



Homeowner's Guide to Fire in Santa Barbara County

Compiled August 2019 by the Cachuma Resource Conservation District with funding the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investments Program



The Homeowners Guide to Fire in Santa Barbara County Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at:

<http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov>.

Cover photo: 2017 Thomas Fire, photo by Kari Greer, USFS

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QUICK REFERENCE

Emergency Phone Numbers



IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

DANGER

If you smell natural gas, see downed power lines, or suspect another emergency, leave the area immediately and call 911.

STRUCTURES / EMERGENCY INFO

To report structural damage or get information about current fires or other emergency information contact the Santa Barbara County Emergency Operations Center
805-681-5526

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

<https://awareandprepare.org/>

RED FLAG WARNINGS

The Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management has partnered with local fire officials to create a text messaging system for local residents when a Red Flag Warning is issued in Santa Barbara County. Sign up by texting the word redflag to 888777. Messages from emergency officials can increase your awareness and vigilance in high fire hazard areas.

SANTA BARBARA SHERIFF

805-683-2724 or 911

COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND RECOVERY RESOURCES

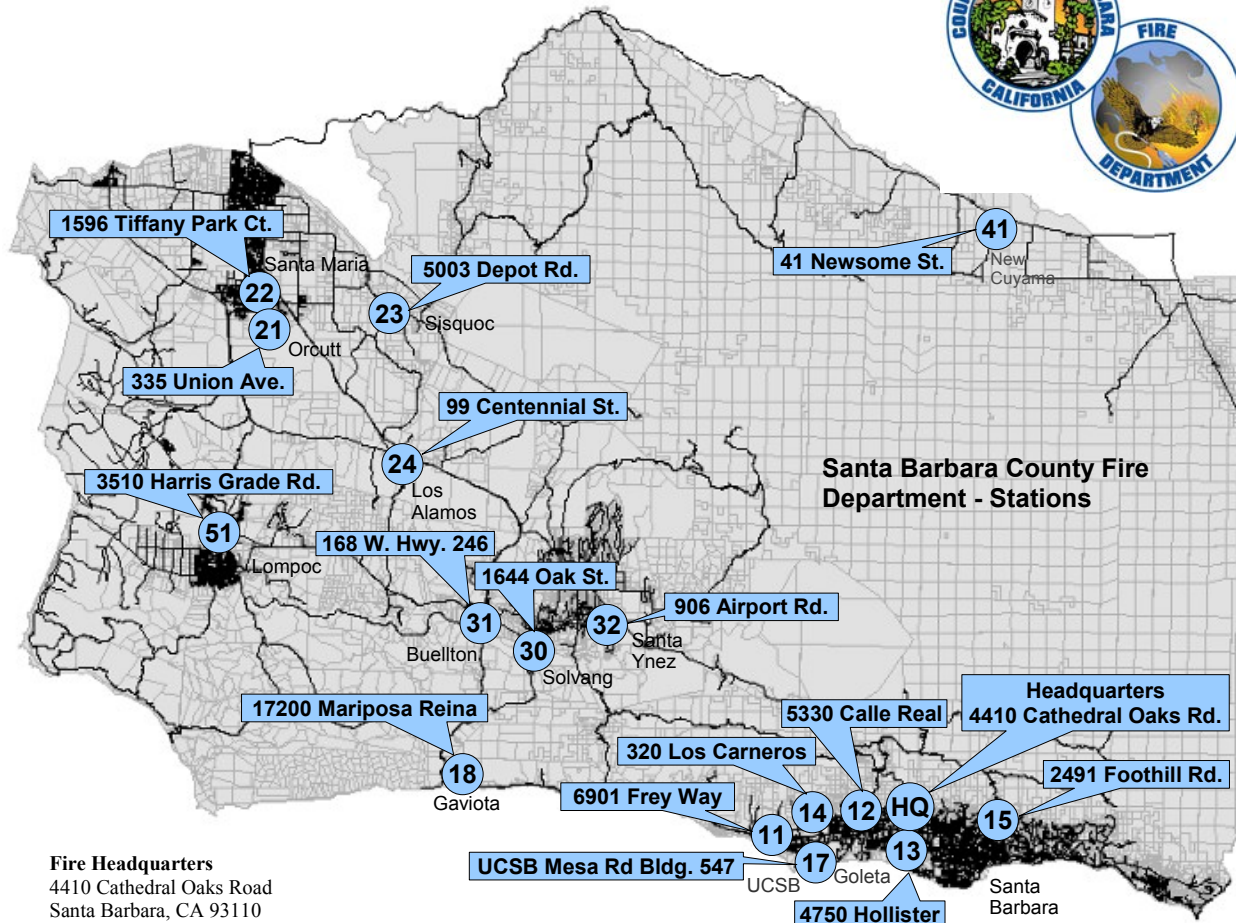
<https://www.countyofsb.org/fire-recovery.sbc>

CAL FIRE

<http://www.fire.ca.gov>

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

<https://www.sbcfire.com/>



Fire Headquarters
 4410 Cathedral Oaks Road
 Santa Barbara, CA 93110
 (805) 681-5500
 (805) 681-5563 fax

Station 11
 6901 Frey Way
 Goleta, CA 93117
 (805) 681-5511

Station 12
 5330 Calle Real
 Goleta, CA 93117
 (805) 681-5512

Station 13
 4570 Hollister
 Santa Barbara, CA 93110
 (805) 681-5513

Station 14
 320 Los Carneros
 Goleta, CA 93117
 (805) 681-5514

Station 15
 2491 Foothill Rd
 Santa Barbara, CA 93105
 (805) 681-5515

Station 17
 UCSB, Mesa Road, Bldg 547
 Santa Barbara, CA 93106
 (805) 681-5517

Station 18
 17200 Mariposa Reina
 Gaviota, CA 93117
 (805) 681-5518

Station 21
 335 Union Ave.
 Orcutt, CA 93455
 (805) 934-6292

Station 22
 1596 Tiffany Dr
 Santa Maria, CA 93455
 (805) 934-6293

Station 23
 5003 Depot Ave
 Santa Maria, CA 93454
 (805) 934-6294

Station 24
 99 Centennial
 Los Alamos, CA 93440
 (805) 934-6215

Station 30
 1644 Oak St.
 Solvang, CA 93464
 (805) 686-8184

Station 31
 168 W Hwy 246
 Buellton, CA 93427
 (805) 686-5062

Station 32
 906 Airport Rd
 Santa Ynez, CA 93460
 (805) 686-5058

Station 41
 41 Newsome St
 New Cuyama, CA 93254
 (661) 766-2469

Station 51
 3510 Harris Grade Road
 Lompoc, CA 93436
 (805) 737-7742

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental health services are available 24/7 through the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness

888-868-1649

SB COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

805-568-3440

US NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE

805-566-0860

SANTA BARBARA RED CROSS

2707 State Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

805-687-1331

Animal Control



**IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR ANIMALS
DURING AN EMERGENCY CALL 805-681-4332**

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

805-681-5285

SANTA BARBARA HUMANE SOCIETY

5399 Overpass Road

805-964-4777

If you are unable to take all of your animals in an emergency, coordinate with County Animal Services for assistance. Emergency Hotline

805-681-4332

Gas and Electric



**IF YOU SMELL GAS OR SEE DOWNED POWER LINES
LEAVE THE AREA AND CALL 911**

PG&E 24-HOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE

1-800-PGE-5000 (1-800-743-5000)

PG&E 24-HOUR POWER OUTAGE INFORMATION LINE

1-800-PGE-5002 (1-800-743-5002)

PG&E RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday and after hours: 24-hour availability for emergencies and automated customer service

English or Español: 1-877-660-6789

SO CAL EDISON REPORT AN OUTAGE (24-HOURS A DAY, 7-DAYS A WEEK)

1-800-611-1911.

