

Fire-Rescue Department

Community Wildfire Preparedness

Resiliency Advisory Board

March 20, 2025



Staffing Levels

**52 Fire Stations are at full staffing
994 Firefighters (35 Recruits in 100th Academy)**

Constant Staffing

**53 Engines
13 Aerial Trucks
7 Battalion Chiefs (1 Shift Commander)
1 Helicopter (Additional Helicopter if
needed)
USAR, XRAY/UAS, Airport FS**

✓ Ability to Upstaff

**✓ 13 Brush Engines, 2 Light and Air, 2
Hazmat and 1 USAR**



2025 Weather Outlook

Rain 0.37" (Average 5.41")

**Working with Op Area and State to ensure
staffing models are increased when needed
Example Santa Ana Winds This Week**

Zone- Upstaffing

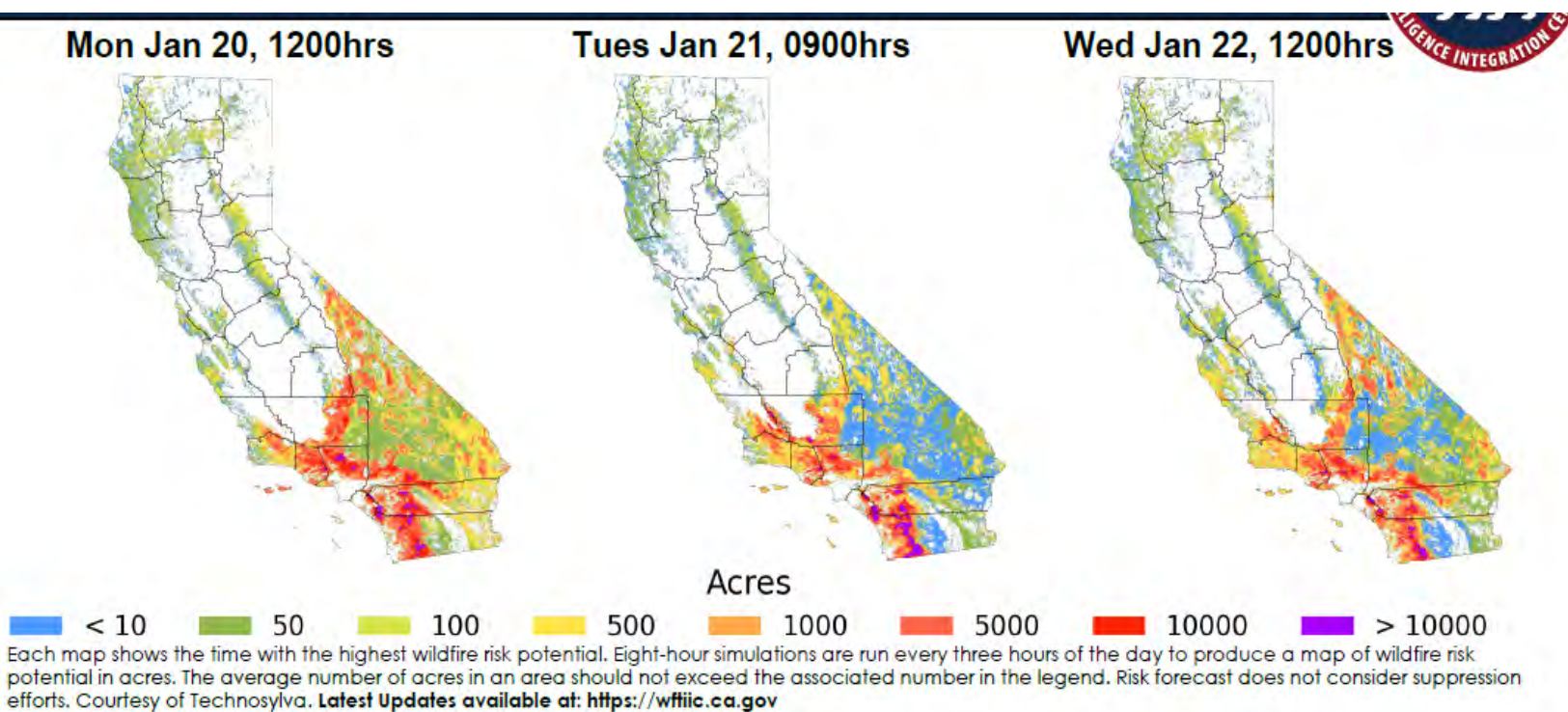
3- Strike Teams, 2 Water Tenders

Extra Dispatchers and Incident Management Team

Fire Size Potential

Simulations are run every three hours through the day and updated if conditions change

