

Are You Ready For A Wildfire?



“Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.”



2020: Historic Fire Season For California

- 9,917 individual fires
- 4,397,809 acres burned
- 10,488 structures destroyed
- 37 non-fatal injuries
- 33 fatalities

(All during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic)





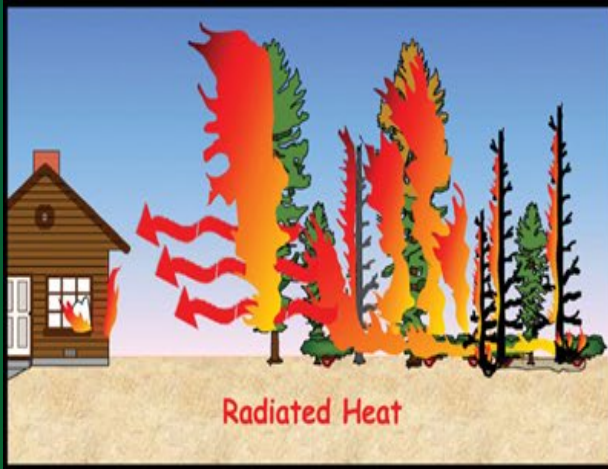
Freeway Complex Fire

- November 15, 2008-
November 25, 2008
- 30,305 acres burned
- 381 structures destroyed



Wildfire Threat to Home

Three ways your home can be exposed to wildfire:

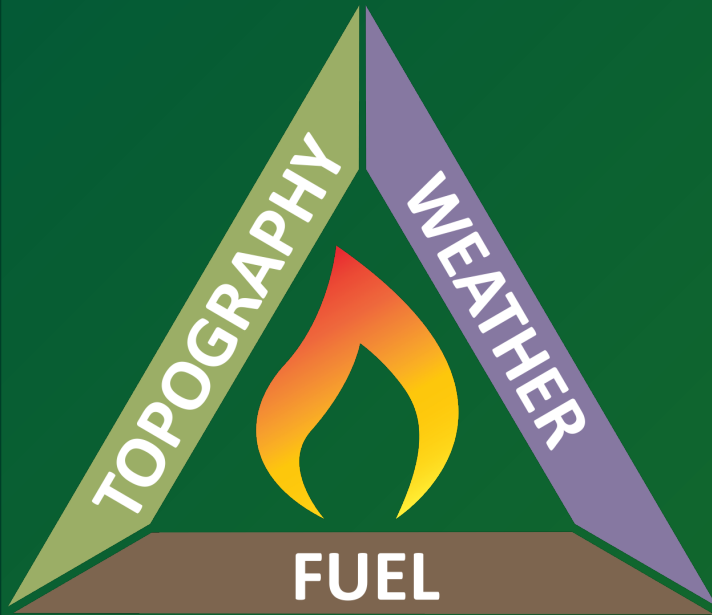


Structure loss is most commonly due to:
Dense Vegetation and Ember Intrusion

- Open windows/doors
- Cracks in roof tiles
- Debris accumulation in gutters and on roofs
- Holes in structure
- Vents that are missing metal mesh screens
- Unmaintained fuel modification zone



What Can We Control?



Fire Behavior Triangle

We can't control the weather.

Topography-You can choose where you want to build or buy your home.

We can control fuel.

Fuel is basically anything that can burn. Most commonly we think of trees, shrubs and grass. However, its not just vegetation. It can be the mulch you use, fencing, patio furniture and cushions, decks, play structures, stored wood piles and...your home.



Vegetation Management- DEFENSIBLE SPACE

- Vegetation Management within 100' of a structure **or** to property line
 - Removal of dead and dying plant material
 - Horizontal and vertical separation of plant material
 - Reduction of ground cover below 2ft in height



Defensible Space is an area between your house and an oncoming wildfire, where the vegetation has been controlled, trimmed, or removed to reduce wildfire threat from embers, flames, and intense heat.



