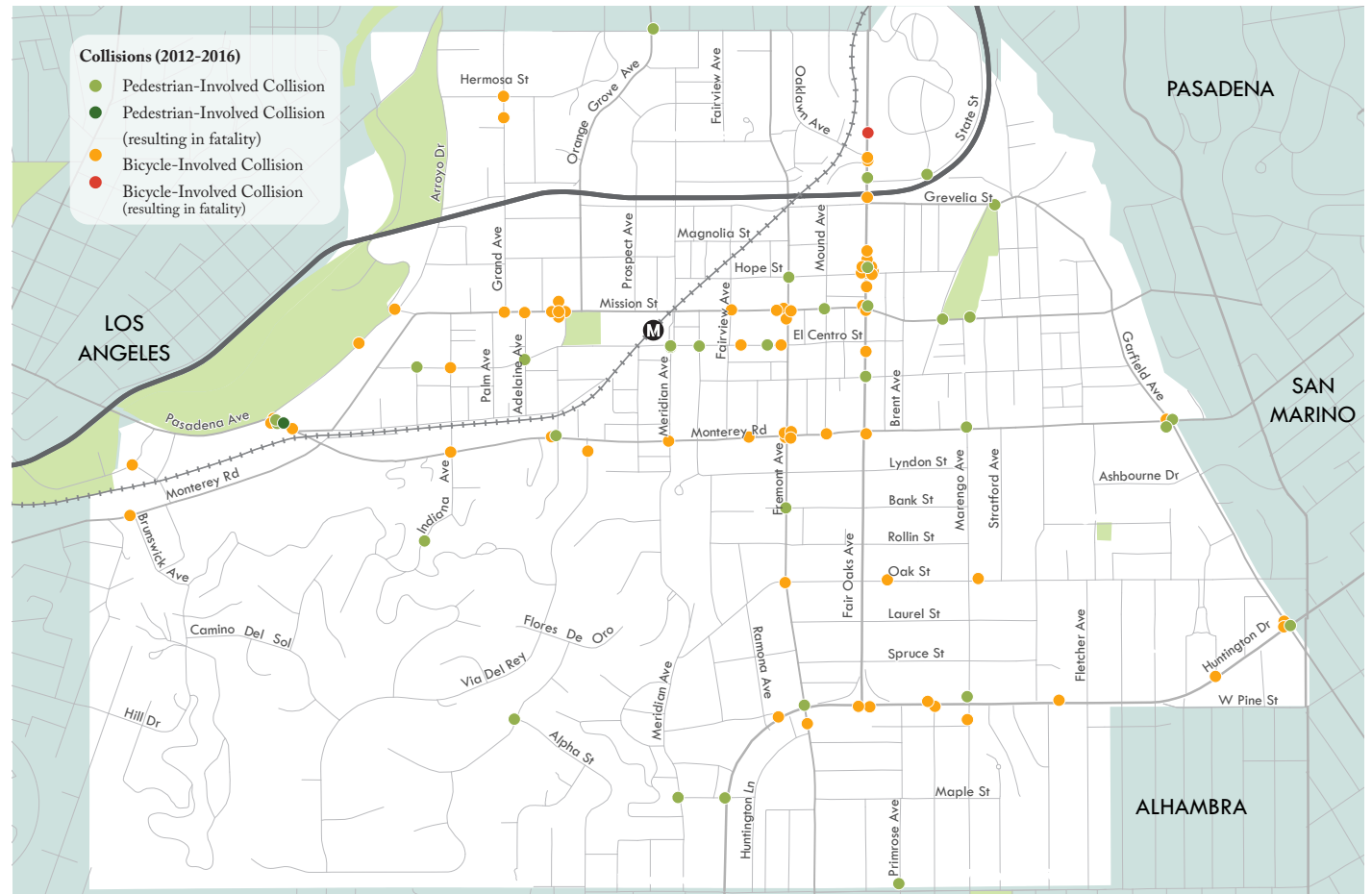


Figure B7.1. Pedestrian- and Bicycle-Involved Collisions, 2012-2016.

Property and violent crime is low compared to other cities. While crime went up in 2015, the numbers are declining.

