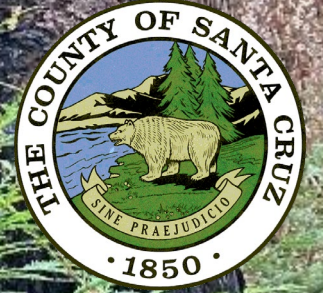


Being Prepared for Wildfire Season



July 20, 2022
Community Meeting
District 2

DAVE REID, OR3 DIRECTOR

PATTY CIESLA, OR3 WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROGRAM MANAGER



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE



Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Wildfire Preparedness
 - READY – Home Hardening & Defensible Space
 - SET - Preparing for Evacuation
 - GO – Responding to Evacuation Orders
3. OR3 Resilience Efforts
4. Community Conversation / Q & A

Home Hardening

Most of the homes lost to wildfire were ignited by flying embers landing on something combustible and setting it on fire.

Wildfires often arrive on the wind, before a flaming front makes its way through the vegetation.



Home Hardening

Embers behave like leaves or needles.

They fall down from above or blow sideways in gusts.

Embers accumulate in places where wind currents push them.

Often embers land where there are already layers of leaves or needles.



Home Hardening

- Roof
- Rain Gutters
- Eaves/Vents
- Siding
- Windows
- Decks
- Garage
- Fences
- Clutter