These are then cross-referenced with staffing, current fires, and immediate weather checks



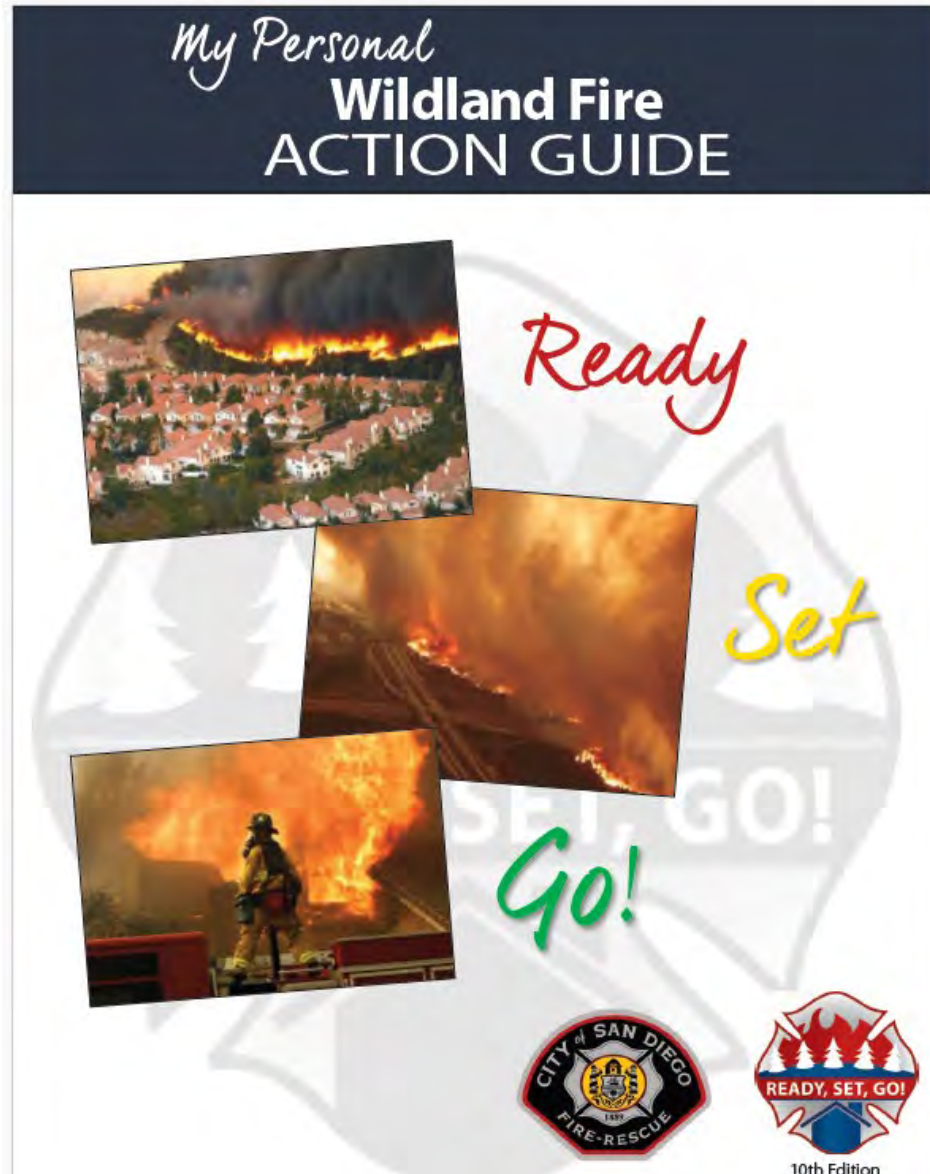
- **Robust preventative maintenance program.**
- **Most hydrant knockovers addressed same day.**
- **Strong ongoing communication between Fire-Rescue and Public Utilities.**