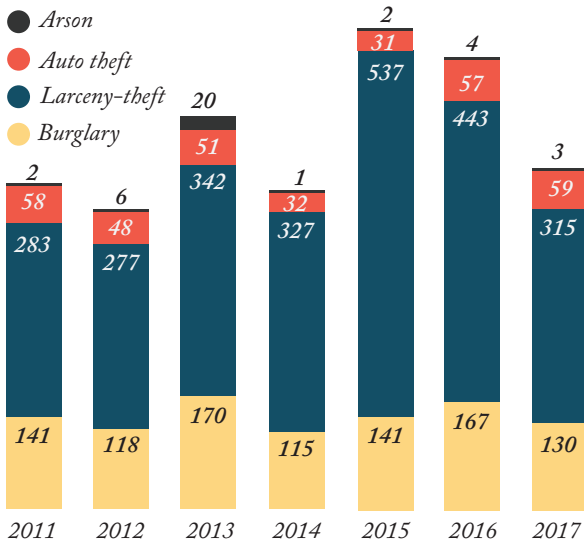


Figure B7.3 South Pasadena property and violent crime trend. Source: South Pasadena Police Department.

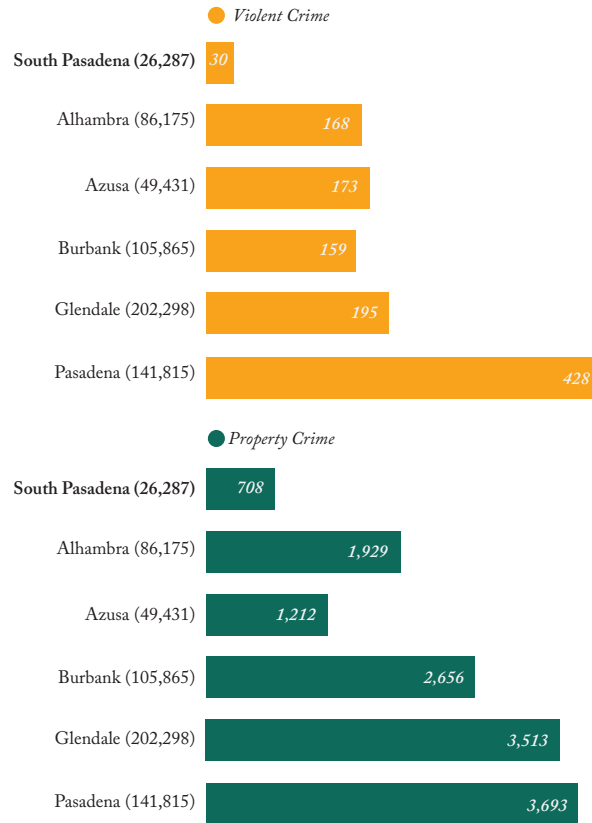


Figure B7.4 Comparative Violent and Property Crime Statistics. Source: South Pasadena Police Department.

Existing Programs

Crime Prevention: The community outreach program designed to educate the community on ways to prevent crimes from occurring. This is accomplished through literature, public speaking and the Neighborhood Watch Program. To keep the community up-to-date on crime, a Weekly Crime Summary and a monthly newsletter are published and distributed to the community. Crime Prevention also participates in city events such as the Farmers' Market and the Senior Health Fair to distribute crime prevention literature. "National Night Out" is an annual nationwide campaign that promotes police partnership with neighborhoods to make the community safe. It also creates awareness in the Neighborhood

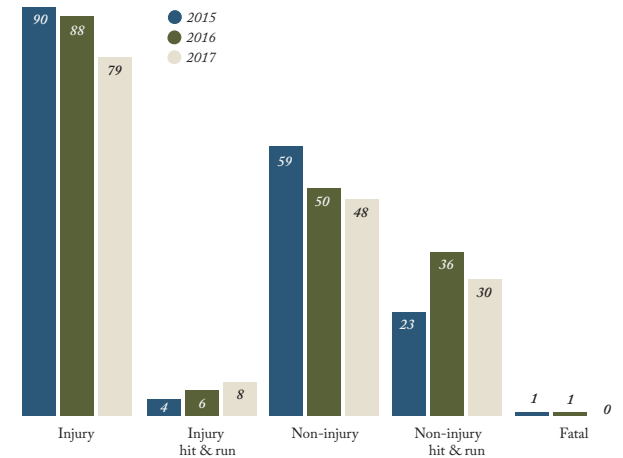


Figure B7.5 Traffic accident statistics. Source: South Pasadena Police Department.

Watch program and encourages residents to participate in it.

Bicycle Patrol Unit: Officers on bicycle patrol the commercial areas, schools, parks and nature preserves. Bicycle Officers have the great advantage of stealth, which enables them to be used for specialized patrol enforcement at night as well as for surveillances. They are also used at city events such as the Fourth of July Parade, Amgen Bike Tour, National Night Out, Summer Concerts in the Parks, Farmers' Market, Tournament of Roses Classic Car Show/Police and Fire Open House, Walk & Bike to School Week, Greenest Fastest Mile Run, and the South Pasadena Green Living Expo and Car Show. Bicycle Officers are environmentally friendly and a great public relations tool as they offer a more visible presence. The Bicycle Unit also promotes bicycle safety to children and adults.