Defensible Space

- If you own the fuel, you own the fire



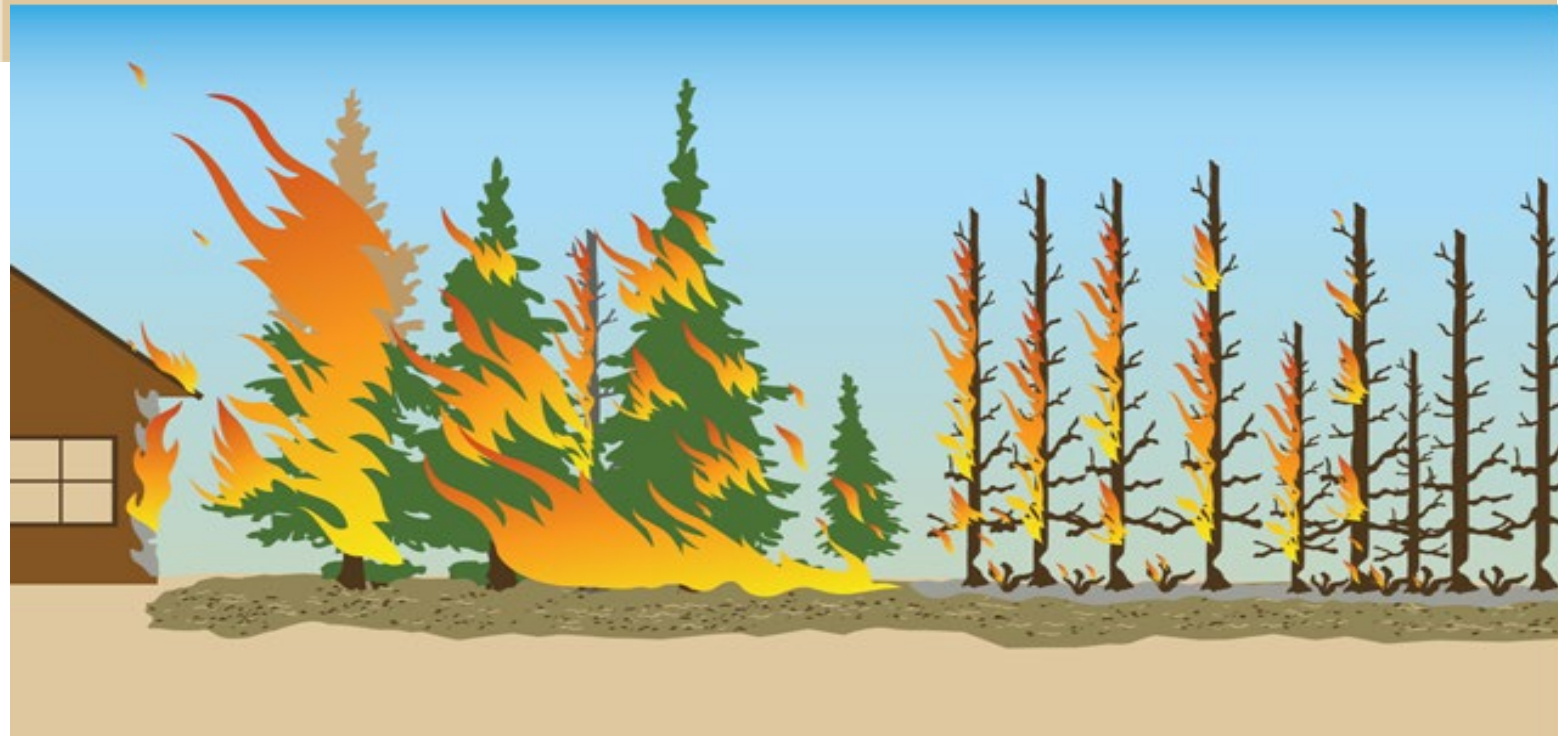
Defensible Space

- Defensible space is inviting to firefighters because it's safe for personnel and apparatus
- Firefighters can turn around and park the engine
- Firefighters can open the truck doors and get in/out
- Firefighters can stand there holding a fire hose



Defensible Space

- Managing fuel = managing flame length
- Contiguous fuels carry fire
- Large flames near your home are suboptimal



Defensible Space

- Managing fuel = managing heat
- High-intensity heat can break windows
- Total biomass near your home matters because physics
- BTUs
- Energy release component of vegetation
- Diameter/thickness of the fuels



Defensible Space

- 0-5': "Zone ZERO"
 - **Non combustible area.**
- Hardscape is your friend.
- Prevents surface fire from reaching structure
- Prevents embers from igniting materials on or next to structure



