

# Prepared Not Scared

What are the pathways for residents to reduce wildfire risk?















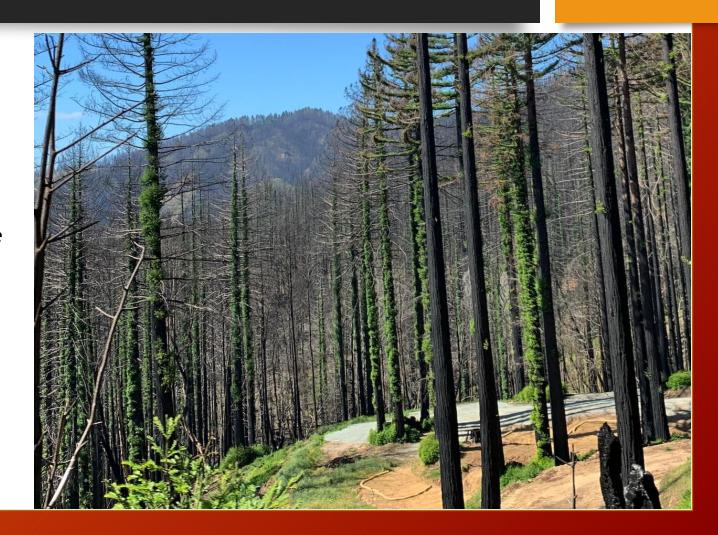
### Agenda

- Opening Comments from Supervisor Manu Koenig
- Central Fire District, Santa Cruz County, Marco Mack
- Santa Cruz County Fire Department/CalFire, Nate Armstrong
- Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience (OR3), Mark Bisbee
- Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County (FSCSCC), LizAnne Jensen
- Firewise Communities, Lynn Sestak
- Resource Conservation District (RCD), Matt Abernathy
- Q & A

### Big Picture

### Actions the County is taking to improve fire preparedness:

- Securing grants to fund vegetation management and grants for Home Hardening
- Installing new alert wildfire cameras working with PGE
- Undergrounding high risk powerlines along Soquel San Jose Rd
- Shaded fuel break project along Summit Rd (Phase 1 complete)
- Increasing mowing and maintenance of County Roads
- Advocating for new hand crew camps
- County Fire added to Strategic Plan. Objectives include: vegetation management projects, increasing volunteer firefighters, mobile communication trailers
- Funding FireSafe Council

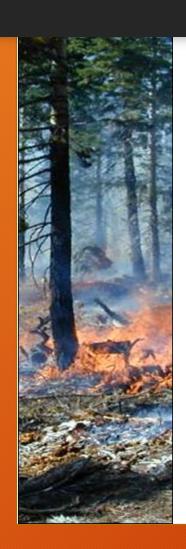


# Central Fire District Santa Cruz County

Marco Mack, Deputy Fire Marshall Community Risk Reduction Division



### Wildfire Risk to Structures



- Understanding Wildfire Behavior
- Four ways that fire will attack structures
- How can we reduce Fire Intensity?
- Is your home ignitable?
- Home Hardening strategies

# Wildfire Behavior

### **Ordinary Weather**

• Flame Length - 1-1/2 times the height





# Wildfire Behavior

### Slope Driven Fire - Wind Driven Fire

• Flame Length - 2 to 3+ times the height





# Wildfire Behavior

#### Wind Driven Fire Storm & Ember Cast

• Horizontal Thermal Column





0 seconds



8 seconds



15 seconds



20 seconds



25 seconds



30 seconds



20 marsh







45 seconds 50 seconds

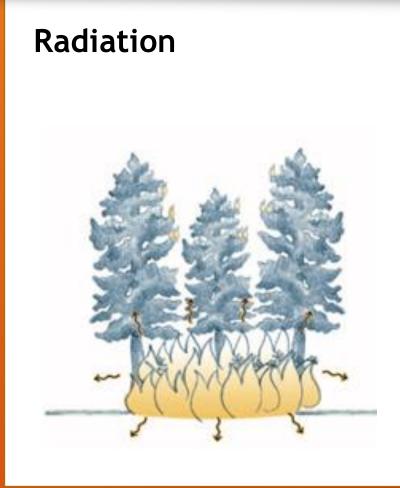




#### **Direct Flame Contact**









#### **Horizontal Ember Attack**

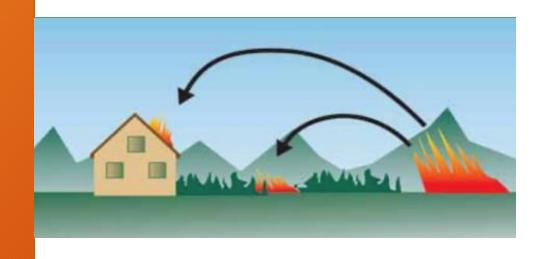
Wind Driven
Thermal Column Follows Slope