Predictive Policing: South Pasadena Police Department harnesses the power of information, geospatial technologies and evidence-based intervention models to reduce crime and improve public safety. Predictive Policing directs patrol officers to be in a certain area to help prevent a predicted crime from occurring. The police department contracts with Crime Reduction & Information Management Experts (CRIME) to help



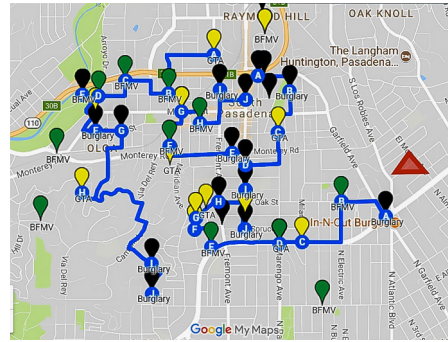
"National Night Out" helps to create awareness and participation in the Neighborhood Watch Program.



Acting US Attorney Sandra Brown and Director of External Affairs for the US Attorney's Office Tracy Webb with Chief Miller at the 2017 National Night Out event.



Bicycles patrol allows officers to be more visible and respond more quickly in congested foot areas where a vehicle is not practical like the Farmers Market, the downtown area, Metro A Line Station and community events.



Interactive CRIME maps predicts where crimes may occur. Officers can follow pre-determined routes to patrol areas of the city where crimes may occur.



The Woman's Self Defense program incorporate basic fundamentals of self-defense techniques.



In 2017, 12 Citizen's Academy students met every Tuesday evening for ten weeks, to learn about how the police department operates.

forecast crimes. The maps of predictive crimes are shared with Neighborhood Watch groups. The maps are interactive and can be viewed through any smart phone.

Teens Academy: The Teens Academy provides teens information about police department activities and expose them to a different type of discipline. It features a "CSI" type demonstration, canine demonstration, and many other hands-on activities. The program was highly successful, and a great example of community policing.

Citizen's Academy: The ten-week program provides instruction for a small group of citizens on subjects ranging from policing narcotics and identity theft to basic patrol procedures and handling dispatch calls. The goal of the program is to provide residents an understanding of how the police department operates and to create public safety ambassadors in the community.

Self Defense Class for Women and Teen: In this free class women and teens learn how to defend and escape from dangerous situation.

Bi-annual Prescription Drug Program: The South Pasadena Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration offers this free and anonymous program to prevent pill abuse and theft by disposing potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

School Resource Officer (SRO): The SRO's primary responsibility is the schools while also investigating juvenile

crimes. The SRO is responsible for coordinating the "Every 15 Minutes" program with the high school. The program offers real life experience designed to show teenagers the dangerous consequences of drinking and driving. A student is removed from class every 15 minutes and an obituary is read to the classmates, explaining the circumstances of the student's demise and the contributions the student has made to the school and community. A simulated alcohol related traffic collision is displayed to further enhance the reality of the program as well as a death notification made to the parents. The program emphasizes that the decision to drink alcohol can affect many people, not just the one who drinks.

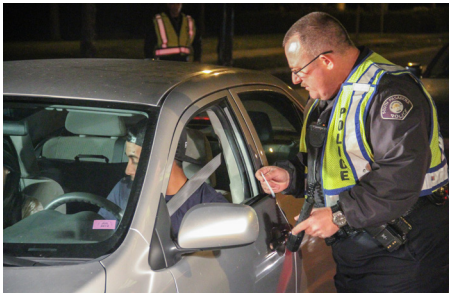
Safe Deal Zone: The South Pasadena Police Department has created a Safe Deal Zone in the lobby of the police station. Residents can come to the station to conduct e-commerce transactions in a safe environment. Many residents make purchases through a variety of websites (eBay, Facebook, Craigslist, etc.) and the police station makes a safe and convenient location to conduct these transactions. The police station lobby offers 24-hour video surveillance and an emergency phone that connects directly to the police dispatch center.

Certification: South Pasadena Police is certified by Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) for tactical trauma care.

Issues



Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: Loss of life due to preventable traffic accidents is tragic. The City aims to protect the most vulnerable road users, including children, seniors, cyclists, and pedestrians. This requires a citywide effort including engineers, police officers, advocates, and policymakers working together to create safer streets.



Parking/Traffic Enforcement: Residents have repeatedly expressed the need for additional patrols to address parking and traffic violations.

Policies and Actions

P7.1 Provide a high level of police service in the community.