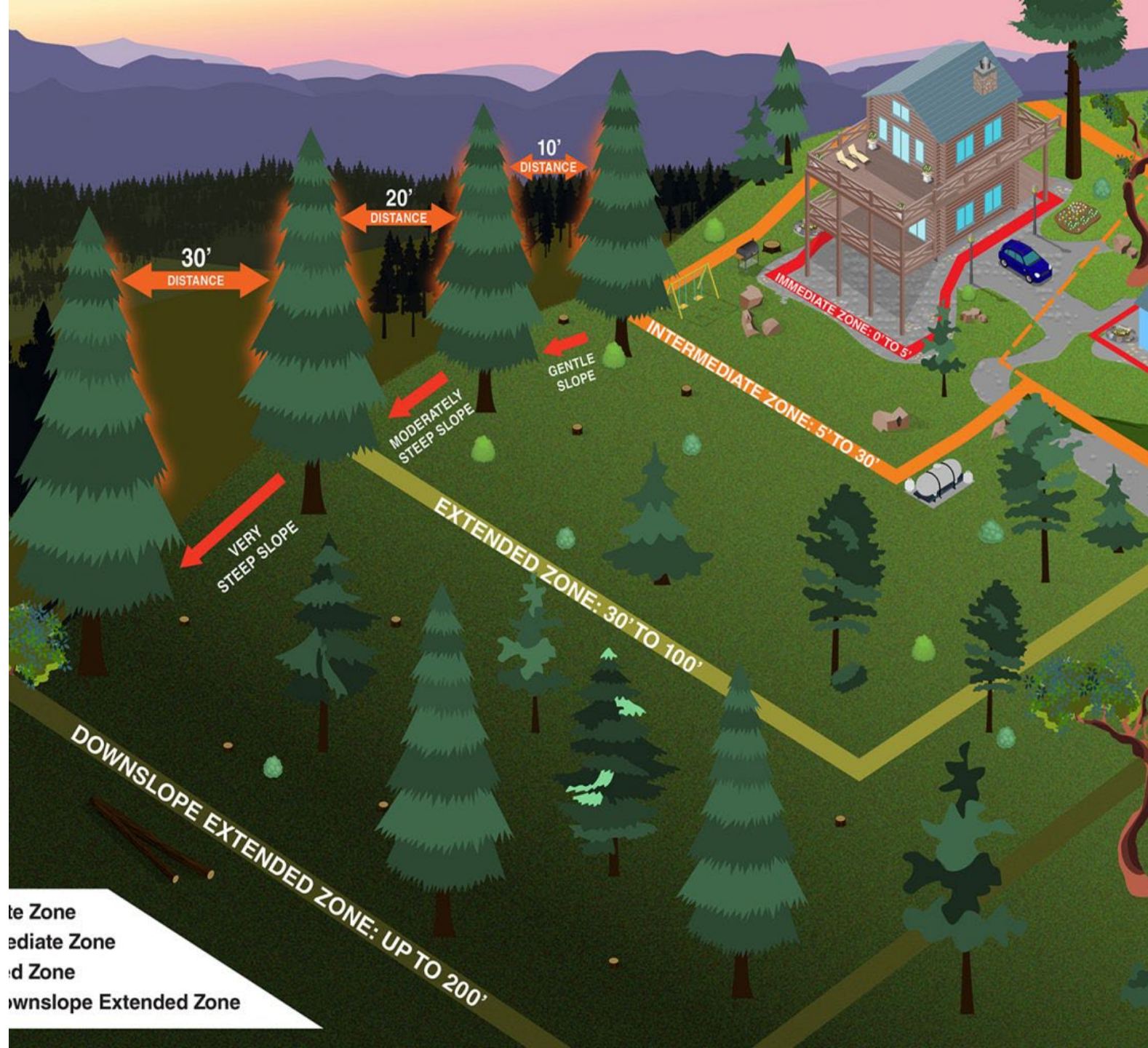
Defensible Space

- 5-30': "Lean, Clean, and Green Zone"
- Maintenance is your friend
- Fire resistant garden
- Patios and scattered plantings
- Hydrated, succulent
- Airy shrubs
- High skirts on trees