### **Down Wind Ember Spotting**

Vertical Thermal Column

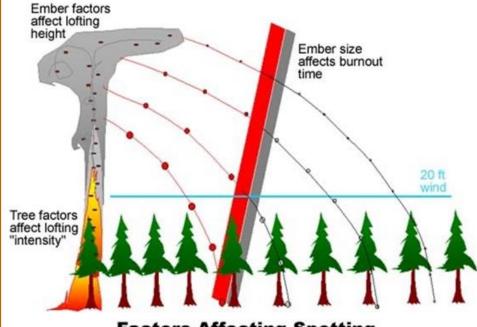




# Embers Need a Receptive Fuel Bed

### **Down Wind Ember Spotting**

Vertical Thermal Column







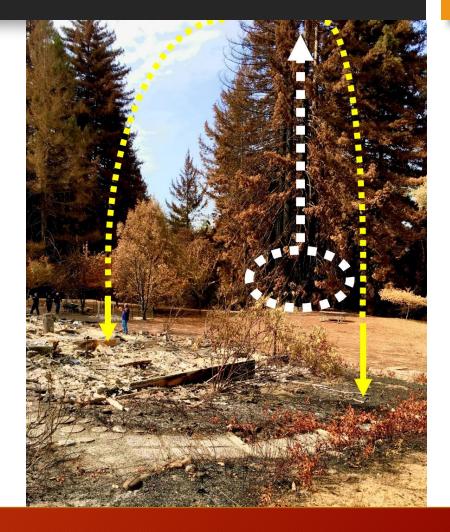


# Embers Need a Receptive Fuel Bed

### **CZU Lightning Fire 2020**

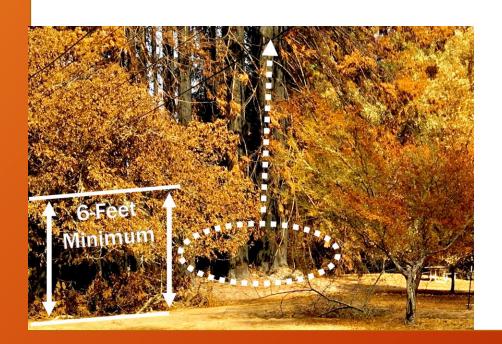
Redwood Tree Torching - Ember-Cast

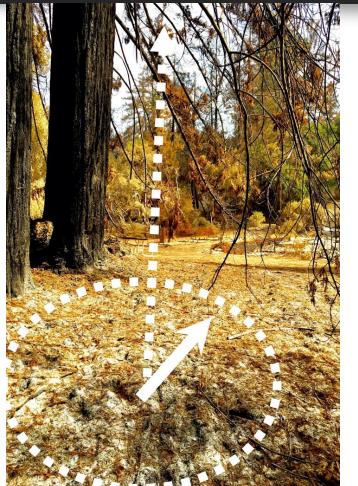


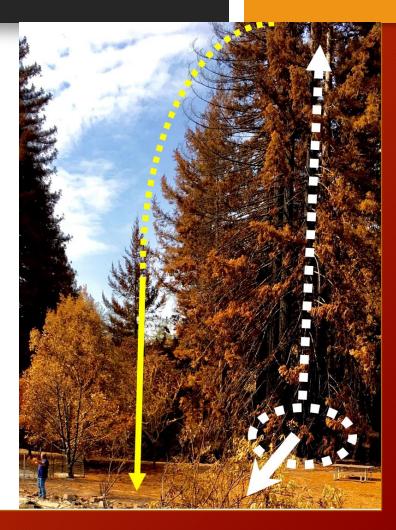


# Remove Ladder Fuels Near Structures Prevent Tree Torching - Prevent Ember Cast

CZU Lightning Fire 2020







### Defensible Space Around Structures

#### Work from the House Out to 100+ Feet

**Zone 0:** *EMBER RESISTANT* 0 to 5 Feet

Is Your House Ignitable?
Make this Noncombustible

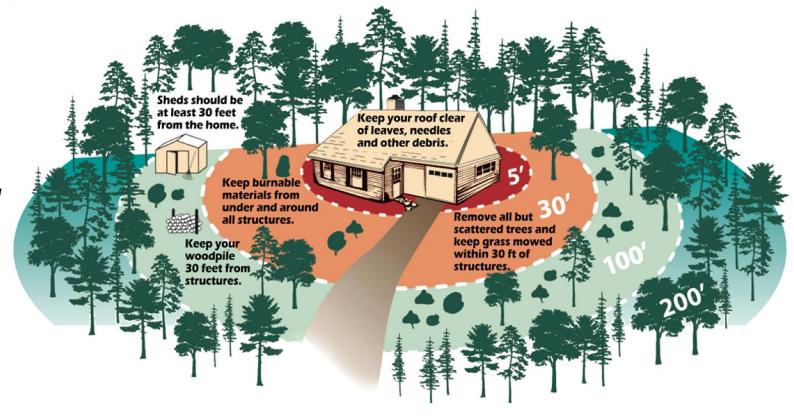
Zone 1: LEAN-CLEAN-GREEN

5 to 30 Feet

Zone 2: REDUCED FUEL
30 to 100 Feet

Zone 3: EXTENDED

DOWN SLOPE - Ladder Fuels



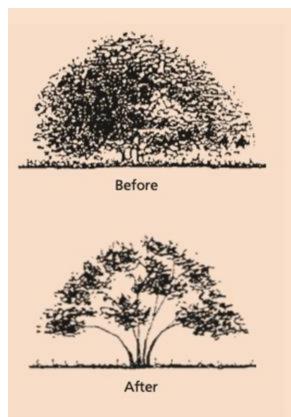
### How do you Reduce Fire Intensity?