A7.1 Maintain an average police response time of less than 3 minutes to emergency calls for service. 🗺️ 🚔

P7.2 Promote crime prevention strategies.

A7.2a Continue to support crime prevention and neighborhood watch programs throughout the city. 🗺️ 🚔

A7.2b Emphasize and prioritize crime prevention strategies such as pedestrian-scale lighting in targeted areas. 🗺️ 🚔

A7.2c Reduce opportunities for criminal activity through physical design standards, recreation opportunities, educational programs, and counseling services. 🗺️ 🗺️ 🚔

A7.2d Incorporate natural surveillance principles and best practices into development codes and review processes. 🗺️ 🗺️ 🚔



Aging in Place



Social Equity



Vision Zero

C. FIRE

Introduction

South Pasadena has a full service Fire Department that provides fire/rescue services, paramedics, safety education, inspections, plan reviews, and emergency management.

The Fire Department provides for the protection of life, property, and the environment from the adverse effects of fires, medical emergencies, and hazardous conditions through progressive resource deployment. The Department offers Fire prevention programs and community education activities.

South Pasadena has one fire station that houses an engine company, a rescue ambulance and a light and air unit.

Emergency Response



South Pasadena Fire Department is a member of the Verdugo Fire Communications Center, a regional communications center that fields calls for service from 12 area member cities and their 43 fire stations. The communications center was established by the Cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena under a “no borders” agreement for the closest fire station to respond to a call, regardless of jurisdiction. The remaining nine jurisdictions subsequently joined the Communications Center. South Pasadena

dena receives aid from, and provides aid to, the surrounding agencies. A typical structure fire response in the Verdugo system includes three engines, two truck companies, a rescue ambulance and a battalion chief. In this scenario South Pasadena would provide an engine and an ambulance with the balance of resources coming from adjoining agencies. When a second alarm is required South Pasadena’s Air Utility will respond.

Emergency Medical Services



When someone calls 911 for an emergency medical response in South Pasadena the engine company with four personnel and the Rescue Ambulance with two Firefighter/Paramedics respond to deal with a wide array of possible scenarios. The engine company is staffed with at least one Firefighter/Paramedic who is authorized to initiate Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) care prior to the arrival of the rescue ambulance.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Bureau is dedicated to safety, preventing or reducing fire losses and ensuring compliance with applicable codes and ordinance. Some of the Fire Prevention Bureau responsibilities include:

- Plan check for fire and life safety;

- Issuing fire permits;
- Conducting fire and life safety inspections;
- Administration of the Annual Brush Clearance Program;
- Fire regulations; and
- Public education.



While the city is largely residential, with a mix of homes and apartments it has a wildland interface in the hill area. The Fire Department conducts annual brush inspections to ensure safety from brush fires. The high hazard area is defined as the section of the city located south of Monterey Road and west of Meridian Avenue. The property owners are required to clear dry or dangerous vegetation and hazardous brush 100 feet from any structures.

Disaster Preparedness

The City of South Pasadena’s emergency management program works in coordination with all City Departments to strengthen the City’s ability to prepare for, to mitigate, to respond to and recover from any disaster. The Police Department is the lead department to coordinate all emergency management activities for the City.

The City has an Emergency Management Program which includes all

elements necessary to respond quickly and effectively to major emergencies. These elements include:

- Emergency Operations Plan;
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC);
- Emergency Response Program, Public Education Program; and
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

