

Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
 4410 Cathedral Oaks Road  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93110

### GET "READY"

- A home within one mile of a natural area is in the Ember Zone. Wind-driven embers can attack your home and destroy it far from the actual flame front.
- Provide defensible space around structures for a distance of at least 100 feet.
- Clear debris from rain gutters, eaves, and roof.
- Trim tree branches at least 10 feet from chimney.
- Replace flammable plants with fire resistant vegetation.
- Make digital copies of important papers and photos.
- Move wood piles and furniture away from home.
- Make sure water tank is full, hydrant is accessible, and marked with blue reflector.
- Have an escape plan. Locate egress routes and a meeting spot. Make them known to family and neighbors.
- Have an out-of-area friend or relative as a check-in contact.

### GET "SET"

- Be ready to evacuate if asked to do so.
- Alert family and neighbors you will be evacuating.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., long pants, long sleeved shirt, goggles or glasses, hat, and a dry bandana over your face. Cotton clothing is best).
- Ensure you have an emergency supply kit with you. Pack all important paperwork, photos, portable electronic device chargers, prescription medications, pet items, radio, and enough water for every member of family. For more information on making a supply kit, go to Ready.gov.
- Tune to local radio, TV, or official government social media site for updates and information. Rumors will be rampant. Trust your sources.
- Remain close to home, stay hydrated, and keep pets near until you are ready to leave.
- Turn off all propane tanks.
- Don't leave sprinklers or water running, they waste valuable water pressure.
- Turn on your porch light.

Jesuita, Gap, Paint, and Sycamore. These names can recall terrifying memories for area residents.



Large wildfires have historically roared through our foothills, and more will surely follow.

Now is the time to prepare.

I encourage you to review the material in this brochure and to visit our website to help educate you how to make your home safer and easier to defend an approaching wildfire.

- Eric L. Peterson, Fire Chief  
 Santa Barbara County Fire Department

## WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?

Extreme Drought Conditions  
 Have Increased Wildfire Danger.

Valuable Tips Inside To Help  
 Your Home Withstand Wildfire.



### "GO"

- The fire's intensity and location, weather conditions, and topography will dictate evacuation areas. Citizens will be notified to evacuate by firefighters, law enforcement, or through the reverse 911 system.
- Do not hesitate. Safely make your way out of the fire area.
- Heavy smoke may diminish visibility on roadways, do not overdrive what you can safely see.
- The Red Cross will establish evacuation centers.
- If evacuated, contact the Red Cross to provide information about your status so that family or friends can be informed.
- After an area has been evacuated, the area will remain closed with law enforcement checkpoints until the threat has passed.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY, if you feel unsafe, please don't wait for the order to evacuate. Follow the checklist items and get out.

### If You Become Trapped

#### In your home:

- Stay inside until the fire passes.
- Close all windows.
- Keep all doors closed, but unlocked.
- Keep family together and remain calm.
- Remember, if it gets hot inside your house, it will be much hotter outside.

#### In your car:

- Park away from vegetation.
- Roll up windows.
- Cover mouth with dry cloth to protect airway.
- Cover yourself with a blanket or jacket.
- Stay in the car until the fire passes.
- If the vehicle catches on fire, exit only after the wildfire has passed.

#### On foot:

- Find an area away from vegetation.
- Lie face down.
- Cover mouth with dry cloth to protect airway.

### After the Fire Passes

- Check the roof and exterior of your home, extinguish all sparks and embers.
- Check your attic for hidden embers.
- Check your yard for burning wood piles, trees, fence posts or other material.

### Returning to Your Home

- Emergency Managers will decide when it is safe to return.
- Information will be available through the media, at road blocks, shelters, and the SBC social media sites.

## Learn how to create a defensible space around your home.

Creating defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It creates a buffer and slows or stops the spread of wildfire and protects your home from catching fire.

Defensible space is also important for firefighters to protect your home.

### DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONES



Being fire safe isn't only a good idea, it's also the law.

Authority: PRC 4291 for State Responsibility Areas (SRA)

County Code Chapter 15, Section 4908 for Local Responsibility Areas (LRA)

VIOLATIONS SUBJECT TO CITATION

#### Zone 1

Two zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space.

Zone 1 extends 30 feet out from buildings.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- Remove dead or dry leaves from your yard roof, and rain gutters.
- Trim trees and keep branches 10 feet from other trees.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Relocate wood piles to Zone 2.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire around and under decks.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, swing sets, etc.

#### Zone 2

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between trees.
- Create vertical spacing between grass shrubs, and trees.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, bark, cones, and small branches.

For more information go to our website [SBCFire.com](http://SBCFire.com)