SO CAL EDISON CUSTOMER SUPPORT

1-800-655-4555

SO CAL EDISON SPANISH

1-800-441-2233

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & RESOURCES

Agricultural Resources

CACHUMA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CRCD)

Anna Olsen, Executive Director

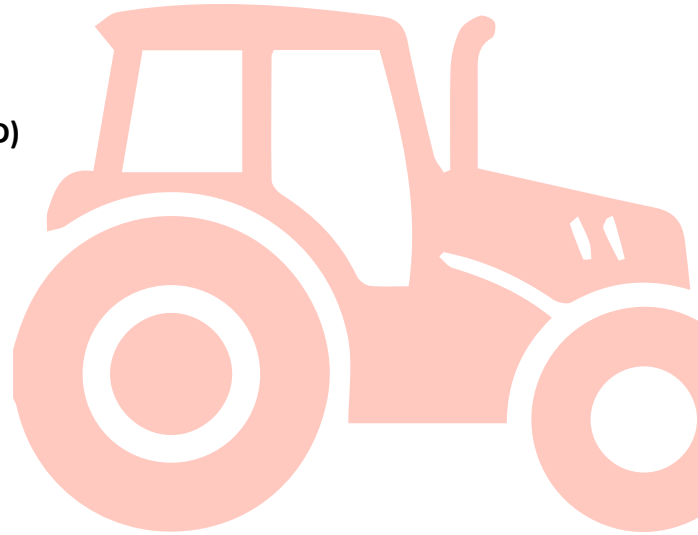
920 E Stowell Road

Santa Maria, CA 93454-7008

805-868-4013

aolsen@rcdsantabarbara.org

<http://www.rcdsantabarbara.org>



PROGRAMS

- ❖ **Site Visits and Planning** for landowners to determine resource needs and appropriate actions concerning:
 - Erosion
 - Natural resource permit assistance on a fee for service basis
 - Technical assistance

- ❖ **Homeowners Guide to Fire in Santa Barbara County** provides information for landowners as to what services local, county, and state organizations provide. Contact information, ways to acquire additional information, and general descriptions of programs and resources are supplied where applicable.

- ❖ **Website** will be updated regularly to include pertinent information regarding services and funding offered by the CRCD and other agencies for fire recovery.
<http://www.rcdsantabarbara.org>



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CALIFORNIA**

PROGRAMS

- ❖ **Post-Fire Assistance for Landowners** by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Risk Management Agency (RMA). These agencies meet with landowners to assess damages and offer technical and financial assistance where possible.

With the high potential for winter rains, burned areas are at greater risk for erosion and mudflows and Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) type services are key to preventing further damage. The program requires local government bodies or others to sponsor on-the-ground work including concrete barriers and debris basins, mulching, straw wattles and other damage control measures. Potential sponsors are encouraged to contact NRCS for more information.



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Emma Chow

805-928-9269 x 9926

Emma.Chow@usda.gov

PROGRAMS

- ❖ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- ❖ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) can provide long-term support to repair livestock fencing, remove dead or dying trees, clear dense brush, install new livestock water facilities, and other agricultural services.
- ❖ Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)
- ❖ NRCS works with local government entities in the impacted counties to mitigate potential hazards to life and property resulting from fires.

- ❖ Work may include removing debris, stabilizing streambanks, fixing water control structures, etc.
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>
- ❖ **Technical and Educational Assistance** for landowners impacted by fires that are faced with erosion and flooding in a damaged watershed.

RESOURCES

- ❖ **Publications, Fact Sheets, and Videos** can be found on the NRCS website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/newsroom/features/>
- ❖ NRCS is available to help with recovery. The website is updated to have local fact sheets on how to address property damage after the fires. *Please contact your local field office before starting work so that you are signed up for any financial assistance that may be available to help pay for practices.*

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

805-928-9269

If you had damages to your crops, livestock, farm equipment, barns, dairy, etc., you should contact your local Farm Services Agency office to inquire about the USDA's disaster assistance program.

PROGRAMS

- ❖ **Emergency Loan Program** to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. Emergency loan funds may be used to:
 - Restore or replace essential property
 - Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year
 - Pay essential family living expenses
 - Reorganize the farming operation
 - Refinance certain debts

Applications for emergency loans must be received within eight months of the county's disaster or quarantine designation date. Contact local FSA office for details and more information.

❖ **For producers** affected by the fires

- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
 - Livestock death due to wildfire
 - Document livestock death
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
 - Cost Share assistance for debris removal, boundary fence, replacement of livestock watering facilities
 - Vineyard and Orchard debris removal, replacement of irrigation
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
 - Cost Share assistance for Tree/Vine removal, replacement or rehabilitate
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program (ELAP)
 - Grazing Losses
 - Loss of purchased/harvested feed

Detailed information on all of these disaster assistance programs can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster>

Additional information is also available online at <https://www.farmers.gov/recover>

 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (UCANR)

<http://ucanr.edu/>

RESOURCES

- ❖ **Recovering from Wildfire** webpage has many resources for landowners after a wildfire in the form of supplemental text documents. Each category below is on their webpage and contains links to documents with information regarding financial aspects, livestock needs, land management after a fire, and commonly asked questions.
 - Homeowner's Guide To Recovering From Wildlife
http://ucanr.edu/sites/postfire/Homeowners_Guide_to_Recovering_from_Wildfire/

- Landowner's Guide to Fire
http://ucanr.edu/sites/postfire/Landowners_Guide_to_Fire/
 - Livestock, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Guide to Fire
http://ucanr.edu/sites/postfire/Livestock_Agriculture_and_Natural_Resources_Guide_to_Fire/
- ❖ **Homeowner's Wildfire Mitigation Guide** webpage contains information regarding what home features make the structure more fire safe. <http://ucanr.edu/sites/Wildfire/>

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/firerecovery/>

PROGRAMS

The Wildfire Recovery Resources webpage compiled by the CDFA consists of recovery resources and corresponding information (including agencies, programs, fact sheets, and detailed information). By following the links you will be directed to further information regarding programs offered.