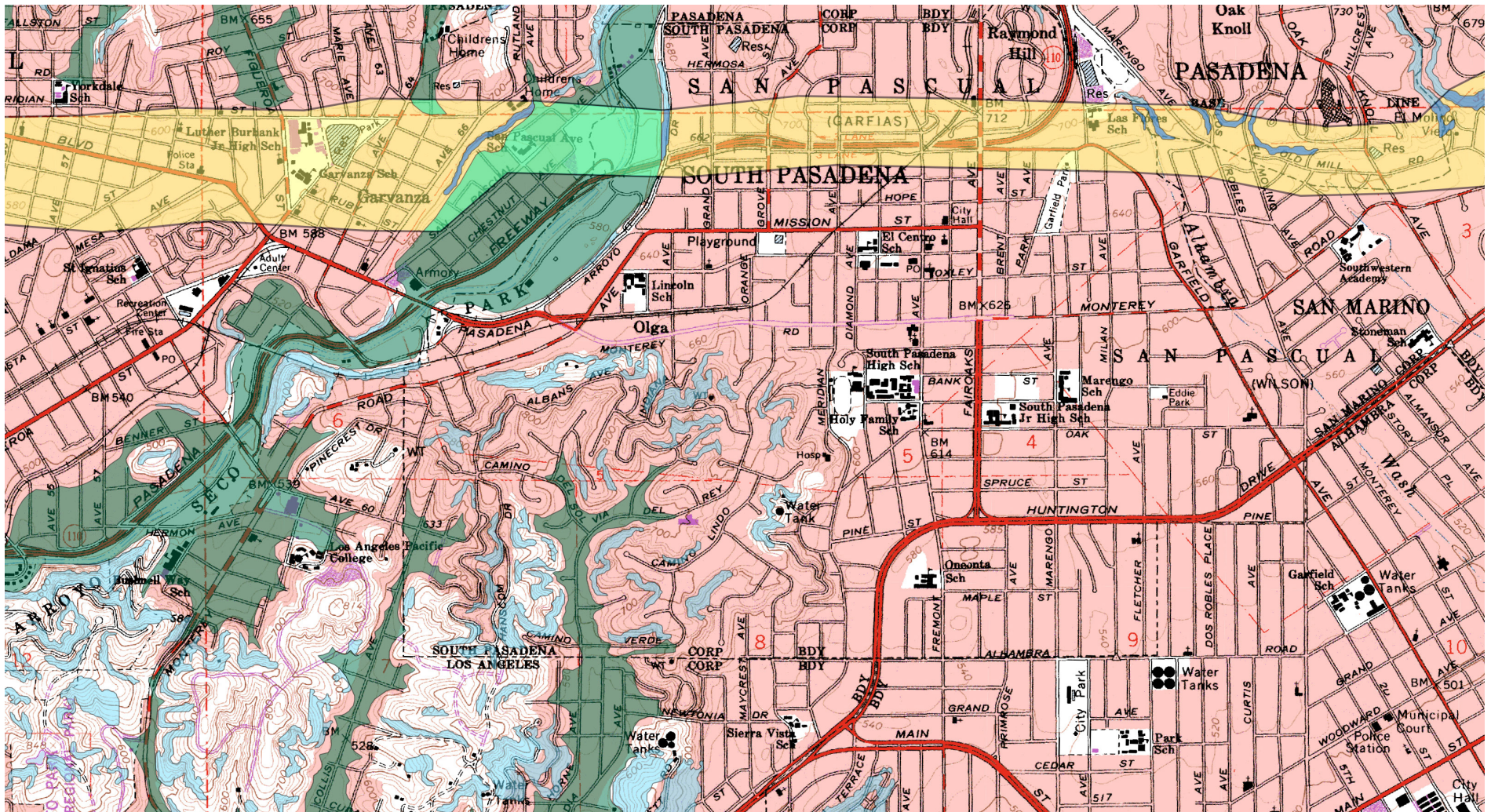
A variety of activities, programs and projects designed to enhance the City’s preparedness are conducted regularly such as training, drills, and disaster exercises.

Emergency Operations Plan

The 2014 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) addresses the City’s planned response to emergency/disaster situations associated with natural disasters, human made emergencies, and national security emergencies. This plan is a preparedness document —designed to be read, understood and exercised prior to an emergency/disaster. The plan incorporates the concepts and principles of the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) into the emergency operations of the City of South Pasadena and the South Pasadena Unified School District. This plan is flexible enough to use in all emergencies and will facilitate response and short-term recovery activities.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The EOC is located in the Fire Department. It is central command for large scale events, emergencies or disasters in South Pasadena. Areas of command



Earthquake Fault Zones
 Zone boundaries define the zone encompassing active faults that constitute a potential hazard to structures from surface faulting or fault creep.

Active Fault Traces
 Faults considered to have been active during Holocene time and to have potential for surface rupture: Solid Line in Black or Red where Accurately Located; Long Dash in Black or Solid Line in Purple where Approximately Located; Short Dash in Black or Solid Line in Orange where Inferred; Dotted Line in Black or Solid Line in Rose where Concealed; Query (?) indicates additional uncertainty. Evidence of historic offset indicated by year of earthquake associated event or C for displacement caused by fault creep.

Liquefaction Zones
 Areas where historical occurrence of liquefaction, or local geological, geotechnical and ground water conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements.

Earthquake-Induced Landslide Zones
 Areas where previous occurrence of landslide movement, or local topographic, geological, geotechnical and subsurface water conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements.

Figure B7.6. Earthquake Fault and Liquefaction Zones. Source: Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation Los Angeles Quadrangle, California Geological Survey.



Engine crew on the canyon 2 fire in Tustin



Engine on assignment to the Atlas Fire in Napa Valley performing structure defense of a home in the hills.

are divided into five sections based on the Standard Emergency Management Systems (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS); Management, Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance. Sections are staffed by high level City of South Pasadena employees and partnering agencies.

