

---

# City of El Paso de Robles General Plan 2003

## *Safety Element*

*Prepared for:*

**City of El Paso de Robles**  
**Department of Community Development**  
1000 Spring Street  
Paso Robles, California 93446

*Contact:*

Bob Lata, Community Development Director  
(805) 237-3970

*Prepared by:*

**Rincon Consultants, Inc.**  
1530 Monterey Street, Suite D  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Adopted December 16, 2003

---



## SAFETY ELEMENT

1.0 Goals, Policies and Action Items.....	S-1
2.0 Safety Issues.....	S-3
2.1 Critical Facilities.....	S-3
2.2 Seismic and Geologic Hazards.....	S-4

### Figures

Figure S-1	Critical Facilities .....	S-7
Figure S-2	Regional Faults .....	S-9
Figure S-3	Liquefaction Risk.....	S-11
Figure S-4	Landslide Risk.....	S-13

### Tables

Table S-1	Estimated Regional Maximum Credible Earthquake Events.....	S-4
-----------	--	-----

## SAFETY ELEMENT

The Safety Element establishes goals, policies and action items to protect the community from risks associated with fires, flood, geologic hazards and other phenomena that put lives and property at risk. Technical supporting data can be found both in the Safety Element Technical Appendix and the portions of the San Luis Obispo County Safety Element that pertain to the Paso Robles area.

### 1.0 Goals, Policies, and Action Items

#### **GOAL S-1: Minimize exposure to natural and manmade hazards.**

**POLICY S-1A: Hazard Education.** Continue to inform the public about hazards, hazard avoidance, and disaster response.

**Action Item 1.** Distribute informational handouts.

**Action Item 2.** Support volunteer training aimed at assisting police, fire, and civil defense personnel during and after a major earthquake, fire, or flood.

**Action Item 3.** Support/sponsor exhibits and presentations in secondary schools.

**POLICY S-1B: Disaster Response.** Develop a community-wide Disaster Response Plan to:

- ◆ Address heavy search and rescue, major medical response, hazardous material response, interim morgue, emergency shelter, traffic and utility impacts, and debris removal and disposal; and
- ◆ Identify procedures for access, traffic control, emergency evacuations, and security of damaged areas.

**Action Item 1.** Maintain Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreements with regional fire prevention and law enforcement agencies.

**Action Item 2.** Review/Update the Emergency Services Growth Management Plan on a periodic basis.

**Action Item 3.** Incorporate fire and crime prevention measures in the design and construction of new development via the following:

- a. Seek Fire and Police Department comments on development applications;
- b. Adopt the latest version of the Uniform Building and Fire Codes and related building safety codes;
- c. Implement the Building Security Ordinance;
- d. Incorporate concepts of “defensible space” (these concepts stress the importance of physical design and surveillance as techniques to deter crime) in reviewing development projects.

**POLICY S-1C: Hazardous Exposure Minimization.** Minimize hazards to people and property caused by fire, crime, and related services.

**Action Item 1.** *Police Service Standards.* Maintain a ratio of 0.5 non-sworn police personnel per 1,000 population and a ratio of 1.4 to 1.6 sworn police personnel per 1,000 population.

**Action Item 2.** *Emergency Services Standards.* Maintain a ratio of 0.8 to 1.3 Firefighters per 1,000 population.

**Action Item 3.** As part of the environmental review of new Specific Plans, require preparation of fire station analysis identifying staffing requirements, station location, and response times.

**POLICY S-1D: Structural Safety.** Rely on the City's planning and building permit review process to ensure that existing and proposed structures are adequately designed, and to reduce susceptibility to damage from fire, flooding, and geologic hazards.

**Action Item 1.** Review and update, as necessary, the City's Building Security & Construction Standards for new development projects to address:

- Exterior Lighting;
- Surveillance devices;
- Illuminated street numbering;
- Locking devices for doors;
- Pedestrian safety devices;
- City Security Plan requirements; and
- City requirements/standards to incorporate considerations related to safety and defensibility into project design and site layout.

**Action Item 2.** Maintain a current survey of unreinforced masonry and other hazardous structures.

**Action Item 3.** Require structures identified as being located in hazardous areas to be brought into conformance with acceptable levels of risk.

**Action Item 4.** Discourage the locating of critical facilities within identified hazard areas.

**Action Item 5.** For development proposed in high or medium wildland fire hazard areas, require an investigation of the development's vulnerability to fire and its potential as a source of ignition, and implementation of measures to reduce fire hazard risks to acceptable levels.

**Action Item 6.** Prohibit construction within seismic and geologic hazards areas, including: areas directly astride known active or potentially active faults or fault zones; areas in high landslide risk areas without site-specific slope stability investigations; and areas of potential liquefaction without site-specific analysis of liquefaction potential.

**Action Item 7.** In reviewing development proposals for future water impoundments, require an evaluation of potential inundation areas and design of the dam to withstand earthquakes.

**POLICY S-1E: Hazardous Materials.** The City shall comply with Government code requirements regarding the use, storage, and transportation of hazardous materials.