Residential Resources

CACHUMA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CRCDD)

Anna Olsen, Executive Director

920 E Stowell Road

Santa Maria, CA 93454-7008

805-868-4013

aolsen@rcdsantabarbara.org

<http://www.rcdsantabarbara.org>

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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

FEMA Helpline

(800) 621-3362

Registering with FEMA can provide access to valuable recovery services. If you sustained damages to your home or personal property, you should apply with FEMA for assistance.

RESOURCES

- ❖ Apply for FEMA Assistance

(800) 621-3362

<http://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

Spanish

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/es>

- ❖ Disaster Recovery Center Locator

<https://egateway.fema.gov/ESF6/DRCLocator>

Spanish

<https://www.fema.gov/es/DRC>

- ❖ Transitional Sheltering Assistance Hotel Locator

<http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d9804d50c7e140e2a659aba91dd9e307>

Help After a Disaster FEMA Guide

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1556219308001-5c39dce57da8b19bff274e5c5c79ead8/fema_4.pdf

Spanish


<https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1559329172013-51733c58df2b636b57c65f149a006de8/FEMATrifoldSpanish.pdf>

- ❖ After the Fire! Returning to Normal FEMA Guide

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_46.pdf

Spanish

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_46s.pdf



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

<https://www.ourair.org/>

RESOURCES

- ❖ Current Air Quality Conditions
<https://www.ourair.org/todays-air-quality/>
- ❖ About Smoke and Health
<https://www.ourair.org/sbc/about-smoke-and-health/>
- ❖ Safe Ash Clean-Up During and After a Fire
<https://www.ourair.org/ash-cleanup/>
- ❖ Cleanup of Structures Damaged by Flooding and Fire
<https://www.ourair.org/debris-cleanup-asbestos/>



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Ready Santa Barbara County

<https://readysbc.org/>

Spanish

<https://readysbc.org/es/>

RESOURCES

- ❖ **Website** provides information regarding preparedness and recovery efforts related to the Santa Barbara County fires, debris flows, flood, health and safety information and storm readiness.
 - Sign up for alerts
 - Storm Readiness
 - Recovery
 - Health and Safety

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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Document Recovery & Government Services

RESOURCES

❖ **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

1-800-300-5616

http://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Disaster_Unemployment_Assistance.htm

Spanish

https://www.edd.ca.gov/informacion_general_en_espanol.htm

❖ **Copies of Vital Records**

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm>

❖ **Replacement Social Security Card**

<https://faq.ssa.gov/en-US/Topic/article/KA-02017>

- Spanish

<https://faq.ssa.gov/es-ES/Topic/article/KA-02017>

❖ **California Department of Motor Vehicles**

Fire victims can receive support at local DMV field offices, by calling DMV customer service at 1-800-777-0133 (during business hours) or by visiting <http://www.dmv.ca.gov>

❖ **IRS Disaster Relief Page**

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-relief-in-disaster-situations>

Spanish

<https://www.irs.gov/es/newsroom/tax-relief-in-disaster-situations>

FIRE PREVENTION & PREPAREDNESS

Prepare

ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY DOCUMENTS

Keep these records or copies in a safe and easy to access location

- DRIVERS LICENSES/ I.D. CARDS
- EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST (including out of state contact)
- PASSPORTS, BIRTH CERTIFICATES & SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS
- MEDICAL INSURANCE CARDS, IMMUNIZATION RECORDS, PRESCRIPTION LISTS
- INSURANCE POLICIES
- CASH (small bills & coins), TRAVELER'S CHECKS
- BANK ACCOUNT NUMBERS, CREDIT CARD & COMPANY NUMBERS

LINKS

❖ CAL FIRE Ready For Wildfire

Preparing for a wildfire starts with three simple steps: Ready, Set, Go!

READY Defensible space and hardening your home

https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/calfire_ready_brochure_LINOweb.pdf

SET Get prepared to evacuate before wildfire strikes

https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/calfire_set_brochure_LINOweb.pdf

GO Wildfire evacuation guide

https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/calfire_go_brochure_LINOweb.pdf

PRE-EVACUATION PREPARATION STEPS

When an evacuation is anticipated, follow these checklists (if time allows) to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire:

OUTSIDE

- **1** Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- **2** Turn off propane tanks.
- **3** Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- **4** Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- **5** Don't leave sprinklers on or water running; they can affect critical water pressure.
- **6** Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- **7** Put your Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle.
- **8** Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- **9** Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- **10** Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- **11** Monitor your property and the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened and need to leave.
- **12** Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

- **13** Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- **14** Remove flammable window shades and curtains. Close metal shutters.
- **15** Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- **16** Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- **17** Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- **18** Shut off the air conditioning.

ANIMALS

- **19** Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- **20** Prepare farm animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.

OUTSIDE

1 Design/Construction

- ❑ (For new Wildland Urban Interface Construction or Remodels)
- ❑ Use ignition resistant construction (effective January 1, 2008) for roofs/roof assemblies, gutters, vents, decks, exterior walls, exterior windows.
- ❑ Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and above ground decks with fire resistant materials
- ❑ Show your 100 feet Defensible Space on plot plan
- ❑ Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points of a ridge
- ❑ Consider installing residential sprinklers
- ❑ Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained per code
- ❑ Contact qualified individuals to perform electrical maintenance and repairs

2 Access

- ❑ Make sure that your street name sign is visibly posted at each street intersection
- ❑ Post your house address so it is easily visible from the street, especially at night
- ❑ Address numbers should be at least 3 inches tall and on a contrasting background
- ❑ Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood
- ❑ Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways
- ❑ Cut back overhanging tree branches above access roads
- ❑ Construct roads that allow two-way traffic
- ❑ Make sure dead-end roads, and long drive ways have turn-around areas wide enough for emergency vehicles
- ❑ Design bridges to carry heavy emergency vehicles
- ❑ Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations

3 Roof

- ❑ Install a fire resistant roof. Contact your local fire department for current roofing requirements
- ❑ Remove dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters
- ❑ Remove dead branches overhanging your roof and keep branches 10 feet from your chimney
- ❑ Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh

March 2009

4 Landscape

- ❑ Create a **Defensible Space** of 100 feet around your home. It is required by law
 - ❑ Create a **"LEAN, CLEAN and GREEN ZONE"** by removing all flammable vegetation within 30 feet immediately surrounding your home
 - ❑ Then create a **"REDUCED FUEL ZONE"** in the remaining 70 feet or to your property line
- You have two options in this area:
- A. Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants.** The amount of space will depend on how steep your property is and the size of your plants.
 - B. Large trees do not have to be removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed.**
- ❑ Remove lower tree branches at least six feet from the ground
 - ❑ Landscape with fire resistant plants
 - ❑ Maintain all plants with regular water, and keep dead branches, leaves and needles removed.
 - ❑ When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer

5 Yard

- ❑ Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and remove vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles
- ❑ Above ground Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP-gas) containers (500 or less water gallons) shall be located a minimum of 10 feet with respect to buildings, public ways, and lot lines of adjoining property that can be built upon. - CFC 3804.3
- ❑ Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard
- ❑ Contact your local fire department to see if debris burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit and follow all local air quality restrictions

6 Emergency Water Supply

- ❑ Maintain an emergency water supply that meets fire department standards through one of the following:
 - a community water/hydrant system
 - a cooperative emergency storage tank with neighbors
 - a minimum storage supply of 2,500 gallon on your property (like a pond or pool)
- ❑ Clearly mark all emergency water sources
- ❑ Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source
- ❑ If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during a power failure

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

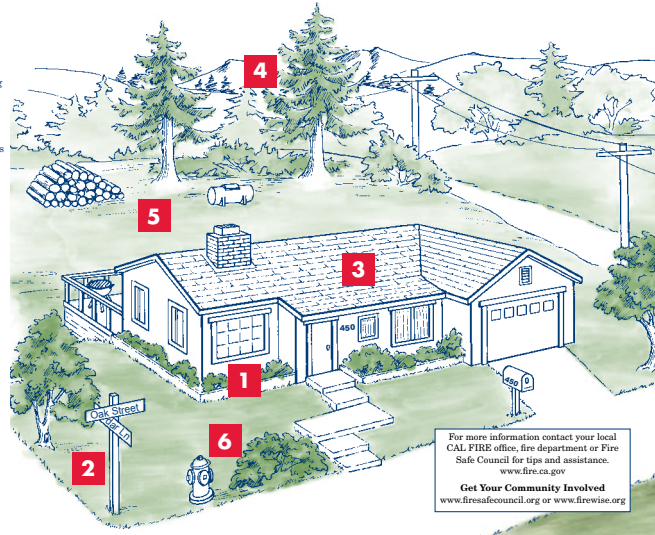
Homeowners Checklist



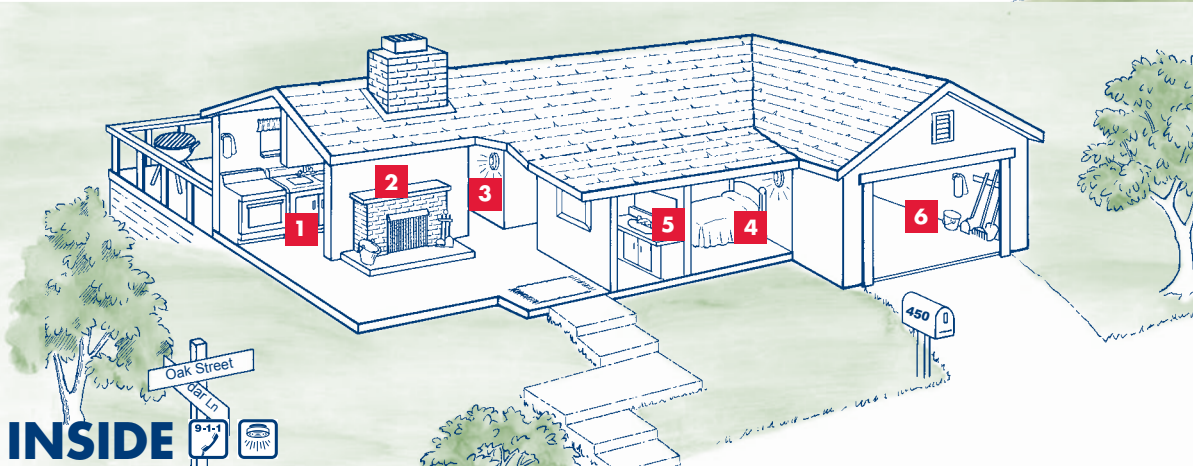
How To Make Your Home Fire Safe



www.fire.ca.gov



For more information contact your local CAL FIRE office, fire department or Fire Safe Council for tips and assistance.
www.fire.ca.gov
Get Your Community Involved
www.firecouncil.org or www.firewise.org



INSIDE

1 Kitchen

- ❑ Keep a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen
- ❑ Maintain electric and gas stoves in good operating condition
- ❑ Keep baking soda on hand to extinguish stove-top grease fires
- ❑ Turn the handles of pots and pans away from the front of the stove
- ❑ Install curtains and towel holders away from stoveburners
- ❑ Store matches and lighters out of reach of children
- ❑ Make sure that electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads

2 Living Room

- ❑ Install a screen in front of fireplace or wood stove
- ❑ Store the ashes from your fireplace (and barbecue) in a metal container and dispose of only when cold
- ❑ Clean fireplace chimneys and flues at least once a year

3 Hallway

- ❑ Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas
- ❑ Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year, when clocks are changed in the spring and fall
- ❑ Replace electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections, or are frayed

4 Bedroom

- ❑ If you sleep with the door closed, install a smoke detector in the bedroom
- ❑ Turn off electric blankets and other electrical appliances when not in use
- ❑ Do not smoke in bed
- ❑ If you have security bars on your windows or doors, be sure they have an approved quick release mechanism so you and your family can get out in the event of a fire

5 Bathroom

- ❑ Disconnect appliances such as curling irons and hair dryers when done; store in a safe location until cool
- ❑ Keep items such as towels away from wall and floor heaters

6 Garage

- ❑ Mount a working fire extinguisher in the garage
- ❑ Have tools such as a shovel, hose, rake and bucket available for use in a wildfire emergency
- ❑ Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage
- ❑ Dispose of oily rags in Underwriters Laboratories approved metal containers
- ❑ Store all combustibles away from ignition sources such as water heaters
- ❑ Disconnect electrical tools and appliances when not in use
- ❑ Allow hot tools such as glue guns and soldering irons to cool before storing
- ❑ Properly store flammable liquids in approved containers and away from ignition sources such as pilot lights

*Disaster Preparedness

- ❑ Maintain at least a three-day supply of drinking water, and food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking
- ❑ Maintain a portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, lanterns and batteries
- ❑ Outdoor cooking appliances such as barbecues should never be taken indoors for use as heaters
- ❑ Maintain first aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives
- ❑ Keep a list of valuables to take with you in an emergency; if possible, store these valuables together
- ❑ For safety, securely attach all water heaters and furniture such as cabinets and bookshelves to walls
- ❑ Have a contingency plan to enable family members to contact each other. Establish a family/friend phone tree
- ❑ Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home
- ❑ Practice emergency exit drills in the house (EDITH) regularly
- ❑ Make sure that all family members understand how to STOP, DROP AND ROLL if their clothes should catch fire

Download this brochure:

www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/Homeowners-Checklist.pdf

Defensible Space

Use noncombustible materials such as gravel, brick, or concrete in this critical area adjacent to your home. Remove shrubs under trees, prune branches that overhang your roof, thin trees, and remove dead vegetation. Move trailers/RVs and storage sheds from area, or build defensible space around these items. Burning fencing can generate embers and cause direct flame contact to your home. Use noncombustible fences and gates.

ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

ZONE 2: 30–100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

Use Equipment Properly To Keep From Sparking A Wildfire

- Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.

Vertical Spacing

- Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical “fire ladder.”



Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.*



ONE LESS SPARK
ONE LESS WILDFIRE

*For more information on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG

TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

ZONE 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- 4 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 5 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- 6 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire

- 7 Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



VERTICAL SPACING

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."



HORIZONTAL SPACING

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

LINKS

- ❖ **CAL FIRE** - Defensible space and hardening your home
https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/calfire_ready_brochure_LINOweb.pdf
- ❖ **UC DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES** - Defensible Space
https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Wildfire_Preparation_-_Recovery/Landscaping/DefensibleSpace/

Infrastructure Hardening

Protecting Your Property from Wildfire

1. **Maintain Defensible Space** (see above)
2. **Reduce Siding Risks** - Maintain 6-inch ground-to-siding clearance, and consider noncombustible siding. Use multi-pane, tempered glass windows, and close them when a wildfire threatens.
3. **Reduce Roof Risks** - Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection for homes. Use 1/8-inch mesh to cover vents, and box-in open eaves to create a soffited eave. Regularly remove debris from your roof, since debris can be ignited by wind-blown embers. Keep debris out of gutters since debris can be ignited by wind-blown embers. If used, gutter covers should be noncombustible.
4. **Reduce Deck Risks** - At a minimum, use deck boards that comply with California requirements for new construction in wildfire-prone areas, remove combustibles under deck, and maintain effective defensible space.

LINKS

- ❖ **UC DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
 - Homeowner Wildfire Assessment
https://ucanr.edu/sites/cfro/Fire_Information_Toolkit/Homeowner/
 - Preparing Your Home
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Prepare/Building/>
- ❖ **DISASTERSAFETY.ORG** – Protect Your Home from Wildfire
<https://disastersafety.org/wildfire/protect-your-home-from-wildfire/>

HARDENING YOUR HOME

FLYING EMBERS CAN DESTROY HOMES UP TO A MILE AHEAD OF A WILDFIRE. PREPARE (HARDEN) YOUR HOME NOW BEFORE FIRE STARTS.

SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HARDEN YOUR HOME:

Roof: Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Homes with wood or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire.

Build your roof or re-roof with materials such as composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces to prevent embers from entering and starting a fire.

Vents: Vents on homes create openings for flying embers.

- Cover all vent openings with 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.
- Protect vents in eaves or cornices with baffles to block embers. (Mesh is not enough.)

Eaves and Soffits:

Eaves and soffits should be protected with ignition-resistant or non-combustible materials.

Windows: Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start fires inside. Single-paned and large windows are particularly at risk.

- Install dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass.
- Consider limiting the size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation.

Decks: Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition-resistant, non-combustible, or other approved materials.

- Remove all combustible items from underneath your deck.

Exterior Walls: Wood products such as boards, panels or shingles are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas.

- Build or remodel your walls with ignition-resistant building materials, such as stucco, fiber or cement siding, fire-retardant-treated wood, or other approved materials.
- Be sure to extend materials from the foundation to the roof.

Rain Gutters: Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

Patio Cover: Use the same ignition-resistant materials for patio covers as a roof.

Fences: Consider using ignition-resistant or non-combustible fence materials to protect your home during a wildfire.

Additional Home Fire Safety Steps:

Go to ReadyForWildfire.org/hardening for more important information on the following:

- Driveways and Access Road Information
- Address Visibility
- Equipment Use Safety
- Garage Safety
- Water Supply Access
- Ignition-Resistant Materials

Landscaping

Landscaping can help create a defensible space when using high moisture and low flammability plants. This can also include drought tolerant and plants with low sap/resin.

Some considerations are:

Create space between buildings, roofs, decks and powerlines

- Clear all flammable vegetation from within 10 feet of touching any structures and propane tanks
- Use rock mulches and hard surfaces to create a noncombustible area at least 5 feet wide around the base of the house
- Remove limbs that are within 10 feet of the chimney or touching the house or deck

Remove limbs that are within 6 feet of touching the roof or powerlines

- Design with fire in mind in the 30-70 feet surrounding the home
- Do not use wood or plastic mulches
- Low growing plants are better than taller plants (less than 2 feet tall)
- Green, herbaceous, moist broadleaf plants are better than shrubs and trees
- Deciduous is better than evergreen
- Space shrubs and trees by a distance of one to two times their height, be watchful of vertical and horizontal spacing up to 100 feet around the home

Be mindful of maintenance

- Keep up with garden and vegetation surrounding home on a regular basis, including dead-head, prune, rake and maintain vertical gaps
- Keep grasses mowed and clear any dead grass within at least 70 feet of home
- Remove any ignitable litter, trash, and wood within 70 feet
- Control unwanted plants and weeds
- Remove dead and diseased plants

LINKS

❖ UC DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Preparing Your Landscape

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Prepare/Landscaping/>

- Fire Preparation Throughout the Year

https://ucanr.edu/sites/SAFElandscapes/Fire_preparation_throughout_the_year/

❖ California Native Plant Society FIRE RECOVERY GUIDE

<https://www.cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CNPS-fire-recovery-guide-LR-040618.pdf>

AFTER THE FIRE

Before entering a home or property that has burned, check with local fire officials for clearance to go in. Hazards on the property may include hotspots, unstable structures, trees, and power lines, landslides, mudslides, and toxic ash and debris. Vegetation ash is not toxic, but ash from human made materials may contain asbestos, heavy metals, or other hazardous substances.

LINKS

- ❖ **US FIRE Administration + FEMA | After the Fire**
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_46.pdf
Spanish
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_46s.pdf
- ❖ **CAL FIRE Ready For Wildfire | Returning Home After a Wildfire**
http://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/CALFIRE_ReturningHomeAfterAFire_Revised.pdf
- ❖ **California Department of Food and Agriculture | Wildfire Recovery Resources**
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/firerecovery/>

Erosion Control & Restoration

Channel water and debris away from your home and property, but not onto neighboring property. Don't try and dam water and prevent the flow, but evaluate the natural flow patterns on the landscape. Ditches can be dug for larger than usual flows and sandbags can be used to build small embankments to guide flows.

Slow It, Spread It, Sink It

- Slowing down the water movement across your property will also slow down soil movement. Different erosion control measures, such as wood chips, straw wattles, and silt fencing, can slow runoff.