Connect South Pasadena



Connect South Pasadena is the City's emergency notification system that allows city officials to stay connected to residents and efficiently provide them with direction in the event of an earthquake, fire or other public emergency. City officials can record and send personalized voice messages to home phones, businesses, local agencies and mobile phones in just minutes.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) CERT is a community based group of volunteers that have completed a federally recognized training course taught by Public Safety personnel and First Responders. South Pasadena CERT has been registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and a 5-person administrative committee ensures its ongoing success. The South Pasadena Public Safety Commission's goal for CERT training is to ensure that in the event of a major disaster, if fire, police, utility, and medical personnel are outnumbered by emergencies, neighbors will be trained to help with immediate lifesaving and life sustaining needs.

Issues & Trends

Financial Uncertainty: Increasingly, veteran fire fighters are retiring, which

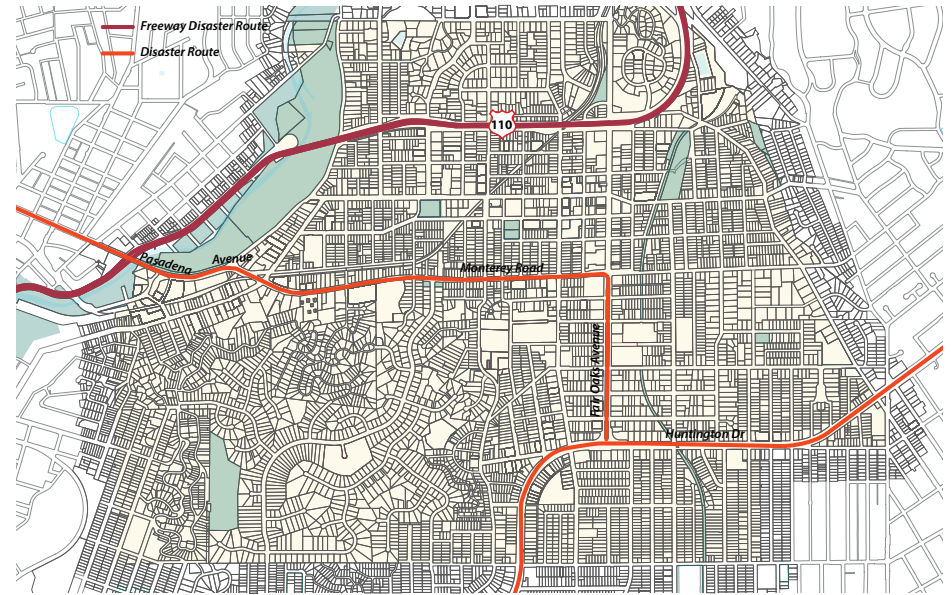


Figure B.7.7. Disaster Evacuation Routes.

make attraction and retention of quality personnel a top priority. The rising costs associated with increasing pension contributions, competitive salary packages, and fire apparatus/equipment make it difficult to maintain the current staffing level at the Fire Department. Fire Department staff works closely with the City's management team to identify funding sources. The Utility User's Tax (UUT) is a primary example of a vital funding source for public safety.

Soft Story Retrofit: A soft-story building is a structure with a weaker first floor that is unable to carry the weight of the stories above during an earthquake. Typically, large openings in the first floor perimeter walls for garages, tuck under parking, or large windows reduce the structural stability during an earthquake.



Emergency Service Access: On-street parking along the narrow and twisty streets in Monterey Hills impedes ambulance and fire trucks ability to access the area.