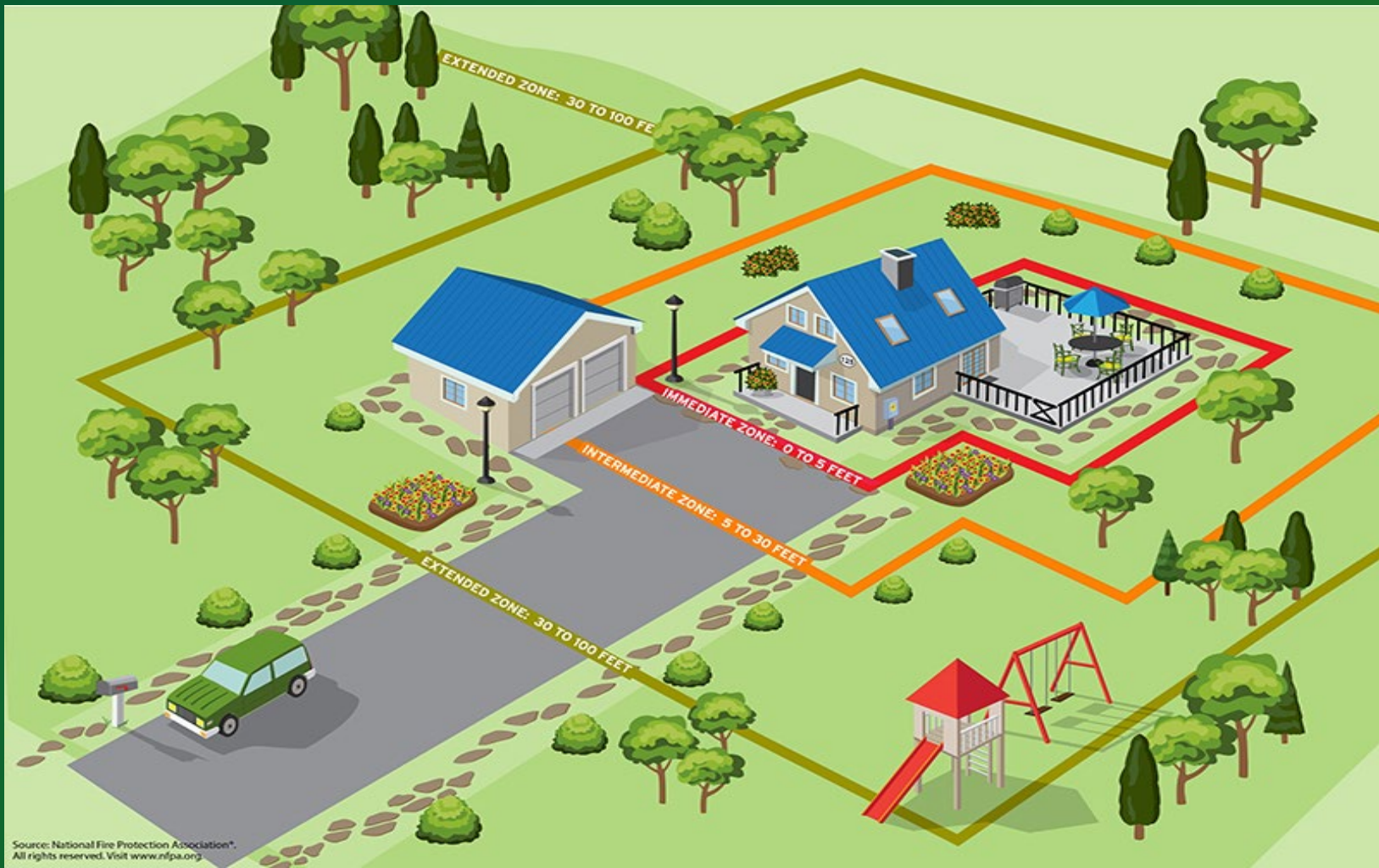
Vegetation Management- FUEL MODIFICATION

- Planned landscape design that reduces the threat of wildfire by creating a fire-resistant divider between homes that are adjacent to areas of natural plant life or open space
- An approved plant installation and on-going vegetation maintenance is required



- Slows the spread of a wildfire
- Reduces direct flame impingement and radiant heat from an approaching fire
- Improves the chances of survival for structures and communities

Home Ignition Zones





Immediate Zone

First 5 Feet Around the Structure

Things to Avoid

- Do not use organic mulch (bark, wood chips)
- Keep vegetation away from the structure
- Avoid storing combustible materials near the home (patio furniture, wood, trash cans, etc.)
- No combustible construction (wood, vinyl)

Safer Alternatives

- Hardscape, gravel, pavers, concrete
- Low growing fire-resistant plants (succulents less than two feet in height)
- Relocate combustible materials away from home
- Provide non-combustible construction for attached fences, patio covers, decks, and balconies