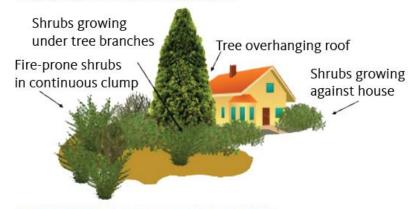
### Break Fuel Continuity Remove Ladder Fuels



### Thinning Strategy



#### FIRE-PRONE LANDSCAPE



#### FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPE

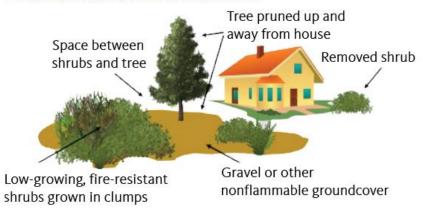


Illustration: Cat Kizer, © Oregon State University

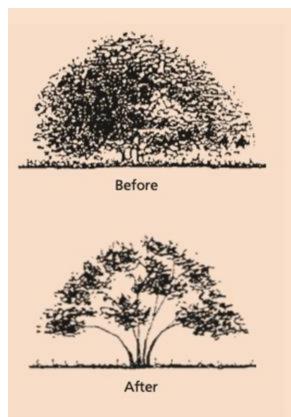
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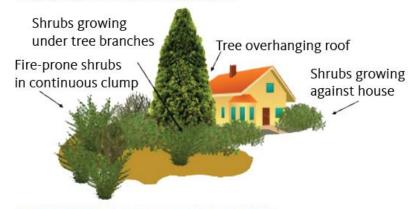
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### Thinning Strategy



#### FIRE-PRONE LANDSCAPE



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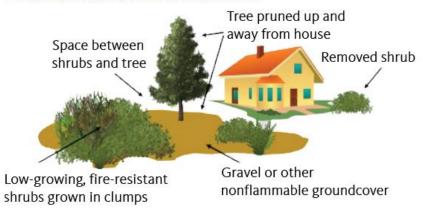
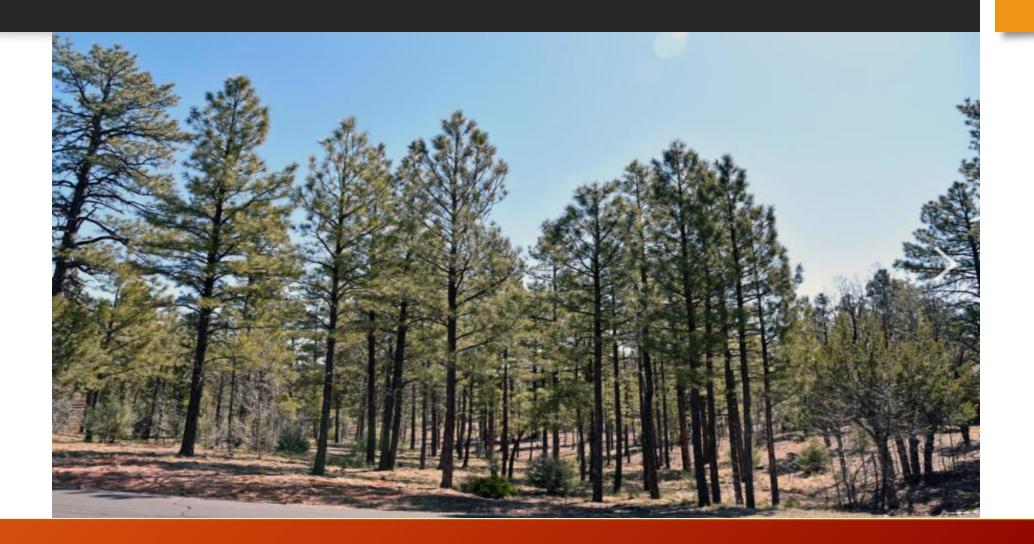


Illustration: Cat Kizer, © Oregon State University

# How do you Reduce Fire Intensity?



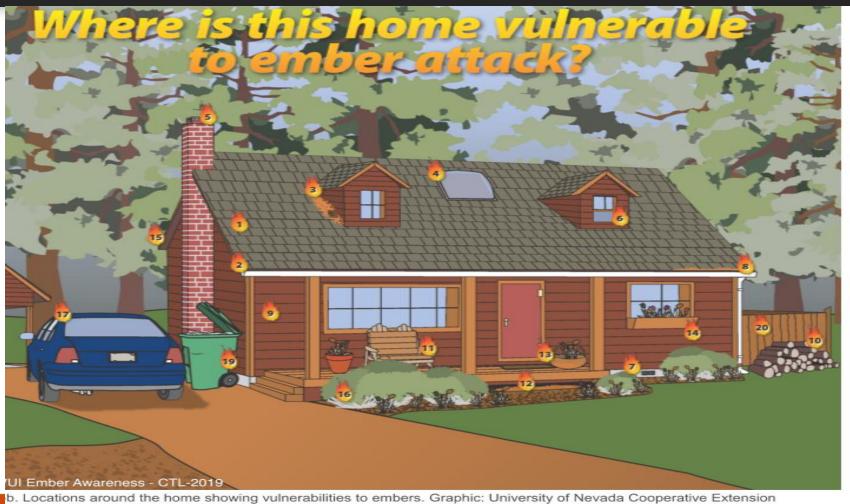
# Is your home Ignitable?



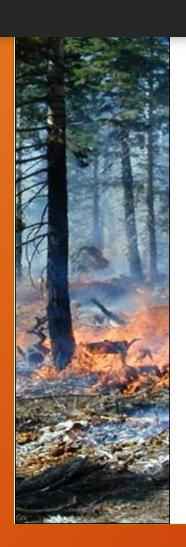
# Is your home Ignitable?



