



# Why We Exist



# What is a Fire Safe Council?!





# About VRFSC

- 501(c)(3) founded in 2009
- personal connection to fire
- grassroots approach focusing on vulnerable communities
- nine full-time staff, [volunteer board](#) of 10



# VRFSC's Programs



Home Hardening



Resident Grant Program



Chipper Events /  
Hazardous Fuel  
Reduction



Firewise Community  
Development



Local and  
Countywide Planning



Education and  
Workshops



[www.VenturaFireSafe.org/wildfire-programs](http://www.VenturaFireSafe.org/wildfire-programs)



# Home Hardening



*Kevin Fujiii / Civil Beats / 2023*



*Mark J. Terrill/AP*



*Mark J. Terrill/AP*



*Chas Metivier / Orange County Register / SCNG*

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PREPARED







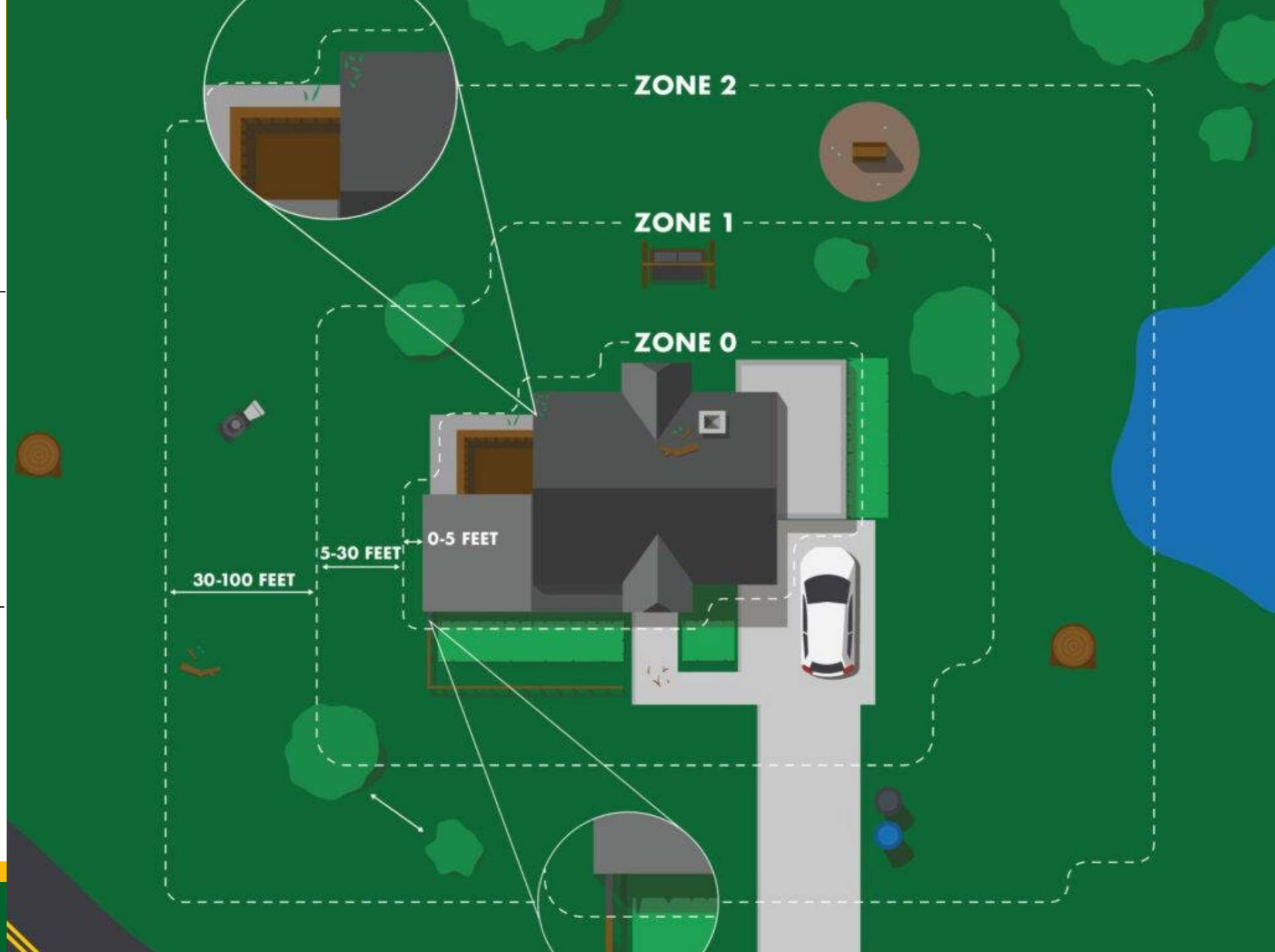
**Home Hardening:** Constructing or retrofitting the structure with non-combustible and/or ember-resilient features.