- Allow the water to spread across the soil. Wattles, mulch, rocks and branches can slow water down to spread and sink into the ground.
- Keep culverts, gutters, infiltration and detention basins clear to allow drainage. Slowing the water and reducing the volume of runoff in the culverts and drains will help to prevent soil erosion. Water can be diverted to storm drain system by diversion ditches, staked boards, landscaping, etc.

Erosion Reduction Measures

- Concrete barrier wall
- Contour sandbags
- Dike
- Diversion
- Erosion control mats
- Hand raking
- Hazard tree removal
- Hillside home drainage
- Hydromulching
- Log erosion barriers
- Sandbag barrier

Details on the above measures can be found at:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcseprd1289661>

- Try to use only seed-free material, like chipped mulch from known sources, hydro mulch without seed or certified weed-free straw.

Revegetation

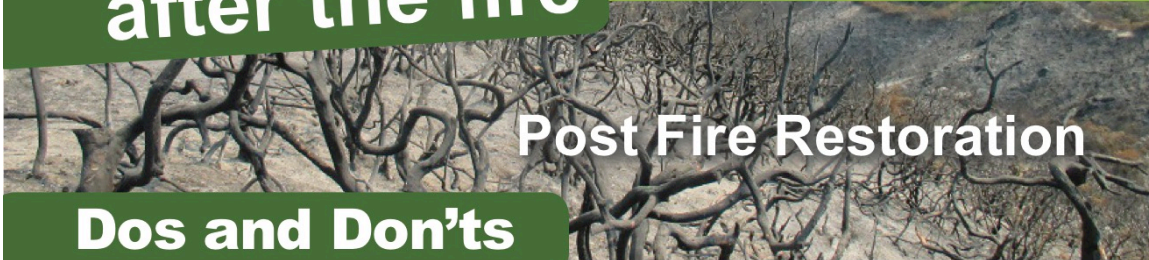
- Seeding and revegetation after the fire is usually not effective. Seeds can introduce unwanted weeds and flammable invasive grasses. Even “native” grasses and seed mixes can be short lived and create a fire hazard over time. If you do seed, use locally sourced native perennial plants.

- Burned areas are prone to invasion by non-native weeds. Control of invasive plants is the most important action that can be taken to promote recovery.
- In the long term, fire-adapted native plants will often recover within the first few months to few years after a fire, even if they look scorched. If trees on your property were scorched, try to wait as long as possible to see if they will recover – only remove burnt trees that pose an immediate hazard. Even if they do not recover, dead snags can provide important habitat for animals that have lost their homes to fire.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

after the fire



Post Fire Restoration

Dos and Don'ts

DO: Consult with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and your local Resource Conservation District (RCD) and/or a private land restoration consultant before starting any landscape, slope or soil restoration effort on areas damaged by wild fire.

DO: Gather as much information as possible from Cal Fire, U.S. Forest Service, local fire district officials, Fire Safe Councils, NRCS, RCD, and/or local fire restoration consultants regarding reducing fire hazard and making your property fire safe when planning your property restoration.

DO: Evaluate and map out locations of existing and/or pre-fire subsurface drainage, irrigation and utility facilities on your property, including under-ground pipe drains and outlets; roof runoff/gutter drain outlets; culverts; irrigation systems; utilities, etc. Determine if still operable and/or degree of damage, if any.

Note: Many underground plastic drains and irrigation lines may have melted or otherwise been destroyed in the fire or by fire-fighting equipment.

DO: Install sediment control measures, such as straw wattles, mulching, plantings, slash, sediment traps and/or other properly designed and located sediment control measures, if necessary, and as directed by NRCS, RCD or other resource restoration specialist, such as a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC).

Note: Sediment control measures will help to prevent eroded and displaced soil from entering streams, roadside ditches and waterways, and help protect water quality and water supplies. Consult with licensed landscape contractors or other licensed contractors with erosion and sediment control experience for design and installation assistance.

DO: Coordinate and plan restoration efforts with neighbors and/or road and neighborhood associations.

DO: Re-plant damaged landscapes with drought tolerant, fire retardant native plants with re-sprouting ability. Use planting stock and/or seed that are native to the area and is from a locally collected source. Consult with NRCS/RCD for a list of plants to consider.

DO: Obtain any necessary permits before cutting down trees, performing any major land grading activity, building any retaining wall, constructing a permanent sediment or erosion control structure, or doing any work in a riparian area, wetland, stream course or other natural area.

Note: Permits and/or consultations may be needed from your county office, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service.

DO: Monitor and maintain fire and fuel breaks that may have been created by fire fighters on your property. Water bars/breaks should be provided and maintained on these fire control measures so that runoff water does not concentrate and cause erosion. Consult with CalFire regarding maintenance assistance of fire and fuel breaks constructed by fire fighters on your property during the Fire.

DO: Monitor and maintain all existing and planned erosion, sediment, and drainage control measures, including vegetative treatments, before during and after all future rainfall events. Correct deficiencies as soon as possible.

Note: One of the main reasons why recommended treatment practices fail following installation is the lack of long term maintenance by the landowner or responsible party.

DO: Hire and/or consult with licensed contractors, preferably ones that are certified and/or experience in soil erosion and sediment control, for design and installation assistance of vegetative and structural measures needed to restore slopes, soils, proper drainage conditions and landscape.

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DON'T

DON'T: Be too quick to remove fire damaged vegetation, including trees that were not completely burned. Many of the damaged and scorched native plants will re-sprout and come back, including oak trees that were severely burned.

Note: Consider pruning first before removing the entire plant.

DON'T: Place loose debris, pruning's, discarded fire-damaged vegetation in gullies, drainage swales or watercourses, over stream banks, etc. in an attempt to protect bare soil without first consulting with NRCS. Piles of brush will prevent plants from reestablishing under dense brush piles and may dislodge if in contact with concentrated runoff or stream flows causing other problems.

Note: Removed brush can sometimes be used as mulch if chipped or spread thinly over the critical soil areas.

DON'T: Plant Erosion Control Seed Mixes. These mixes are likely to contain non-native mix of grasses and legumes or California natives that are indigenous to other areas of the state and/or are not intended for wild land or fire damaged soil/slope restoration. Don't plant other non-native, invasive plants or grasses, such as annual ryegrass as well.

Note: In some situations bare and disturbed soil and slopes can be re-seeded/re-planted with native grasses and plants but only if the seed and plant materials are from local known sources and indigenous to the area that needs treatment. Other native grasses and plants may discourage local natives from reestablishing on their own, and/or compete with, and/or slow down native re-establishment. If white ash is present, then resident seed from pre-existing native plants may no longer exist. White ash is an indicator that the fire burned very hot. Any resident seed bank in the soil was likely killed during the fire in these white ash areas. Re-seeding these areas to native grasses and/or re-planting with native plants of the same genotype, according to a re-vegetation plan developed by an experienced fire ecologist/native plant specialist, may be a good idea.