26,000 fire hydrants



- **Public fire protection is included in City of San Diego water rates.**
 - **Estimated direct cost: \$5.5 million per year.**
 - **Includes fire hydrants and associated infrastructure.**
- **Indirect costs: overall system to meet peak water demands in case of fires.**



Be Prepared Be Aware



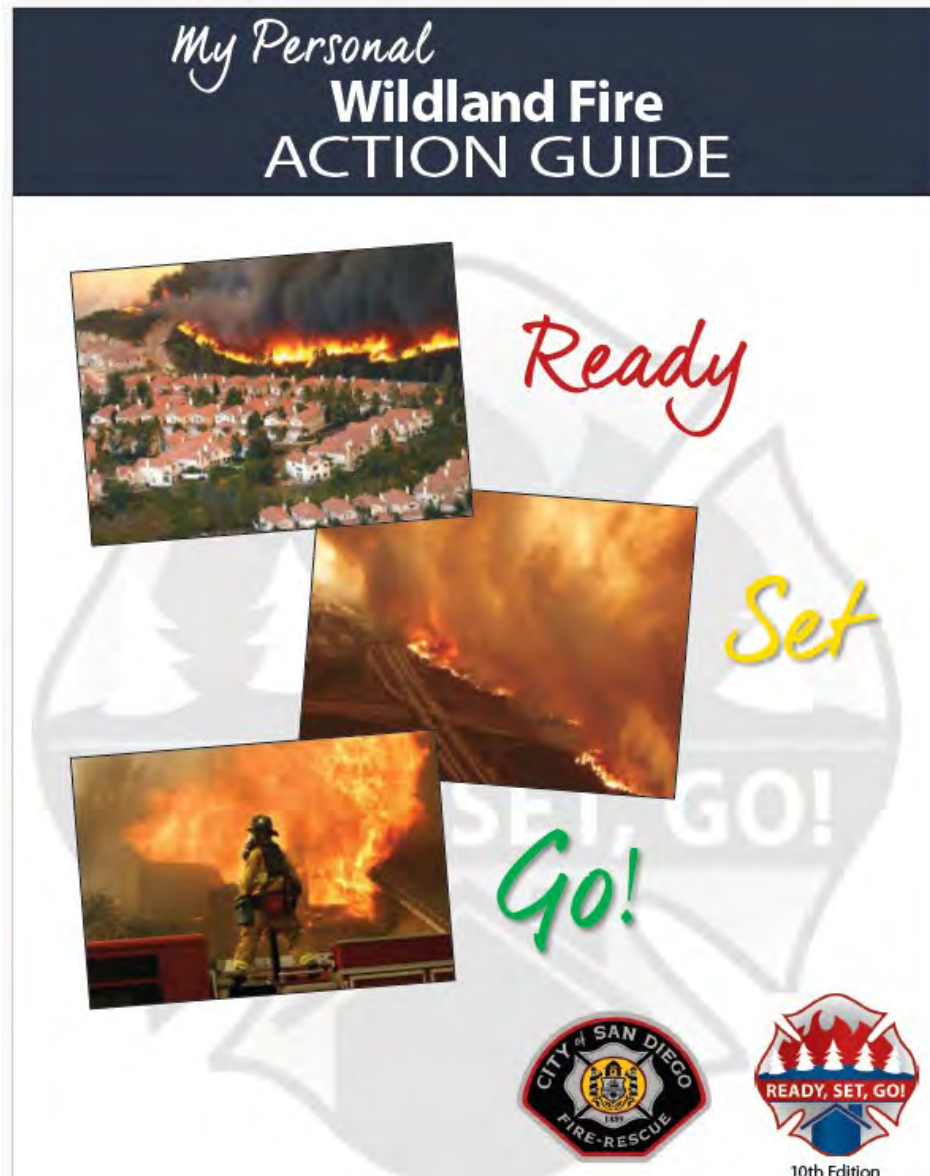
WATCH DUTY



ALERT
SAN DIEGO



<https://www.sandiego.gov/fire>





Guidance for Homeowners

San Diego Fire-Rescue Services

NEW Home Risk Assessment

Low-Cost Retrofits and Home Hardening Products

Guidance for Communities

Fire Safe Council and Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Emergency Response and Evacuation Resources

Red Flag Warnings and Emergency and Evacuation Notifications

Evacuation Planning

Emergency Response Resources

Guidance for Homeowners

San Diego Fire-Rescue Services

The San Diego Fire-Rescue Wildland Management and Enforcement section comprises of four programs: The **Weed Abatement and Brush Complaint Program**, **Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection Program**, **Proactive Door to Door Brush Management Program**, and the **Annual Weed Abatement Vacant Lot Program**.