**Defensible Space:** Maintaining vegetation surrounding the home to prevent the spread of wildfire directly to the home.

**Zone 0**  
0 - 5ft

**Zone 1**  
5 - 30ft

**Zone 2**  
30 - 100ft



# Ventura County Fire Department's Requirements

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS

For information regarding defensible space requirements, please see the following:

- **Standard 515 – Defensible Space and Fuel Modification**
- **Standard 517 – Mulch and Chips in Defensible Space Zones**
- **Guideline 420 – Defensible Space Laws and Regulations**
- **Guideline 423 – Defensible Space Maintenance Guide**
- **Guideline 425 – Protected Tree Clearance Requirements**
- **Administrative Ruling 23-804 Applicability of the VCFC and VCFD Standard 515**

## LANDSCAPE AND FUEL MODIFICATION PLANS

Landscape Plans are required for New Buildings, including accessory dwellings and modification to existing landscape. For additional information see the below documents:


- **Guideline 416 – Landscape and Fuel Modification Plans**
- **Guideline 410 – Prohibited Plant List**
- **Guideline 417 – Plant Reference Guide**
- **610 – Fire Permit Application**
- **Plans Submittal Fees (Page 7 of fee schedule)**
- **Form 641 – Fuel Modification Covenant Agreement**
- **Form 642 – Fuel Modification Affidavit**





**Table 3 – Fire Department FMZ Spacing**

<b>Type of Vegetation</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Maximum Height</b>	<b>Maximum Area /diameter</b>	<b>% of Slope / Minimum horizontal Spacing*</b>
Ground Cover	1 & 2	6-inches	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Mosaic Grouping of Ground Cover (GC)	1	12-inches	Groupings shall not exceed 200 sq. ft. without minimum spacing to next grouping	<20%: 2 x GC height 20%-40%: 4 x GC height >40%: 6 x GC height
	2	18-inches	Groupings shall not exceed 500 sq. ft. without minimum spacing to next grouping	<20%: 2 x GC height 20%-40%: 4 x GC height >40%: 6 x GC height
Single Shrub	1	4-feet	4-foot diameter	<20%: 2 x shrub height 20%-40%: 4 x shrub height >40%: 6 x shrub height
	2	6-feet	4-foot diameter	<20%: 2 x shrub height 20%-40%: 4 x shrub height >40%: 6 x shrub height
Grouping of shrubs	1	Not Allowed	Not Applicable	<20%: 20-feet 20%-40%: 40-feet >40%: Not Allowed
	2	4-feet	Groupings shall not exceed 50 sq. ft. without minimum spacing to next grouping	<20%: 20-feet 20%-40%: 40-feet >40%: Not Allowed
Single Tree	1	Not Applicable	Tree canopy at full maturity not allowed within 10-feet of any structure	<20%: 20-feet 20%-40%: 30-feet >40%: 40-feet
	2	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	<20%: 10-feet 20%-40%: 20-feet >40%: 30-feet