# Is your home Ignitable?



### Your House Can Save Itself From LOW Intensity Fire



- Reduce Fuel & Reduce Flame Length to Prevent High Intensity Fire
- Remove Ladder Fuels Prevent Tree Torching
- Thinning Separation Broken Continuity
- Is your home ignitable? Provide a 5-foot Noncombustible Zone
- Home Hardening Strategies
  - -If your home is ignition resistant
  - -Your home will survive an ember attack

# Santa Cruz County Fire Department CAL FIRE

Nate Armstrong, Deputy Chief



## Staying Informed

- CAL FIRE
  - Twitter- @calfireczu
  - Facebook- CAL FIRE CZU
- Central Fire Protection District
  - Twitter- @centralfiresc
  - Facebook- Central Fire Protection District of Santa Cruz County

- Santa Cruz County
  - Twitter- @sccounty
  - Facebook- County of Santa Cruz
- Santa Cruz County Sheriff
  - Twitter-@santacruzSO1
  - Facebook- Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

# **Emergency Alerting**

- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)- a public safety system that allows customers who own compatible mobile devices to receive geographically targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area.
  - You receive these messages on mobile devices based on location or area.
- Zonehaven- Evacuation Platform used to quickly communicate with the public about the emergency status of their local area
- CodeRED Notifications- Is a mass notification system that allows public safety agencies within Santa Cruz County to alert you
  - Does not work if you do not register

### ZONEHAVEN

- Full rollout in Santa Cruz County should be coming soon which will give full functionality.
- It is important to KNOW YOUR ZONE as they are included in press releases, fire information update sheets, etc.
  - https://myzone.zonehaven.com

### **CodeRED Notifications**

https://scr911.org



Notifications will only go to registered devices or landline telephone numbers

# **Evacuation Orders and Warnings**

- Evacuations are enforced by the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction
  - Orders are telling you that it is unsafe to be in the location and that you need to leave
  - Warnings are telling you that is may soon be unsafe to be in the location
- Do not wait for an evacuation order or warning to leave your residence if you feel unsafe!
- If you are under an evacuation order or warning please drive slowly and mindfully with your headlights on. There may be fire and law enforcement personnel working in the area.

# Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience

Mark Bisbee, Interim Director David Reid, Recovery & Resilience Sr. Analyst Lisa Ehret, EM Sr. Analyst





New Office Formation
December 2020

- Consolidation of Office of Emergency Services (OES)
- CZU Fire Recovery Support
- Climate Change Resilience



#### **RESPONSE**

- Disaster Readiness
- Planning and Coordination
- Incident Support
- Emergency Management
- COAD

#### **RECOVERY**

- Recovery Permit Center
- Santa Cruz Long Term Recovery Group
- State & Federal Recovery Resources
- Community Resources



#### RESILENCE

- Climate Change
   Resilience & Adaptation
- Social Vulnerability to Climate Change
- State & Federal Grants
- Hazardous Fuel Reduction



## READINESS – Community Preparedness

All Hazard Approach



https://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov



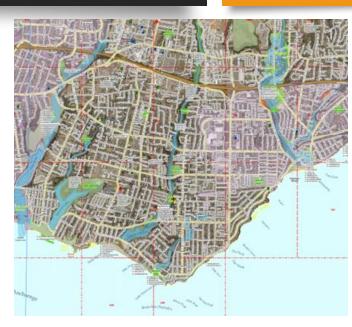
## Flood Preparedness:

Flood Maps

http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/default.aspx?tabid=93

County Flood Information

http://sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/Environmental/FloodInformation.aspx





#### **Earthquake Preparedness:**

Earthquake Authority

https://www.earthquakeauthority.com/California- Earthquake-Risk/Personal-Preparedness

CA Gov. Earthquake - Get Prepared

https://earthquake.ca.gov/get-prepared/

• The Great Shakeout

https://www.shakeout.org/california/preparedness/



#### Contact Information:

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Lisa Ehret, <u>Lisa.Ehret@santacruzcounty.us</u>

Dave Reid, <u>David.Reid@santacruzcounty.us</u>

Chief Ian Larkin, <a href="mailto:lankin@fire.ca.gov">lan.Larkin@fire.ca.gov</a>

LizAnne Jensen, Executive Committee Treasurer, Education and Outreach Committee Firewise Communities



The purpose of the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County is to educate and mobilize the people of Santa Cruz County to protect their community, homes, and environment from wildfire.

#### **Programs We Provide:**

- Helping the public learn to live with fire in Santa Cruz County
- Recommendations on Home Hardening
- Recommendations for Fuel Reduction for residents and neighborhoods
- Assist neighborhoods who want to form Firewise Communities and work collaboratively to make their homes and neighborhoods more resilient to wildland fires
- · Provide educational public presentations on wildfire resilience
- In conjunction with our partners, provide response to individual homeowner requests for assistance, such as chipping programs and Home Inspection Visits