- [Wildland Management and Enforcement Division](#)
- [Brush Management Guide](#) PDF

NEW Home Risk Assessment

Beginning July 1, 2025, SDFD will offer a Home Risk Assessment, an educational Defensible Space Inspection that provides homeowners valuable insight about the defensible space and the 0 - 5ft ember resistance zone. The goal of this personalized service is to educate homeowners about the purpose of defensible space while making your home defensible and ember resistant against wildfires. With this approach, we aim to make more homes defensible and insurable.

California Assembly Bill 3074 (AB 3074)

Low-Cost Retrofits and Home Hardening Products

- [OSFM Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) Products Handbook](#) PDF
- [OSFM Approved Inspection Agencies for Products Listed for WUI Areas](#) PDF

Guidance for Communities

Fire Safe Council and Community Wildfire Protection Plans

- [How to establish a Fire Safe Council in San Diego County](#)
- [How to create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)](#)
- [How to create a Firewise Community](#)
- [How to create a Fire Adaptive Community \(FAC\)](#)

Emergency Response and Evacuation Resources

Red Flag Warnings and Emergency and Evacuation Notifications

- [The Genasys Protect App](#) (For active fire status updates and evacuation order notifications)
 - [Genasys Protect FAQ](#)
- [Watch Duty App](#) (Alerts you of nearby wildfire and firefighting efforts in real-time)
- [Alert San Diego App](#) (Lets you plan for the unexpected in advance and create an emergency plan)
 - [Alert San Diego Disaster Preparedness](#)

Evacuation Planning

- [San Diego County Operational Area/Emergency Operations Plan \(Annex Q\)](#) PDF

Emergency Response Resources

- [San Diego County Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Operations \(Annex B\)](#) PDF
- [San Diego Office of Emergency Services](#)



Community Risk Reduction Division?

Education: An educated and well-trained workforce that teaches prevention and what to do in the event of a fire.

Engineering: Design and build structures that are safe from fire. Use the best building practices and the latest technology to resist or prevent great loss from fire and other emergencies.

Enforcement: While buildings are being designed and built, we ensure that the work is done in compliance with current codes and standards. Once construction is completed, fire and life safety codes should be followed and enforced

Economic Incentives: With a focus on safety and hazard reduction, issue penalties and fines for non-compliance to encourage behavioral change. Supporting tax incentives and grant opportunities to reduce fire protection, building, and insurance costs.

Emergency Response: Assessment of community risk through an analysis of emergency response resources and hazards. This process ensures we are making the best use of resources aimed at reducing the impact of incidents in our community. We will be better prepared to understand where and what types of resources we will need in the future

Empowerment: An environment of awareness and collaboration with our community to proactively reduce risk. Through outreach and information sharing, we can improve community relations and inspire a culture of safety. This is accomplished through sharing our collective progress, real-time data, and performance-based goals to address our community's specific needs.

Wildland Management and Enforcement Programs

1. Proactive

- Door to Door Defensible Space Inspections – Approx 46,000 canyon rim homes in VHFHSZ
- Vacant lot program – Fire Prevention Services
- Monitoring of the city's property requiring brush management

2. Complaints

- Approximately 1,500 annually

3. Requested Services

- Real Estate Defensible Space Inspections
- Home Risk Assessment(Coming Soon)





Wildland Management and Enforcement Programs

The screenshot shows the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department website. The header includes the department name and navigation links: Home, About SDFD, News Center, Safety Education, Services & Programs, Community Risk Reduction, Careers, and Contact SDFD. The main content area is titled "Wildland Management and Enforcement". It contains a paragraph about the section's four programs: Weed Abatement and Brush Complaint Program, Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection Program, Proactive Door to Door Brush Management Program, and the Annual Weed Abatement Vacant Lot Program. Below this, there are sections for "Weed Abatement and Brush Complaint Program" and "Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection Program". The Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection Program section includes a "NEW!" announcement about online payment and a "Submit an Application" button. A "Frequently Asked Questions" link is also visible.