DON'T: Use materials such as broken asphalt or concrete, inorganic debris or other objects as an emergency or permanent erosion control measure, especially if these materials can come in contact with runoff water, natural drainages and stream courses.

Note: In some cases, rock and broken concrete can be used as velocity dissipaters and placed at the outlets of road culverts or other drains to protect the soil from erosion and washout, provided these dissipaters are designed by an appropriate professional.

DON'T: Cover fire damaged slopes with plastic sheeting in an attempt to prevent slope failure and protect bare or disturbed soil from next year's rainfall. Plastic sheeting will: increase runoff and the likelihood of erosion; retain moisture in the ground increasing the possibility of slope saturation and instability; and kills root systems of native plants trying to re-establish naturally. Plastic sheeting is almost always the wrong thing to do.

Note: Depending on site conditions, an alternative to plastic sheeting might be the use of hydro-mulch, a proper application of rice straw, or an erosion control blanket if recommended by a Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) or geotechnical consultant.

DON'T: Control and concentrate future property drainage and runoff without a proper drainage control design that considers proper drainage facility sizing, location, and dispersion method. Whenever possible keep surface runoff in natural "sheet" flow and incorporate practices such as vegetative cover to slow runoff and improve the water infiltration capacity of the soil.

Note: Consult with NRCS/RCD for general planning information on controlling drainage around your home and property before proceeding with drainage repairs and improvements following fire damage. For design and installation assistance contact a landscape contractor experienced in erosion and drainage control.

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DON'T: Use straw bales (in whole bale form) as water diversion and detention devices or for sediment control in burn areas. Contrary to popular belief and use these devices require a great deal of maintenance and are not right for most situations. Their design, location, and installation should only be done by a qualified contractor certified in erosion and sediment control. Straw wattles and loose straw that is simply spread over bare and disturbed soil is much more effective in protecting soil than keeping it in bale form.

Note: Rice or weed-free straw should only be used to prevent the possibility of nonnative grasses and weeds, contained in straw bales, from colonizing treatment areas.

DON'T: Disturb the hydrophobic soil layer that forms on some soils following fire on slopes susceptible to land sliding. Hydrophobicity is a natural phenomenon that actually gives the soil a water repellent ability that reduces infiltration and the capacity of the soil to hold water. The hydrophobic layer is normally found within 6 inches of the surface. In other areas, it may be advisable to break up this layer to aid in plant establishment and water infiltration lessening the impacts of runoff and erosion. For more information on soil hydrophobicity and/or an on-site soil evaluation and site assessment contact NRCS.



DO: Have an on-site assessment of fire damage done to your property by NRCS or another qualified fire restoration specialist that is certified in soil erosion and sediment control.

DON'T: Disturb potentially unstable slopes, especially those in fault areas and/or with signs of previous movement or known historic instability. Disturbances such as grading, cutting, removing trees root wads or other deep excavations will increase the likelihood of future slope failure.

Note: If these slope alternations are absolutely necessary, then consult with a registered geologist or geo-technical expert before slope disturbance/restoration activity.

DON'T: Do anything. This may be the best solution on some properties. Doing nothing will allow nature and time to heal soil and vegetation damage naturally, especially in wild land and other natural areas. In fact, tampering with natural processes may very well delay natural recovery and re-establishment of pre-existing native cover.

DON'T: Do what your neighbor is doing. Every situation is unique whether or not the neighbor had expert advice or not before installing temporary or permanent land and water protection measures. Your property is different in many regards including soil type, slopes, drainage conditions, type and condition of plant cover, degree of fire damage, etc. Get expert advice and a site damage assessment, including treatment recommendations, from NRCS before proceeding with your property restoration efforts.

Note: Practices such as sandbags, plastic, straw bale basins and check dams, etc. are all temporary and require a great deal maintenance. Furthermore, they are not right for every situation and can actually make problems worse or create new ones.

DON'T: Wait until the last minute to plan, design and install erosion, sediment or drainage control practices that may be necessary to safeguard your home and property before next winter.

Note: The nature and extent of your restoration effort will depend on the degree of damage; time needed to get a site assessment; acquiring an appropriate plan and design; securing any necessary permits; lining up a contractor and doing the work.

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NRCS is a non-regulatory federal agency under the U. S. Department of Agriculture whose mission is to “Help People Help the Land.” The agency was formed more than 80 years ago with the help of landowners. Additionally, all information provided or resource data collected on private properties by NRCS is kept confidential and only shared with the property owner or legal agent unless NRCS has written permission, by the property owner, to release the information to others.



Contact Information

Santa Barbara County
Emma Chow
District Conservationist
805-928-9269 x 9926
Emma.Chow@usda.gov

Ventura County
Dawn Afman
District Conservationist
805-984-2358 x 101
Dawn.Afman@ca.usda.gov

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after the fire

Post Fire Restoration

Preparing for Winter Following Fire in Vineyards, Orchards, and Rangelands

The sound of falling rain this winter may take on a whole new meaning for those who either suffered property damage from wildfires or who live directly downstream of fire damaged watersheds.

If you have an existing Napa County-approved Erosion Control Plan (ECP) for your vineyard, a Sonoma County-approved Vineyard and Orchard Site Development Ordinance (VESCO) permit for your orchard or vineyard, or a Ranch Water Quality Plan (RWQP) for your grazed land in the Sonoma Creek or Napa River watershed, follow it. Further guidance may be found in Sonoma County's Best Management Practices for Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control and the Napa County Code (Chapter 18.108, Conservation Regulations).

10 Basic Rules

If you don't have one of the above plans and/or are concerned about the possibility of erosion, mudslides, flooding, or other winter storm impacts following fire, then these 10 Basic Rules may help you prepare your property and family for future winter storm runoff.

1. **Cover disturbed areas.** Protect remaining plant cover. Spread mulch (straw, wood chips, etc.) and establish vegetation by seeding bare or disturbed soils before winter rains, especially around buildings, structures, firebreaks, and access roads and driveways. Seed mixtures should either be native or, if non-native, should be non-invasive species. Note: seeding and mulching is generally not recommended in rangeland and wildland areas.
2. **Prevent soil disturbance.** Minimize travel on, and tillage of, burned areas during the rainy

season. Slopes are less stable, and soils are more erodible, when vegetation is burned, soil has been impacted by heat, and when soil becomes saturated.