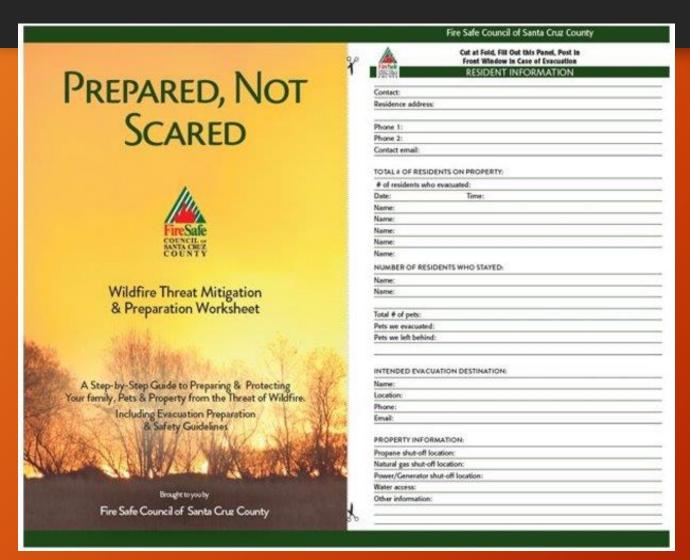
Two-thirds of Santa Cruz County is considered Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), putting a large percentage of our population, housing, economy, wildlife, and environment at risk from catastrophic fire.

#### Call to Action:

Print out and use **Prepared Not Scared Checklist** on our website:

- Steps you can take right now to become more firesafe
- Steps to make your home more resistant to wildfires
- Steps to make your property more resistant to wildfires
- Learn how to prepare a fire specific emergency "Go Bag."
- Learn when and how to evacuate

Form a Firewise group in your neighborhood to further the protect your home and community



Prepared, Not Scared Worksheet

Part 1: To tape to your door when evacuating

Resident information section

- Resident contact information
- Info on who evacuated and when
- Evacuation destination
- Special instructions

https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/images/FSCSCC-WildfireEvacGuide-10-16-19.pdf

Post While You Work on this Check List.	For More Detailed Explanations & Guidelines Visit C	our Web Site: www.firesafesantacruz.org	
What You Can Do Today  —Be Prepared—	Protect Your Home -Home Hardening-	Protect Your Property  —Creating a Defensible Space—	
Step-by-step worksheet to help you prepare for fire season.	Home Maintenance	Zone O: O-5 Feet Around Structures *	
Sign up for emergency notices (Code Red at www.scr911.org)  Always keep vehicle gas tanks a minimum of half-full  Fill out Resident Information panel (see reverse side)  Set aside an envelope of cash bills (\$1s, \$5s, \$10s, \$50s)  Arrange out-of-state emergency contact - Give them your list of contacts. Tell family & friends who to contact for updates	Clear around structures & keep free of debris     Keep roof & gutters dean to protect from flammable debris     Clear vegetation at least 5 ft away from windows & doors including garage doors     Keep combustibles elevated off of the garage floor     Home Improvements	Remove vegetation, plant litter & overhanging branches Hardscape with concrete, brick, gravel, bare dirt, etc. No combustible materials (shades, doormats, furniture, woodpiles, BBQs, etc.)  Zone 1: 5-30 Feet Around Structures *  Paved or gravel driveways, walkways, patios as firebreaks.  Remove dead plants, weeds, & plant litter	
☐ Plan at least 2 escape routes - Practice them with your family ☐ Scan important documents to portable drive (passports, birth certificates, insurance policies, pink slips, bank accounts, deeds, wills, etc.)	Improvements you can make to your home to make it more fire resilient. Start from the roof & work down.	Keep grasses >4 in, space larger plants: min. 2x plant height Remove ladder fuels, limb plants +6 ft up 10 ft clearance around propone tanks	
store 1 copy off-site.  Review your home insurance policy with your agent.  Check flashlights, head lamps, & walkie-talkies quarterly. Keep extra fresh batteries on hand.  Purchase rechargeable ABC fire estinguishers. Learn to use.  Show household members gas, electric, & water shut-offs.  Assemble portable emergency first aid kit. Learn to use.  Collar, tag, & chip pets (include pet photos in GO Bag).  Collect personal & pet GO Bags see sections below.  Know how to manually open & close your garage door.	Enclose eaves & overhangs with soffic  1/8" soreen in all vents in walls, eaves, roof & foundation vents to leep embers from artics, crawl spaces & basements  Install spark arresters on chimmeys & stovepipes  Non-combustible weather stripping on top, sides & bottom of garage doors  Class A five-rated roof  Dual paned tempered glass winds & five rated skylights  Non-combustible exterior walls, shuffers, decks, walkways, outside stairs & fencing  Driveway gate openings at least 12 ft wide	Zone 2: 30-100 Feet From Structures *  10 ft dearance around woodpiles  Remove dead plants, keep grasses >4 in  Thin trees & shrubs vertically & horizontally  Zone 3: Access Zone *  4" reflective metal street numbers on contrasting background  Driveways & frontage road: 12 ft gate openings, 15 ft vertical clearance, 10 ft each side for fire truck access  Vertical spacing between shrubs & lower tree limbs. Cut grasses  Minimum distance can be greater if on a slope. The steeper the slope, the greater the distance.	
GO BAGS - ESSENTIAL ITEMS PREPARED & READY TO GO	OPTIONAL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING - PPC	PETS TO GO	
□ Contact list & area maps □ Extra glasses □ Phones & chargers, portable drive with documents □ Whistle- put on key chain □ dothes, nightwear, toiletnies □ Extra set of medications - ask your doctor	Hard hat with head lamp securely attached □ long sleeved cotton or wool clothes (less flammable) □ Supply of N95 face masks □ Cotton bandarina □ Leather work gloves □ Pire shelter - training required/	Food - enough for 3 days Medications Transports / carriers Extra drinking water Owner info & pet photos Supplies, leashes, toys, sanitation	

Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County — Prepared. Not Scared: Wildfire Preparation Worksheet & Emergency Evacuation Guide

## Prepared, Not Scared Worksheet

Part 2: Advance preparation for wildfires (items are listed in order of importance)

- What you can do today to get ready
- Tips for hardening your home
- Tips for creating defensible space
- Go Bags and Personal Protective Clothing
- Preparing your pets

https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/images/FSCSCC-WildfireEvacGuide-10-16-19.pdf

FSCSCC was formed in 2016 as a CA nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Donations to FSCSCC are fully tax deductible.

#### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION GUIDE** Take with You When You leave If Trapped in Vehicle ☐ Stay calm & stay together! ☐ Park vehicle in open area clear of vegetation ☐ Stay inside vehicle - it can be much hotter outside Protect yourselves with N95 mask & wool hat **Evacuation Orders** Lie on vehicle floor Fire Threat Warning Time to Go! Cover yourselves with wool blanket or jacket -Preparing to Go-Remain in vehicle until fire has passed IMPORTANT! Practice & Time These Steps Fire is unpredictable - leave as soon as possible! If trapped, park vehicle off the road, if possible. Communications can fail — you may not get an alert. ☐ Stay calm & stay together! Evacuate on foot only as a last resort. Escape routes can quickly become blocked. ■ Put on optional protective clothing If Trapped on Foot PRACTICE THESE STEPS Stay calm & stay together! Put on optional protective clothing If preparing to evacuate, do as many of the steps below as you can. before evacuating including: Leave if or when you feel threatened! Protect yourselves N95 mask & hard hat hard hat with headlamp, sturdy shoes, Protect yourselves with wool blanket or jacket Alert household members & neighbors of threat goggles, gloves, N95 mask, whistle Shelter in building or behind protective barrier dry bandanna, tie back long hair. Park vehicles in driveway facing out - pocket car keys Or find level ground clear of vegetation - a depression or Purse or wallet, contact list, maps & fire shelter on car seat Bring extra water bottles! N95 masks & wool blankets or lackets on car seat Deploy fire shelter if available & you are trained to use it ☐ Secure pets into transports / carriers Close vehicle windows & doors to keep out embers Lie face down & cover entire body until fire has passed ☐ Load GO Bags into vehicle Post Resident Information panel on fridge or in front window Load option **Evacuation Tools** into vehicle If Trapped in Home-Shelter in Place Confirm meeting place & out-of-state contact (chain saws, pry bars, bolt cutters) ■ Stay calm & stay together! ☐ Charge phones Load extra water into vehicle Stav Inside - it can be much hotter outside! ☐ Contain pets & stock animals in secure locations ☐ Turn on interior & exterior house lights Put wet towels at door bases ☐ Stage your GO Bags & critical electronic near exit ☐ Close doors as leaving including garage doors Keep away from outside walls & windows Sync walkie-talkie channels (if evacuating more than 1 vehicle) Do not lock doors in case firefighters need shelter ☐ Set out fire extinguishers (just inside doors - easily visible) Protect yourselves with N95 mask & hard hat Confirm meeting place & out-of-state contact w/ drivers Protect yourselves with wool blanket or jacket ☐ Close all garage doors, structure doors, windows & skylights ☐ Choose safest route away from fire Stay low to keep cool & avoid smoke inhalation ☐ Shut fireplace & wood stove flues Confirm escape route (if evacuating more than 1 vehicle) ☐ Turn off air conditioners & ceiling fans Test door surface with back of hand before opening Test walkie-talkies (if evacuating more than 1 vehicle) Shelter in place until fire has passed or forced to leave Fill jugs, sinks & tubs w/ water (put large towels/rags nearby) Load family & pets into vehicles Remove flammable curtains & shades away from windows After fire has passed avoid damaged power lines ☐ Do Final Head Count - family & pets Pull furniture & lamps away from windows, leave pathways After fire has passed check roof & attic for embers ■ Tune vehicle radio to local emergency station ☐ Move door mats, patio furniture, BBQs, & flammable Items Put out any spot fires AM: KSCO1080 +30 ft away from structures. Close & secure patio umbrellas FM: KBCZ 90.1. KZSC 88.1. KPIG 107.5 ☐ Place metal ladders against structures for firefighter access Turn headlights on. Turn on inside AC- set to recirculate The mission of Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County Put shovels, rakes & clippers +10 ft from home for firefighters (FSCSCC) is to educate and mobilize the people of ☐ Get the Heck Out!! our County to protect their community, homes, and Place full water buckets outside, especially near decks & fences

Prepared, Not Scared Worksheet

Part 3: Evacuation Planning and Evacuation (items are listed in order of importance)

How to prepare to evacuate

How to evacuate

What to do if you are trapped

- In your home
- In your car
- On foot

https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/images/FSCSCC-WildfireEvacGuide-10-16-19.pdf

Drive slowly & defensively, be observant.

Stay on paved roads, proceed downhill,

away from fire if possible.