Wildland Management and Enforcement

The San Diego Fire-Rescue Wildland Management and Enforcement section comprises of four programs: The [Weed Abatement and Brush Complaint Program](#), [Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection Program](#), [Proactive Door to Door Brush Management Program](#), and the [Annual Weed Abatement Vacant Lot Program](#). It is important that residents understand it is their responsibility to maintain their defensible space within 100 feet of habitable structures. The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department does not have the resources to conduct weed abatement on behalf of privately owned parcels within the City of San Diego.

Weed Abatement and Brush Complaint Program

The program is comprised of addressing complaints to reduce hazards in the wildland urban interface. To learn how to submit a brush complaint, please visit our [Citizen Complaint Inspections page](#) for detailed information and instructions.

Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection Program

NEW! We now accept **online payment** for a Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection. To request an inspection, please see the "Submit an Application" section below. **Please note: Payment must be submitted with your application for the inspection to be scheduled. Inspections will not be conducted without payment.**

The Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection went into effect as of July 1, 2021, when Assembly Bill 38 became California Civil Code 1102.19(a) established that when you sell property that is located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone you'll need documentation of a compliant defensible space inspection that complies with Section 4291 of the Public Resources Code or local vegetation management ordinances (SDMC 142.0412).

[Submit an Application](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Community Risk Reduction

- [Community Risk Reduction Home](#)
- [Citizen Complaint Inspections](#)
- [Codes & Regulations](#)
- [False Alarm Program](#)
- [Fire Protection Systems](#)
- [Forms](#)
- [Grant Funded Projects](#)
- [Inspection Services](#)
- [Knox Box Program](#)
- [Permit Applications](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Wildland Management and Enforcement](#)

Wildfire Preparedness

[Fire-Safe San Diego](#)

[Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones](#)

[Municipal Code](#)





Community Outreach

- **Education and Outreach Events at local community centers**
- **Participation in the Greater Fire Safe Council of San Diego County – CWPP development**
- **Free Home Risk Assessments for fire-safe councils**

Subdivision Review Program (AB 2911)

Identified Developments with:

1. More than 30 dwelling units
2. Located in a VHFHSZ
3. One way in/out
 - The Board of Forestry Provided recommendations to improve the safety of these communities.
 - <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/subdivision-review-program/>



Subdivision Review Program – Recommendations



Caminito Borde

22-XSD-6853

Part III: Recommendations

Access and Evacuation Recommendations (check all that apply):

- ☒ Create a secondary access to the subdivision.
- ☐ Make improvements to the existing secondary access to the subdivision.
- ☒ Install reflective addressing signs for structures and roads in conformance with 14 CCR § 1274.01, 1274.02, 1274.03, and 1274.04 and the California Fire code, California Code of Regulations, title 24, part 9.
- ☐ Install reflective evacuation route street signs directing residents from their local roads to the nearest collector road(s) and/or arterial highway(s) (see California Highway Design manual for definitions), based on the standards for emergency management signing in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- ☐ Where additional routes may exist, but with a gate that does not conform to the requirements in 14 CCR § 1273.09, recommend that gates (including private gates) remain unlocked during red flag warnings or high fire danger conditions.
- ☒ When side street parking narrows the road to a smaller width than the standards in 14 CCR § 1273.01, during red flag warnings or conditions of high fire danger, limit street parking so a wider pathway is available to support rapid evacuation.
- ☒ Conduct community-wide evacuations drills.
- ☒ Install reflective markers to indicate road edges or other areas of danger that might not be evident during periods of low visibility.

Comments:

Subdivision Review Program

- **SDFD amended Appendix D of CFC to prevent new at-risk-subdivisions from being developed.**
- **Requires second access road for single and multi-family developments located in VHFHSZ**

- (4) Local Addition. Appendix D, section D106.2.1, Multiple-Family Residential Developments with significant fire risk, is added as follows:

Residential developments of more than 30 dwelling units located in a state responsibility area (SRA) or a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads regardless of whether they are equipped with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