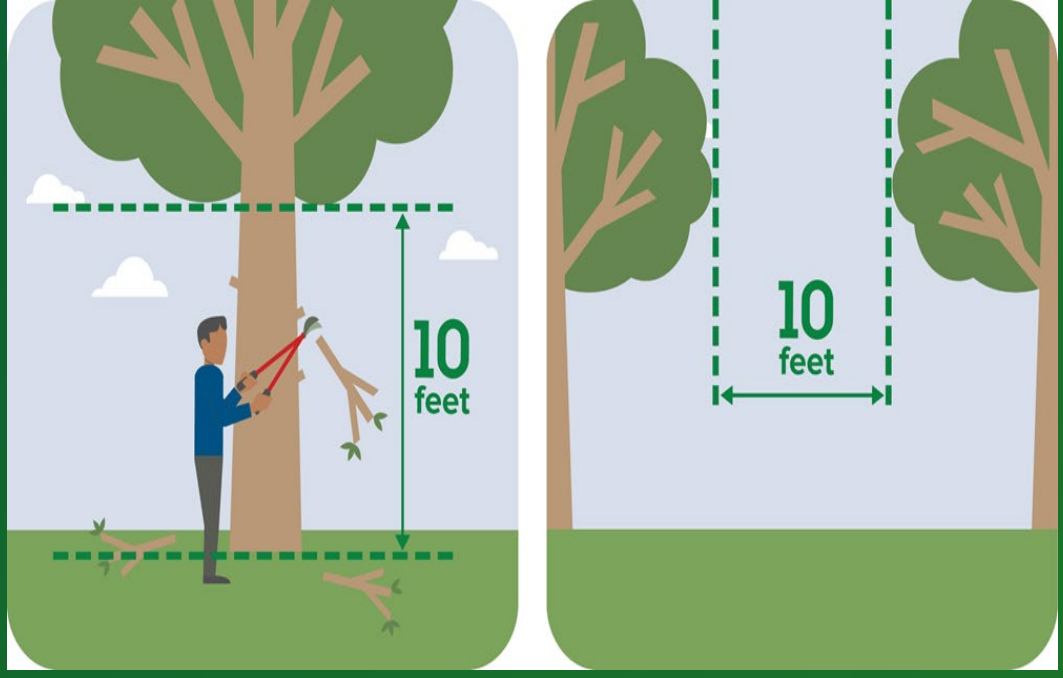




Intermediate Zone

5-30 Feet Around the Structure- Ornamental Landscape or Hardscape

- Irrigated zone/keep vegetation from drying out.
- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of maximum six inches.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns.
- Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.



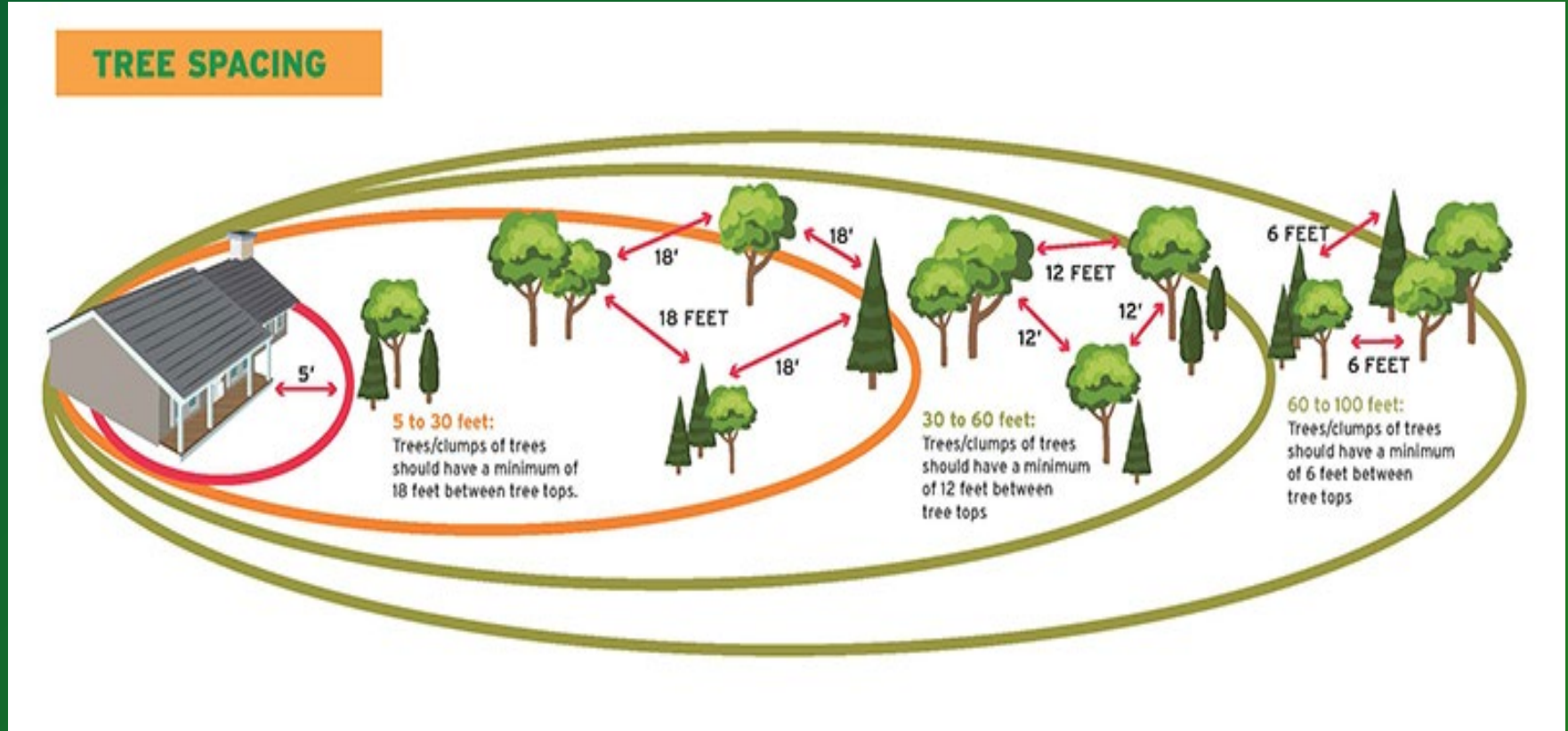
- Space trees to have a minimum of 10 feet between crowns
- Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than ten feet to the edge of the structure.
- Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.