Set out Evacuation Tools: chain saws, pry bars, bolt cutters

Connect outside hoses & place spare hose inside house

☐ Don't leave sprinklers or water running

#### Guía de Evacuación de Emergencia—Llévalo contigo cuando te vayas



#### ;IMPORTANTE! Practica y cronometra estos pasos

- ☐ ¡Mantén la calma y permanezcan juntos!
- ☐ Póngase ropa protectora opcional antes de evocuor Incluye: cesco con faro, cotzado resistente, gafas, guantes, máscara N95, silbato, pañuelo; atar el cabello largo. ¡Time botellos de aqua adicionales!
- ☐ Asegure las mascotas y el ganado en los transportes / transportines
- ☐ Carque las bolsas de vigie (GO) en el vehículo (veg el reverso)
- Cargue herramientos de evacuación opcionales en el vehículo (sierra de cadena, palanca, cortador de pernos, correa de remolque)
- ☐ Cargue agua adiaonal en el vehículo
- ☐ Encienda las luces interiores y exteriores de la casa
- ☐ Al salir, derre puertas, ventanas y tragaluces, incluido el garaje
- ☐ Forma de información al residente en la ventana frontal
- □ No cierre las puertas, los bomberos pueden necesitar refugio de las
- ☐ Confirmar el lugar de reunión y el contacto fuera del estado con todos
- ☐ Elija la ruta más segura lejos del fuego
- ☐ Confirme la ruta de escape (si evacua más de 1 vehículo)
- Contirme la ruta de escape (si evacua mas de 1 veniculo)
- 🗖 Pruebe los walkie-talkies (si va a evacuar más de 1 vehículo)
- ☐ Cargue a la familia y las mascotas en los vehículos
- ☐ Hacer el recuento final: familia y mascotas
- ☐ Sintonice la radio del vehículo a la estación de emergencia local para información de evacuación y ruta
- AM: KSC01080
- FM: KBCZ 90.1, KZSC 88.1, KPIG 107.5
- Encienda los faros; encienda el aire acondicionado del automóvil; configurado para recircular
- □ Vallase ¡cuanto antes mejor!

Conduzca despacio y a la defensiva, esté atento.

Permanezca en caminos pavimentados, continúe cuesta abajo, lejos del fuego si es posible.

#### Si Está Atrapado en el Hogar-Quédese en el Lugar

- ☐ ¡Mantén la calma y permanezcan juntos!
- Quédese adentro, jafuera puede hacer mucho más calor!
- Recoger extinguidores
- Coloque toallas mojadas en las bases de las puertas
- ☐ Manténgase alejado de paredes y ventanas exteriores
- ☐ Muévase al extremo de la casa más alejado del fuego que se aproxima
- ☐ Protéjase con máscara N95 y casco
- ☐ Protéiase con manta o chaqueta de lana
- ☐ Manténgase agachado para mantenerse fresco y evitar la inhaloción de
- ☐ Pruebe la superficie de la puerta con el dorso de la mano antes de abrir
- Refugiarse en el lugar hasta que el fuego haya pasado o se vea obligado a
- Después de que el fuego haya pasado, evite los árboles dañados y las líneas eléctricas.
- Después de que el fuego haya pasado, revise el techo y el ático en busca de
- Apague cualquier incendio puntual

#### Si Queda Atrapado en el Vehículo

- ☐ ¡Mantén la calma y permanezcan juntos!
- ☐ Estacionar el vehículo en un área abierta libre de vegetación
- Quédese dentro del vehículo; puede hacer mucho más calor afuera. Un edificio más nuevo cercano puede ser un refugio más seguro.
- ☐ Protéjase con máscara N95 y gorro de lana
- ☐ Acuéstese en el piso del vehículo
- □ Cúbrase con una manta o chaqueta de lana
- ☐ Permanecer en el vehículo hasta que hava pasado el fuego.
- Si está atrapado, estacione el vehículo fuera de la carretera, si es posible. Evacuar a pie solo como último recurso
- Si Está Atrapado a Pie

#### Si Esta Atrapado a Fie

- ☐ ¡Mantén la calma y permanezcan juntos!
- ☐ Protéjase máscara N95 y casco
- ☐ Protéjase con la manta o chaqueta de lana



The mission of Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County (FSCSCC) is to educate and mobilize the people of our County to protect their community, homes, and environment from wildfire.

FSCSCC was formed in 2016 as a CA nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Donations to FSCSCC are fully tax deductible.
info@firesafesantacruz.org

#### Corta y coloca este panel en la ventana frontal

Cortar en el pliegue, rellenar este panel, publicar en ventana delantera en caso de evacuación.

#### INFORMACION DEL RESIDENT

	Dirección de residencia:		
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#### NÚMERO TOTAL DE RECIDENTES EN LA PRODIEDA S

Correo electrónico (Emai)l de contacto:

HOMERO TOTAL DE RESIDENTES EN LA FROI	IEDAD:
# de residentes que evacuaron:	
Fecha y hora:	
Nombre	

#### se vea obligado a <u>Nombr</u>

#### NÚMERO DE RESIDENTES QUE SE QUEDARON:

Nombre:	
Nombre:	
# Total de mascotas:	

#### Mascotas que dejamos atrás:

Mascotas que evacuamos

#### DESTINO PREVISTO PARA LA EVACUACIÓN:

Nombre: Localización:		
Localizacion:		
Teléfono:		
Correo electrónico:		

#### INFORMACIÓN DE LA PROPIEDAD:

#### Ubicación de cierre de propano: Lugar de cierre de gas natural: Ubicación de corte de energía/ generador:

Ubicación de corte de energía / generador: Acceso al agua:

Acceso al agua:
Otra información

ev-08-17-21

Preparado, no Asustado



Hoja de Trabajo de Preparación para Incendios Forestales y Guía de Evacuación de Emergencia

Una Guía Paso-a-Paso para Preparar y Proteger a su Familia, Mascotas y Propiedad de la Amenaza de Incendios Forestales. Incluída la Preparación para la Evacuación

y Guías para la Seguridad

Traido a usted po

Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County Consejo de Seguridad contra Incendios del Condado de Santa Cruz Prepared, Not Scared Worksheet

New Spanish language translation coming soon!