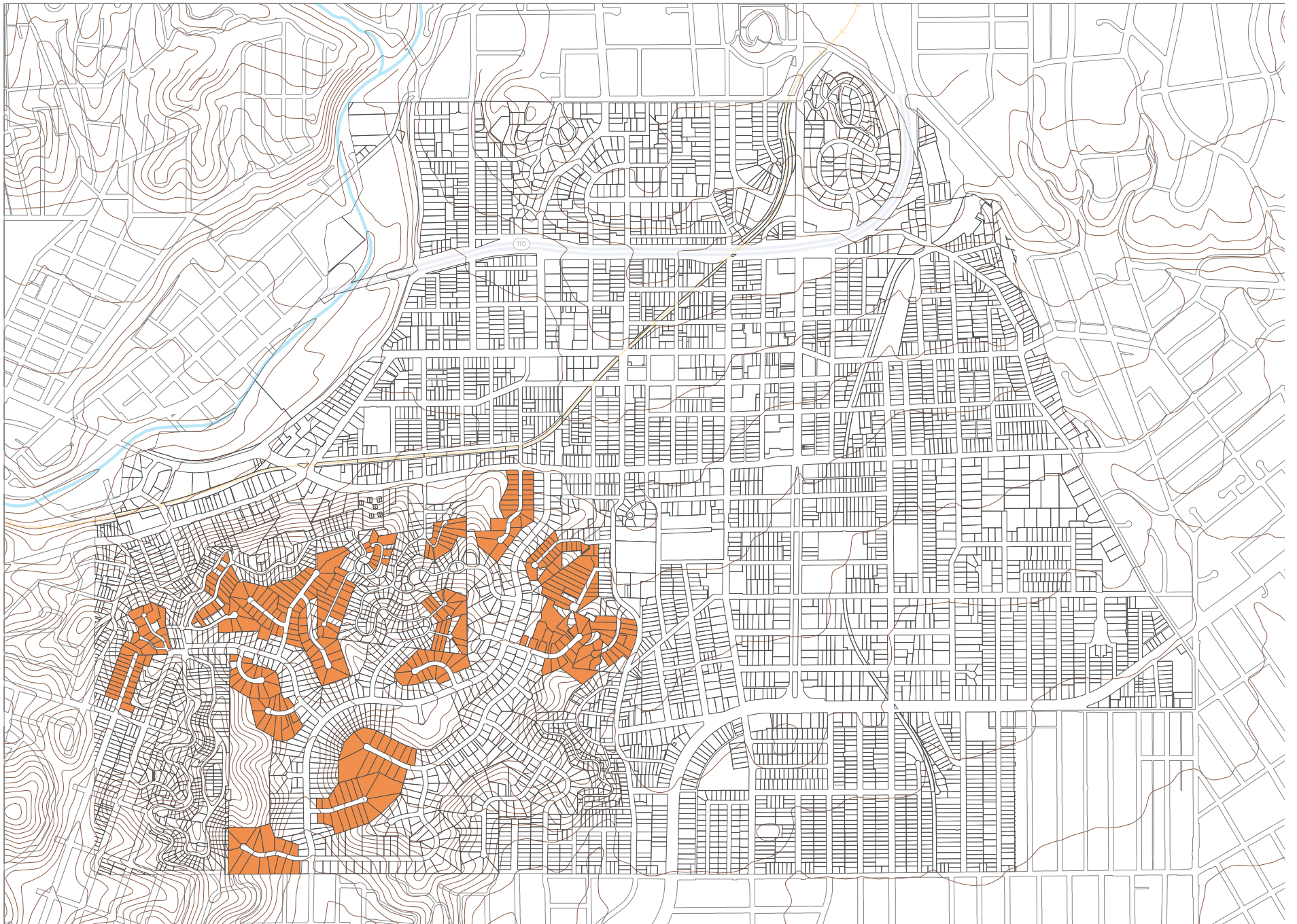


Figure B7.8. Evacuation Constrained Parcels.

Wildfire

No portion of the City is identified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFHSZ)(CAL FIRE 2012). The southwestern portion of the City, located west of Meridian Avenue and south of Monterey Road, is a hilly area that is defined as a high fire hazard area by the City. Within this area, the South Pasadena Fire Department (SPFD) enforces annual brush clearance requirements to ameliorate the risks associated with being located adjacent to a wildland interface.

Emergency Service and Evacuation Access

Despite the City's efforts, the risk remains of a wind-driven wildfire in the hills that could transition into a fast-moving urban firestorm in the flatlands. On-street parking along the narrow and winding streets in Monterey Hills could impede the ability of ambulance and fire trucks to access the area in the event of a fire. As depicted in the map of Evacuation Constrained Parcels (Figure B7.8), the road network in Monterey Hills also provides only a single point of emergency ingress and egress for some homes (indicated with yellow shading), potentially creating choke points for emergency responders and evacuating residents.

The City will build on existing readiness efforts by developing a robust wildfire evacuation traffic control plan for the hill areas. The plan will include consideration of the area's unique geography and transportation challenges and establish evacuation zones and routes, as well as necessary staffing and communication protocols to manage the flow of people. Once this plan is established, the City will work with the neighborhood groups to ensure that area residents are aware of the best evacuation routes from their homes—whether by car or on foot.

Earthquakes

The City continues to take measures to improve the seismic safety of South Pasadena's most vulnerable apartment buildings.

In the wake of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the City is identifying many wood-frame apartment buildings with weak first stories, described as a soft, weak, or open-front condition. These weak first stories make the structures, and the many residents housed in them, extremely vulnerable to earthquakes.

The City has facilitated expedited permit processing for seismic retrofits in buildings using programs, inspections, and other tools, and will continue to do so.