Extended Zone

30-100 Feet Around the Structure-
Thinned Landscape or Native Vegetation

- Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter & debris.
- Remove dead and dying plant and tree material.
- Remove small saplings growing between mature trees.





Fire-Resistant Construction

California Building Code, Chapter 7A applies to building materials, systems and/or assemblies used in the exterior design and construction of new buildings located within a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area.

These construction methods can also be used to update *existing structures* within the Wildland-Urban Interface with a method called **home hardening**.



Home Hardening Retrofits



Roofs

- Replace wood shake shingle roofs with a Class A fire-rated roof materials such as composition, metal, or tile. Install bird-stops.

Eaves & Soffits

- Enclose eaves with ignition-resistant or noncombustible materials.

Vents

- Cover all vent openings with 1/8-inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen or install ember-resistant vents

Rain Gutters

- Install noncombustible, corrosion-resistant rain gutter screens to prevent the accumulation of plant debris.

Windows

- Install dual-paned windows with at least one pane being tempered glass.
- Install metal mesh screens on openable windows to increase ember resistance and reduce radiant heat exposure.

Siding

- Use noncombustible materials such as stucco, metal, or fiber cement, or use ignition-resistant siding
- Be sure to extend materials from the foundation to the roof

Fences

- Construct fences using noncombustible materials within five feet of your home

Decks

- Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition-resistant or noncombustible materials.
- Remove combustible storage from underneath deck.
- Limit combustible items on top of deck. Bring these items inside the home or move them away from the home when wildfire threatens.



Additional Property Maintenance

- Address to be unobstructed from vegetation.
 - Numbers to be 4" high with 1/2" stroke on a contrasting background
- Provide a minimum 3' of clearance around fire hydrants.
- Clear vegetation 10' around propane tanks.
- Maintain roadway/driveway
 - Trim back overhanging trees/vegetation to provide 13' 6" of vertical clearance.
 - Remove dense vegetation to provide 10' of roadway clearance



Safety Reminders

- Do all yard maintenance that requires a gas or electric motor before 10 AM.
- Use a weed trimmer to cut dry weeds and grasses.
- Spark arrestors are required on all gasoline powered equipment.
- Hot exhaust pipes or mufflers can ignite vegetation
- Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
- Store and use flammable liquids properly.



Fire Prevention Bureau

- Plan reviews for properties in the High & Very High FHSZ
 - Landscape/Fuel Modification Zone
 - New Construction
- Conduct Fuel Modification and Defensible Space inspections
- Conduct AB 38 inspections
- Send out annual Weed Abatement mailers
- Provide complimentary property inspections



Fire Prevention Bureau

714-990-7655

BreaFireScheduling@CityofBrea.net

www.cityofbrea.net/breafire