Fuel Reduction - Before



## Fuel Reduction - After



Fuel Reduction - Before



Fuel Reduction - After



## A difficult home to defend



#### An easier home to defend



# Firewise USA Communities

Lynn Sestak



## What is Firewise?

- Firewise USA is a national program, with over 1600 recognized sites. Our local CALFIRE and County Fire get involved with review and guidance as well.
- Firewise is a framework for neighbors to collaborate as a community, to reduce wildfire risk through education and proactive planning
- After completing 6 basic steps, which include applying for Firewise USA recognition, that recognition is renewed on a yearly basis through neighborhood teamwork.
- **Benefits**: Next step beyond home hardening through working with neighbors, fire professional connections, possible home insurance considerations and access to grants
- Local Firewise recognized communities: Prospect Heights, Highland, Las Cumbres, Riva Ridge, Ellen Roads, Marty Road, Sunset Ridge Road, Forest Lakes and more

## Six Steps to become a Firewise Community

- 1. Form a board/committee (or existing Road Association group) comprised of proactive residents and other community stakeholders.
- 2. Collaborate on a **Community Risk Assessment** with your local Fire Dept or CALFIRE
- 3. Host a minimum of **one wildfire risk reduction educational event**, or related activity (example: Wildfire Evacuation Preparedness Workshop)
- 4. Develop a multi-year action plan based on your site's Risk Assessment
- 5. Meet the minimum wildfire risk reduction investment (1 hr or \$28/household)
- 6. Create and Submit your Firewise USA application through their portal

## Neighborhood Teamwork

- Plan work party days such as brush clearing along roads, and celebrate with potlucks afterward
- Consider education events such as Home Hardening workshops
- Collaborate with neighbors on priorities such as evacuation route planning, chipping projects
- Consider emergency communications method within your neighborhood (such as WhatsApp, Signal or hand held radios)



# Get Everyone Involved

- Kids hear about wildfires. Taking positive action helps them feel empowered.
- Getting to know your neighbors and who might need some extra help in a disaster is a side benefit of becoming a FireWise Community.
- Your local FireSafe councils provide education and guidance to support communities interested in obtaining Firewise USA recognition.
- Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz
   County -https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/
- Firewise guidance Lynn Sestak: lynn.sestak@firesafesantacruzcounty.org



## Related Resources

- Fire Safe Council Santa Cruz County Website
- www.firesafesantacruzcounty.org
- Fire Safe Marin County
- www.firesafemarin.org
- Firewise USA
- www.Firewise.org
- South Skyline Fire Safe Council Website
- www.southskylinefiresafe.org
- Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
- www.sccfiresafe.org

# Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County

Matt Abernathy



# What is the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County?

- The RCD is dedicated to helping people help the land. We connect people with the technical, financial, and educational assistance they need to conserve and manage natural resources.
- Our mission includes fostering healthy forests that are resilient to wildfire in Santa Cruz County. We work in close partnerships with local agencies, organizations, and communities to accomplish this goal.
- The RCD strives to provide solutions that accomplish a multi-resource objective, as well as provides the tools for landowners to actively manage their properties.

# RCD's Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency Program Objectives

- Improve forest health throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains.
- Create adequate defensible space around homes and infrastructure.
- Minimize fuel loads across larger landscapes.
- Reduce the spread of invasive plants and pathogens.
- Provide technical forestry assistance.
- Provide post-fire landowner assistance to our community.
- Facilitate regional coordination and collaboration.



## Landscape-Scale Project Management

- The RCD supports regional planning and project identification.
- Facilitates large-scale forest health and fuels management projects that cross multipleproperties.



## RCD No-Cost Chipping Program

- The program offers no-cost chipping for residents who have cleared the vegetation within 100 feet of occupied structures or 10 feet on either side of a private road.
- Chipping is a preferred method of reducing wildfire risk as it removes the hazardous ladder fuels and returns nutrients back into the soil.
- 238 served in the Spring 2021 chipping.
- RCD No-Cost Chipping Program https://chipping.rcdsantacruz.org/
- For questions or inquiries: <a href="mailto:chipping@rcdsantacruz.org">chipping@rcdsantacruz.org</a>



## RCD Technical Assistance

Upon request, an RCD Resource Specialist can tour your property and provide information about;

- Discuss the ecology and the current conditions of your land,
- Help determine your goals for your land,
- Recommend practices to reach those goals,
- Advise on which permits or pathways that may be needed or of use,
- Assist with project design and implementation
- Following the CZU Lightning Complex Fire we visited over 450 requests for assistance.

## RCD Technical Assistance

For more

information: <a href="http://www.rcdsantacruz.org/fire">http://www.rcdsantacruz.org/fire</a>

Please fill out the <u>Contact Us</u> page for inquiries regarding site visits.





## Thank You For Attending

Questions?