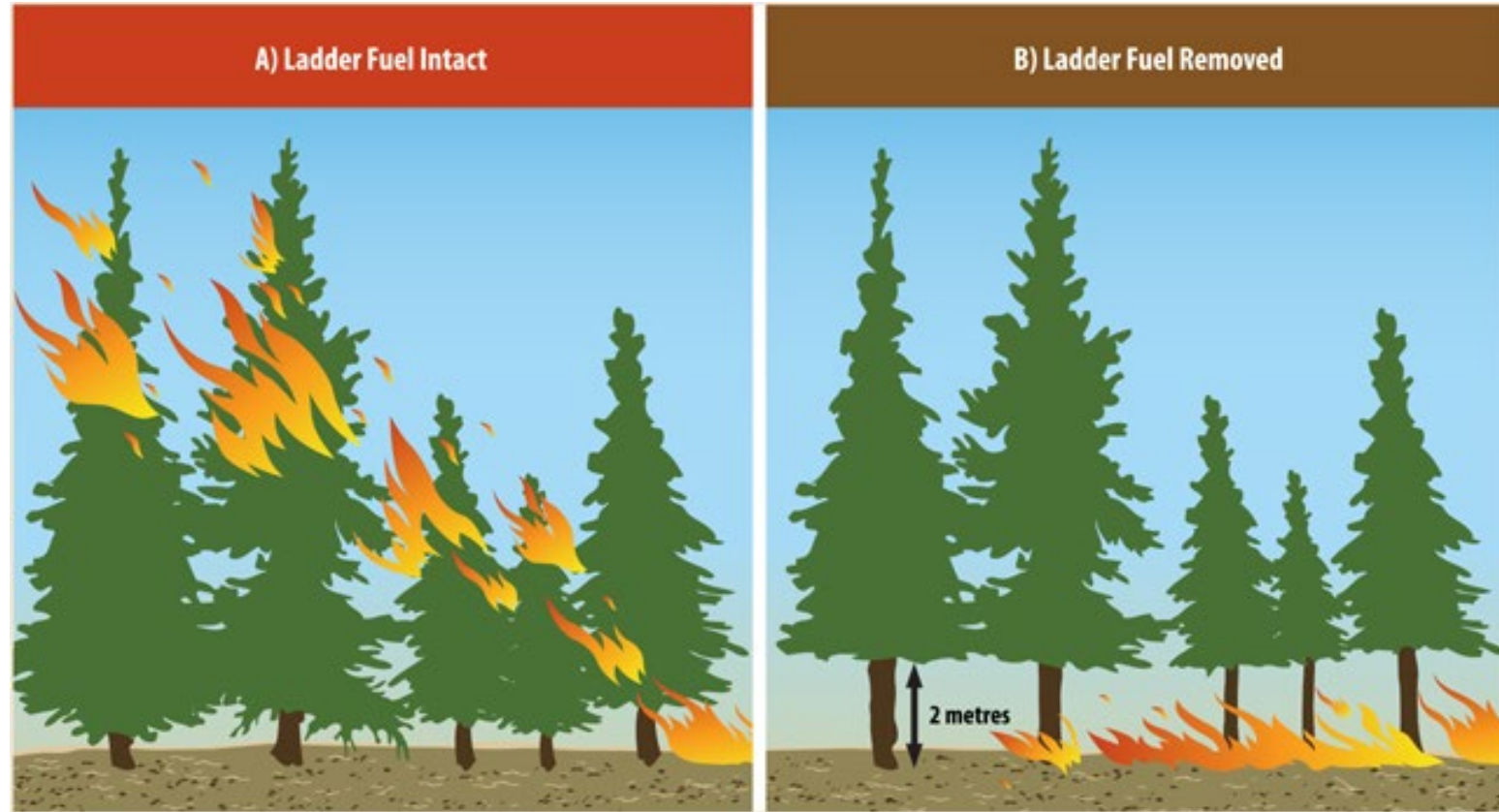
Defensible Space

- 30- 100': Hazardous Fuel Reduction Zone" More air, less vegetation. Spaced out trees. No ladder fuels. Native vegetation is controlled.
- 100-200': "Downslope Extension Zone" If grade is more than 30%



Defensible Space

- 30- 100': "Hazardous Fuel Reduction Zone" More air, less vegetation. Spaced out trees. No ladder fuels. Native vegetation is controlled.
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Defensible Space

- Download IBHS guide
- “Protect your home from wildfire California edition”



<https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/images/education-outreach/ibhs-protect-your-home-from-wildfire.pdf>

FIREWISE Communities

2019 – 5 Communities

2020 – 5 Communities (10 Total)

2021 – 14 Communities (24 Total)

2022 – 7 Communities (31 Total)



<https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/firewise-usa-recognition-program>



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Evacuation Readiness

- Nobody will do this for you
- It's your LIFE
- Most fatalities in wildfires occur while evacuating
- Most people attending evacuation workshops don't do the preparation they are advised to do
- It's scary, it's uncomfortable

PREPARED, NOT SCARED



Wildfire Preparation Worksheet and
Emergency Evacuation Guide

Evacuation Readiness

- Prepare your self, your family, your pets
- Talk to your neighbors
- What if you aren't home?
- Check your insurance
- Upload to the cloud
- Red Flag warning decisions

PREPARED, NOT SCARED



Wildfire Preparation Worksheet and
Emergency Evacuation Guide

Evacuation Readiness

- Register for reverse 911
- Know your Zonehaven zone
- Know how to gather info on a nearby fire
- Make your take list
- Pack a go bag
- Map your escape
- GO when ordered

PREPARED, NOT SCARED



Wildfire Preparation Worksheet and
Emergency Evacuation Guide

RESILIENCE – Wildfire Season

Wildfire Preparation Resources:

Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County
www.firesafesantacruz.org

Santa Cruz County Fire
www.santacruzcountyfire.com

Ready Set Go
www.readyforwildfire.org

Central Fire Protection District
www.centralfiresc.org



READINESS – Community & Individual Preparedness

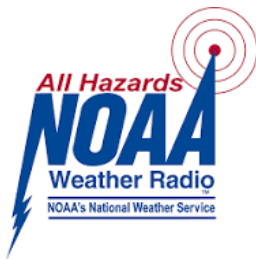
Communities Organizing

- CERT – Community Emergency Response Teams
- COAD – Community Organizations Active in Disaster
- FireSafe Council of Santa Cruz County
www.firesafesantacruz.org
- Resource Conservation District
www.rcdsantacruz.org
- Firewise USA
www.firewise.org

Individual Evacuation Preparation:

- **Code Red** – Community Notification
Go to www.scr911.org to register
- ZoneHaven – Know Your Zone

<https://community.zonehaven.com/>
- NOAA Weather Alert Radio
- Map your Neighborhood
Know your Evacuation Routes



RESILIENCE – Wildfire Resilience & Evacuation Management

- State and Federal Grants
 - County Coordinator Position – Patty Ciesla
 - Fire Safe Council grants
 - Evacuation Grant
 - Pending \$380,000 to support planning & community preparedness
- FEMA
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant – Fuel Reduction along Evacuation Routes – PENDING
- Alert Wildfire Cameras
 - 3 NEW Cameras in the County
- CALTRANS Climate Resilience Grant
 - Partnership with SCC Regional Transportation Commission
 - Evaluate vulnerability of our road network to Climate Change
- 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Update
 - Social Vulnerability to Climate Change Study