**Action Item 1.** The City shall continue to require applicant declarations pursuant to Government code section 65.820.2.

**Action Item 2.** The City shall provide required notices to the County Environmental Health Department.

**Action Item 3.** Continue implementation of existing programs; add new ones as required.

**POLICY S-1F: EMF Exposure.** State or Federal electric or magnetic exposure levels and setbacks, if established, are to be followed.

**Action Item 1.** In the absence of State or Federal exposure standards, no residential structures or residential yards, schools, active parks, or recreational facilities are to be built within the utility corridor right-of-way. In addition, the following setback guidelines adopted by the California Department of Health Services shall be adhered to: 100 feet from 100-110 kV lines; 150 feet from 220-230 kV lines; and 250 feet from 345 kV lines.

## **2.0 Safety Issues**

The residents of the City of Paso Robles are subject to a variety of natural and human-caused hazards. Natural hazards are processes such as earthquakes, landslides, flooding, and wildfires. These natural processes have played an essential role in shaping the topography and landscape of the City of Paso Robles, and become “hazards” when they disrupt or otherwise affect the lives and property of people. Human-caused hazards often occur as a result of modern activities and technologies. These potential hazards can include the use of hazardous materials, and buildings that may be unsafe during a strong earthquake.

This section inventories and assesses the major hazards confronting Paso Robles, including seismic and geologic hazards, wildland and urban fires, flooding, and hazardous materials incidents.

### **2.1 Critical Facilities**

Critical facilities are those that must remain operational after an emergency event, in order for the community to respond effectively. Examples of critical facilities include hospitals, fire stations, electrical power plants, and community facilities. Schools are often important staging and evacuation areas. There are relatively few critical facilities in Paso Robles; the nearest

hospitals, for example, are in Templeton and San Luis Obispo. Figure S-1 shows the location of critical facilities in Paso Robles.

## 2.2 Seismic & Geologic Hazards

This section contains a preliminary indication of the degree of potential risk associated with regional faulting. Potential hazards such as groundshaking, liquefaction, lurch cracking and lateral spreading, landslides, erosion, expansive soils, wildland and urban fires, flooding, hazardous materials, airport operations, electromagnetic fields, radon gas, and high-voltage transmission lines are discussed in the Safety Element Appendix. The assessment contained in the Safety Element and Appendix should be used as a general guide to indicate when further study may be needed.

### Regional Faulting

San Luis Obispo County contains several fault traces and has been subject to intense warping, folding and faulting. While most of the faults within the County have not been active in recent geologic times, movement may occur along one or several of these minor faults, and movements along the major principal faults traversing the County, including the San Andreas and Nacimiento Faults. The structural trend in the area is northwest to southeast, controlled mainly by the San Andreas Fault (EIP, 1984). Numerous fault traces have been detected in the area, but most have not been active in recent geologic time (San Luis Obispo County, 1980). Active faults are those along which there has been movement within the last 11,000 years; "proven" active faults have had movement within the last 300 years. Figure S-2 shows the locations of faults in the region.

The Paso Robles area is exposed to seismic hazards from movement along several regional faults. The identified active fault zones in this area are the San Andreas, Nacimiento, Rinconada, and "Offshore Faults," although the classification of the Rinconada Fault as active has been much disputed (Quad Consultants, 1980). Historically, most of the earthquakes detected in Paso Robles have originated from movement along the San Andreas Fault, which lies approximately 23 miles northeast of the City, near the Town of Cholame (Quad Consultants, 1980). In the Paso Robles Area, the San Andreas Fault is identified as the primary source of potential ground shaking (Envicom, 1975). Magnitudes as high as 6.5 have been recorded twice in the past from movement along the San Andreas. The major "active" fault zones in the area are shown in Table S-1.

**Table S-1. Estimated Regional Maximum Credible Earthquake Events**

<b>Fault Zone</b>	<b>Magnitude (Richter)</b>
San Andreas	8.0-8.5
Nacimiento	7.0-7.5
Rinconada	6.5-7.0

*Source: San Luis Obispo County, 1980*

The Jolon Fault and the Rinconada Fault transect the southwestern portion of the City, but converge to form one fault or fault zone near Mountain Springs Road. To the northwest of

Mountain Springs Road, the location of the Jolon Fault is based on mapping by Durham (1970). Its projection through the City and on the east side of the River is based on the alignment of warm, sulfur springs.

Regional data regarding the activity of the Rinconada and Jolon Faults indicate that these faults may have been active as recently as the late Pleistocene in the vicinity of Paso Robles, and as recently as late as Pleistocene near Santa Margarita. However, there is no evidence that either fault has moved during the Holocene (last 11,000 years approximately). While the Rinconada and Jolon Faults are not considered active with respect to fault rupture, they may be the sites of moderate seismic activity.

The Offshore Fault is seismically active, but available marine geophysical data indicate that future surface rupture is improbable along this fault.

Page intentionally left blank.