The June 2018 City Council Strategic Plan established a goal to "Develop a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan to ensure public safety through active response and recovery efforts." One of the main objectives of this goal was to develop seismic regulations that include retrofit requirements. In the future, the City will continue to provide a combination of technical assistance, financial incentives, and requirements that remove barriers to seismic upgrades in vulnerable buildings, including unreinforced masonry buildings.

Inundation from Dam Failure

The 2018 South Pasadena Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is incorporated into the General Plan by reference, discusses potential inundation from failure of the Devil's Gate Dam, a stormwater and flood management facility located in the City of Pasadena. Figure 4.3 in the 2019 Los Angeles County Hazard Mitigation Plan depicts the potential inundation area from a breach of the Devil's Gate Dam.



Policies and Actions

P7.3 Minimize risk of life and property damage resulting from seismic hazards, including earthquakes and landslides.

- A7.3a Require all development in a geologic special studies zone to be set back 50 feet from each side of a mapped active fault trace. 🗺️
- A7.3b Develop a program to require structural reinforcement of all inventoried unreinforced masonry structures. 🗺️ 🗺️
- A7.3c Complete an inventory of soft story buildings in preparation for consideration of future regulations. 🗺️ 🗺️
- A7.3d Incorporate herein by reference the current South Pasadena Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), in accordance with Assembly Bill 2140. 🗺️ 🗺️
- The LHMP was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and followed FEMA's 2011 LHMP guidance. The LHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short-term and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The LHMP can be found on the City Fire Department's Disaster Preparedness web page.*

P7.4 Minimize risk to life and property damage from brushfires.

- A7.4a Require fire-resistant building materials for all structures in hillside areas and encourage use of fire-resistant landscaping. 🗺️ 🗺️
- A7.4b Require house sprinklers where determined necessary by the Fire Department. 🗺️ 🗺️
- A7.4c Require adequate fire flow and emergency access as a condition of approval for entitlements within Hillside areas. 🗺️ 🗺️ 🗺️

P7.5 Identify strategies to protect residents from geologic and groundwater hazards.

- A7.5a Require a full site-specific geologic study of any hillside site within the purview of the hillside ordinance. 🗺️
- The study shall adequately address site-specific questions such as slope stability, erosion, subsidence, groundwater effects and earthquakes.*
- A7.5b Maintain regulations controlling grading and geologic study prior to construction. 🗺️
- A7.5c Grading of a slope that exceeds 30% is not allowed without sufficient engineering studies to demonstrate that such grading does not negatively impact the property, adjacent properties, or public safety. 🗺️

P7.6 Maintain multi-jurisdictional programs to protect residents from the risks of fires, floods, seismic events, other natural hazards, and crime.

- Support safe emergency evacuation for all hillside residents.*
- A7.6a Develop a rapid response team to respond to areas that regular emergency response vehicles cannot access. 🗺️
- This team will need specialized vehicles equipped to maneuver these parts of the City, besides the basic necessary equipment to provide emergency response.*
- A7.6b Periodically review and update the post-disaster recovery plan. 🗺️ 🗺️
- A7.6c Provide timely disaster updates and emergency notifications to community members, in multiple languages and formats as appropriate. 🗺️ 🗺️
- Consider Mobile app or similar means to allow for real-time notifications.*
- A7.6d Install signs in hillside neighborhoods directing residents to the closest evacuation route or shelter, with the ability to provide real-time information. 🗺️ 🗺️
- A7.6e Work with transit agencies and community-based organizations to create an evacuation plan for residents without access to personal vehicles. 🗺️ 🗺️
- A7.6f Upon the next revision of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability, and evacuation locations, under a range of emergency scenarios. 🗺️ 🗺️
- Update this information as needed during future revisions to the LHMP.*

P7.7 Identify the risks that climate change poses to South Pasadena, in accordance with SB 379.

- A7.7 Incorporate by reference the current Los Angeles County Vulnerability Assessment. 🗺️ 🗺️

P7.8 Provide a high level of fire protection service in the community.

- A7.8a Maintain an average fire department response time of 5 minutes or less to emergency calls for service. 🗺️ 🗺️
- A7.8b Continue to secure adequate equipment and attract and retain personnel while collaborating with neighboring jurisdictions and partner agencies to adequately respond to emergencies and incidents in all parts of the City. 🗺️ 🗺️

P7.9 Maintain a current Emergency Operations Plan.

- A7.9 Regularly review and update the City's General Plan Safety Element as required by State law; and regularly update hazard plans to maximize resilience efforts. 🗺️ 🗺️



Aging in Place



Social Equity



Vision Zero