3. **Evaluate roads and drainage facilities.** Look for damage on earthen and gravel roads, firebreaks, culverts, and stream crossings. Runoff control treatments, including armored outlets, may be needed to protect downslope areas from erosion, slope failure, and flood hazards. Use the "4-D formula" to:
 - a. **Decrease** volumes and/or velocity of runoff by providing energy dissipation (rock or other armoring) at culvert and drain outlets and dividing large flows from roofs and landscapes into smaller, less erosive forms.
 - b. **Detain** or collect runoff and either release it over time or store it for later use to lessen impact on saturated soils and slopes during large storms.
 - c. **Dissipate** runoff where ever concentrated flows come in contact with bare soil and/or steep slopes by installing practices that spread runoff (grass, mulch, rock aprons, etc.) and reduce soil erosion and runoff volume. Extend culverts to a safer discharge location or install velocity dissipaters at culvert and drain outlets if they have been denuded by fire.
 - d. **Divert** runoff as a last resort and do so with extreme caution. It may be helpful to re-route runoff and drainage away from unstable slopes, eroded areas, or unprotected soils.

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4. **Monitor and maintain existing measures.** Check existing erosion and sediment control structures and treatments (including vegetative cover) before and throughout the rainy season. Correct deficiencies as soon as possible. Leaf litter may clog roof, driveway, and surface drainage systems because of the fire and heat damage done to evergreen vegetation. Properly designed and installed trash racks, debris barriers, gutter guards, and other devices will reduce maintenance and allow home and property drainage systems to function properly.
5. **Use caution with emergency treatments.** Use caution when employing sand bags, brush and slash, plastic sheeting, and hand-dug drainage ditches, or don't use them at all without professional guidance. For example, covering slopes with plastic sheeting can speed up rainfall runoff and dumping brush into gullies may clog downstream drainage structures. An improperly designed or placed emergency practice can be worse than not doing anything at all, adding new hazards and a false sense of security.
6. **Treat high hazard, fire damaged trees.** Prune or remove trees that may fall onto people, animals, structures, or roadways before winter storms. Note: don't remove healthy or slightly damaged trees unnecessarily. Healthy tree root systems still hold soil and slopes in place and the tree canopy protects soil from the impact of falling raindrops while reducing winter runoff. Consult Cal Fire and/or a Registered Professional Forester for assistance.
7. **Consider debris barriers below rocky slopes.** There is an increased threat of falling rocks from steep slopes and shallow, rocky soils in affected watersheds. Debris barriers are effective for catching smaller rocks, but larger rocks will require more substantial measures. If there is a threat of large rocks releasing from slopes on your property or adjacent properties, then seek professional assistance. Contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or your local Resource Conservation District (RCD).
8. **Seek professional assistance.** For the design and installation of any temporary or permanent practices to control runoff and/or prevent erosion, services from NRCS and RCDs are here for you. www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov.
9. **Work with neighbors.** Permanent solutions for drainage and runoff issues may be better with the cooperation of neighboring landowners since runoff rarely follows property boundaries. You may be liable for both controlled and uncontrolled releases of collected runoff on to downslope properties if you do not consider potential off-site impacts.
10. **Be prepared with an evacuation plan.** Don't stay if it becomes unsafe to do so. Prepare a property and neighborhood evacuation plan and an emergency plan for pets and livestock. Stockpile emergency supplies including sandbags, straw mulch, etc. Pay close attention to weather forecasts, flash flood and storm warnings, and creek water levels throughout the winter. Evacuation plans should include at least one alternative escape route and a list of emergency phone numbers, including those of neighbors.

Roadblocks, flooding, gullies and streambank erosion are often worse in the first winter following fire. Sediment levels in creeks and waterways are expected to rise, reducing channel flow capacities and increasing the likelihood of flooding on properties and downstream. Note: do not attempt to drive through flowing water or mud on roads.

Some signs of impending danger from debris flows, landslides, severe erosion, and/or imminent flooding include: an intense storm event (1" to 2" per hour) especially following recent rainfall; water flowing over the landscape where it hadn't appeared in previous winters; leaning or falling trees; tension cracks along the top edge of slopes and along driveways and roads; seeps and increased spring activity in slopes; severely disturbed and unprotected slopes caused by firefighting work or from recent removal of fire damaged trees or other stabilizing vegetation.

For more information, helpful publications, erosion control plant lists for fire-prone areas, drainage control and road maintenance guides, or other natural resource information for your property, contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or your local Resource Conservation District.

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LINKS

- ❖ **Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program**
Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! A Homeowner’s & Landowner’s Guide to Beneficial Stormwater Management
<http://www.ssrcd.org/pdf/Slowit.Spreadit.Sinkit.vfinal.pdf>

- ❖ **NRCS Post-Fire Disaster Publications**
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcseprd1289661>

- ❖ **UC Agriculture and Natural Resources**
 - Sustainable and Fire Safe Landscapes - Winter
https://ucanr.edu/sites/SAFElandscapes/Fire_preparation_throughout_the_year/Winter/

 - UC Agriculture and Natural Resources – Wildfire Resources
<http://www.wildfirezone.org/>

- ❖ **California Native Plant Society Fire Recovery Guide**
<https://www.cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CNPS-fire-recovery-guide-LR-040618.pdf>

Sandbag Information

- ❖ **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**
Flood Control & Water Conservation District
805-568-3440

Sand bags are not pre-filled and persons are limited to 25 bags. Please call locations for current availability:

Santa Barbara Flood Control Shop
4568 County Road (off Calle Real)
Santa Barbara
805-568-3440

Santa Maria Flood Control Shop
912 West Foster Road
Santa Maria
805-568-3440

Santa Barbara Fire Station #31
168 W Hwy 246
Buellton
805-686-5062

Sandbag Disposal

Sand from sandbags can be mixed with soil and used in landscaping or taken to a construction and demolition recycling plant. Bags can be reused or, if not usable, should be thrown in the trash.

❖ **CITY SAND AND BAG LOCATIONS**

Please contact cities for current availability or more information.

City of Buellton

805-688-5177

City of Carpinteria

805-684-5405 x-443

5775 Carpinteria Ave. (City Hall)

City of Goleta

Fire Station 11 805-681-5511
6901 Frey Way

Goleta Valley Community Center
805-967-1237

5679 Hollister Ave

Fire Station 14
805-681-5514
320 N. Los Carneros Road

24 hours, self-serve, bags and
sand included

City of Guadalupe

805-356-3905

Fire Station 2
918 Obispo Street

City of Lompoc

805-736-4513

Fire Station 1
115 S. G Street

City of Santa Barbara

805-564-5413
401 E. Yanonali Street

City of Santa Maria

805-925-0951
Sand only at all locations
no bags

City Public Works Yard
830 W. Cypress
8AM- 4PM M-F except holidays

Suey Crossing (at all times)

2000 Block of Western
in cul-de-sac (at all times)

West Carmen Lane just West of
Depot Street (at all times)

San Ysidro Street West of Miller
Street (at all times)

City of Solvang

805-688-5575
1745 Mission Dr. (Veteran's Hall)

Montecito Fire Protection District

805-969-7762
Lower Manning Park
449 San Ysidro Road

Santa Ynez Community Services District

805-688-3008
Bags and sand available
1070 Faraday Street