# Structural Weaknesses

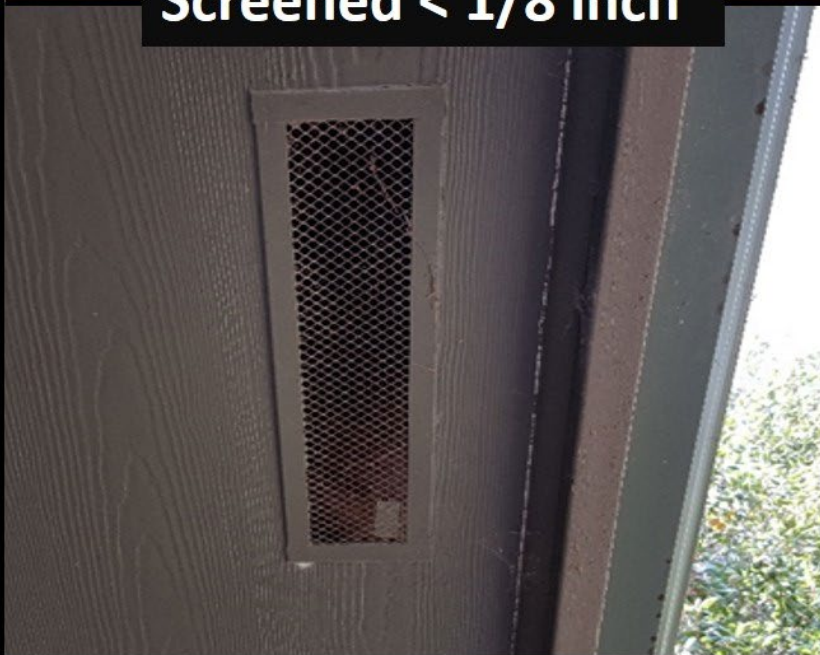




Low Risk



Screened < 1/8 inch



High Risk



Unscreened





# Combustible Additions/Decor



BEFORE



AFTER



# Vegetation (Dead or Alive)





# Vegetation (Fire safe landscaping)

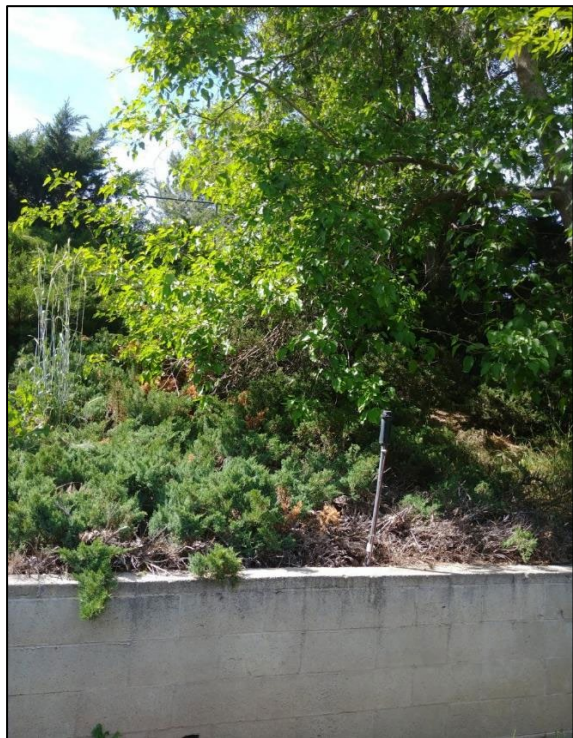




# Prepare your street for firefighters

Defensible Space 5-100 feet

Access Roads - 20ft wide, 13 ft vertical clearance, thinned vegetation at sides







[www.VenturaFireSafe.org/resident-grant-program](http://www.VenturaFireSafe.org/resident-grant-program)





Before

After





# What is the Firewise USA program?

Resident-driven, grassroots program to help a community increase its resilience to wildfire

- Neighbors helping neighbors model
- Free and voluntary
- No regulation or enforcement, honor system
- A recognition, not a certification
- More than 2,000 communities across the country



# Benefits of becoming Firewise



- Framework for community action and learning
- Safer and more prepared communities
  - [credited](#) with multiple instances of prevented structure-loss
- **Financial benefits**
  - cost-sharing, bulk ordering wildfire-resilient materials
  - potential [insurance discount](#): 5-10% discount USAA, Mercury, CA Fair Plan, State Farm, and more
  - Fire Safe Council can apply for grant funding on behalf of Firewise communities

# Firewise USA

## 1 FORM A TEAM



## 2 ASSESS WILDFIRE RISK



## 3 DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN



## 4 REPORT INVESTMENT & VEGETATION REMOVED



## 5 HOST AN ANNUAL OUTREACH EVENT



## 6 APPLY ONLINE



# Our role in Firewise

## Residents

Lead Firewise efforts, garner community participation, works on the 5 steps, & asks for assistance when needed

## Fire Safe Council

Introduces firewise to communities, educates on wildfire reduction strategies, assists in risk assessments & action plans, & applies for grants based on community needs

## Fire Department

Supports firewise communities, assists in risk assessments, answers questions







# WORKSHOPS & EDUCATION

[www.VenturaFireSafe.org/resources](http://www.VenturaFireSafe.org/resources)



# Community Wildfire Protection Plans





# Ready

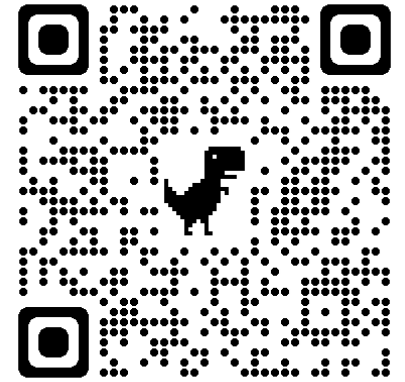
- Harden your home
- Sign up for VC alert



[readyventuracounty.org](https://readyventuracounty.org)

# Set

- Prepare a “go” kit
- Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes



# Go

- Establish a meet-up point
- Act early
- Cooperate with local authorities

## REMINDER

Know ahead of time:

- How to shut off gas lines
- How to manually open garage door if electricity goes out





# External Sprinkler Systems

**SCAN  
HERE!**



*“Passive wildfire mitigation strategies (e.g., Class A roof, noncombustible siding, 0–5-foot noncombustible zone around the house, etc.) for community and parcel level mitigation should never be replaced by active strategies (e.g., external sprinklers).”*

# CONTACT US

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[www.VenturaFireSafe.org](http://www.VenturaFireSafe.org)