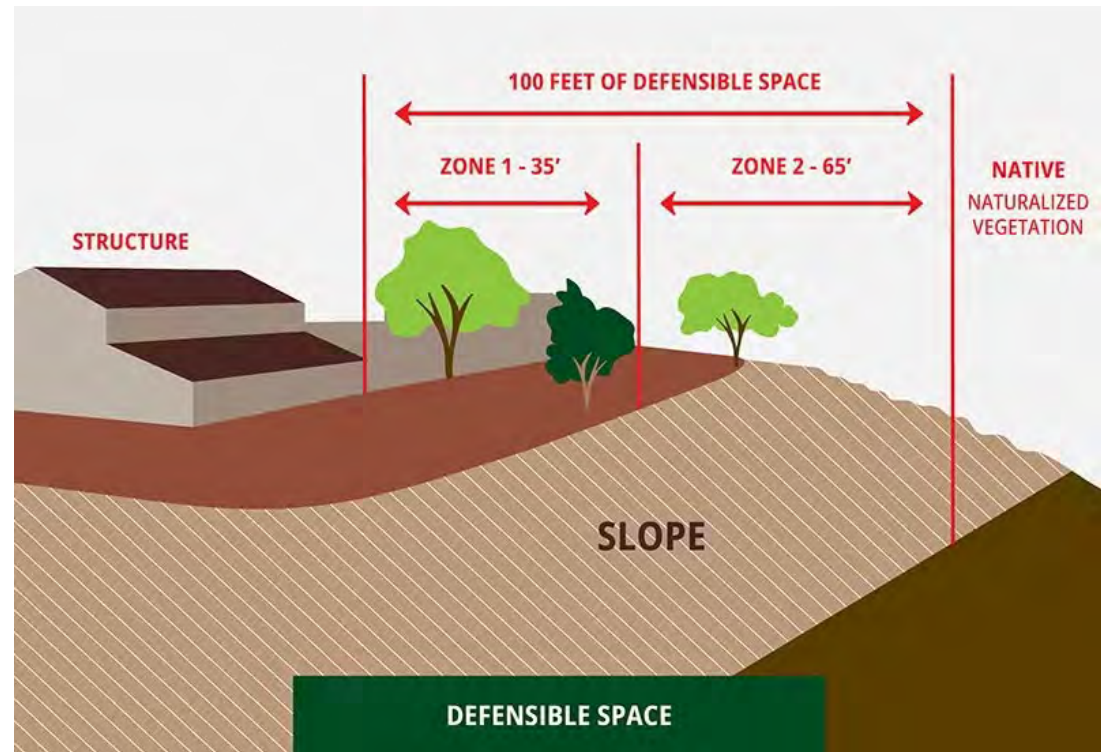
- (5) Adopted. Local Amendment. Section D107.1, One or two-family dwelling residential developments, is amended to read as follows: Developments of one or two-family dwellings where the number of dwelling units exceeds 30 shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.

Exceptions:

- (1) Where there are more than 30 dwelling units, not located in a state responsibility area (SRA) or a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, accessed from a single public or private fire apparatus access road and all dwelling units are equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3, access from two directions shall not be required.

Defensible Space Reviews for New Development

- SDFD reviews new construction projects in VHFHSZ that cannot achieve the required 100' of defensible space.
- Alternative mitigation strategies can be proposed including fire rated construction or 6' block wall to protect property.



What is Assembly Bill 3074 (AB 3074)?

AB 3074 (Fire prevention: wildfire risk: defensible space: ember-resistant zones) introduced “Zone Zero” as a five-foot ember resistant zone. When officially adopted by the State Fire Marshal, this law will require a five-foot ember resistant zone around structures located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) which includes a significant portion of the City of San Diego.

When does AB 3074 take effect?

AB 3074 became law on January 1, 2021; however, it has not yet been enforced. Enforcement will occur when the State Fire Marshal approves vegetation clearance requirements. This is anticipated in 2025. Full enforcement on existing structures will not be required until one year after the State Fire Marshal approves final requirements. Full enforcement on new construction will take effect immediately upon approval of final clearance requirements:

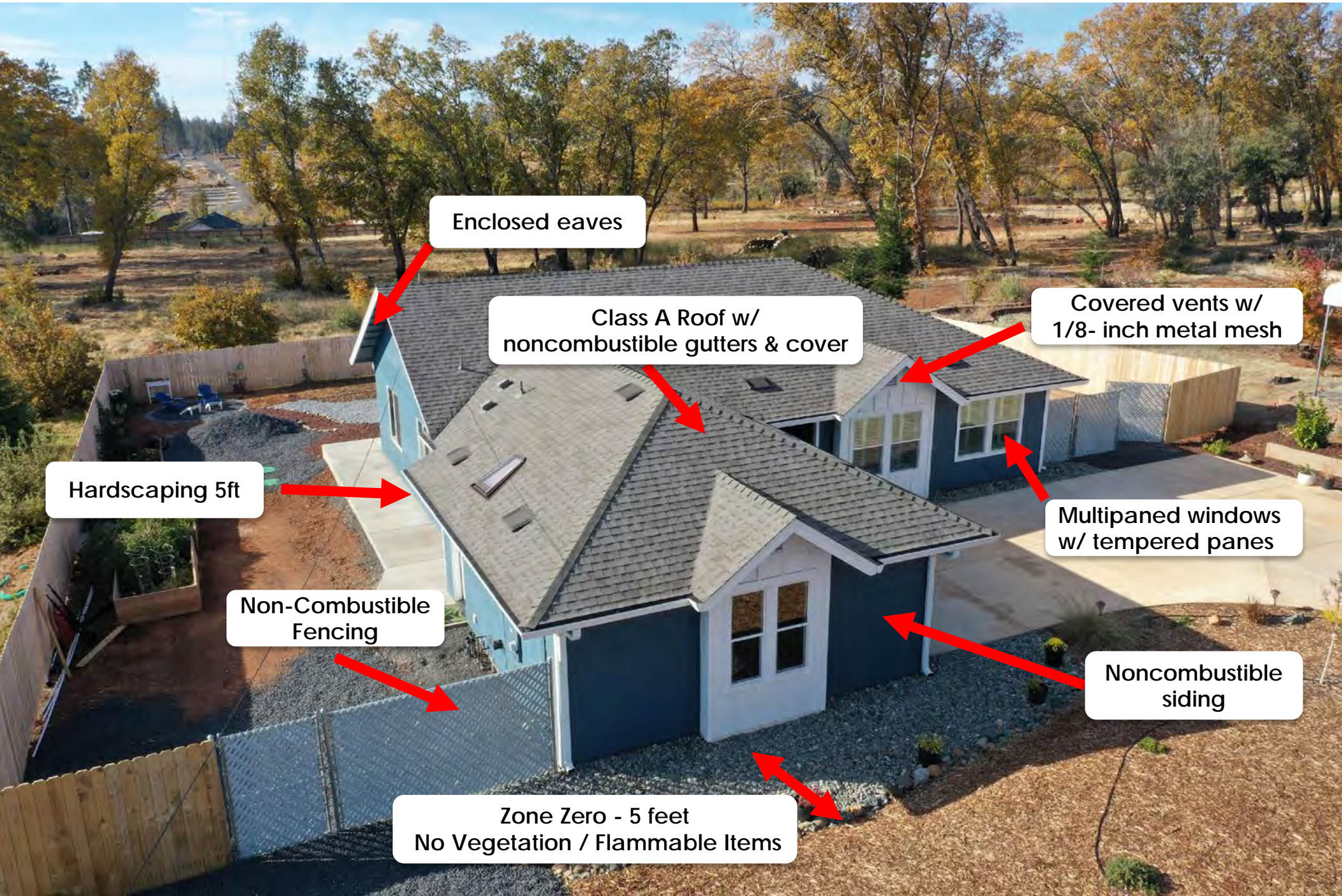
- Full enforcement on new construction anticipated to be in 2025
- Full enforcement on existing structures anticipated to be in 2026

Ready Create Defensible Space



Embers are burning pieces of airborne material that can be carried more than a mile by the wind. Research points to embers and small flames as the main ways homes ignite in wildland fires.





Enclosed eaves

Class A Roof w/
noncombustible gutters & cover

Covered vents w/
1/8- inch metal mesh

Hardscaping 5ft

Non-Combustible
Fencing

Multipaned windows
w/ tempered panes

Noncombustible
siding

Zone Zero - 5 feet
No Vegetation / Flammable Items

What is Assembly Bill 3074 (AB 3074)?



Coordination/Education – Sustainability and Mobility

- Worked with Sustainability and Mobility Traffic Engineers on updated street design guide section to ensure adequate emergency access
- Ensures adequate road widths to allow for effective emergency response and evacuation if necessary.

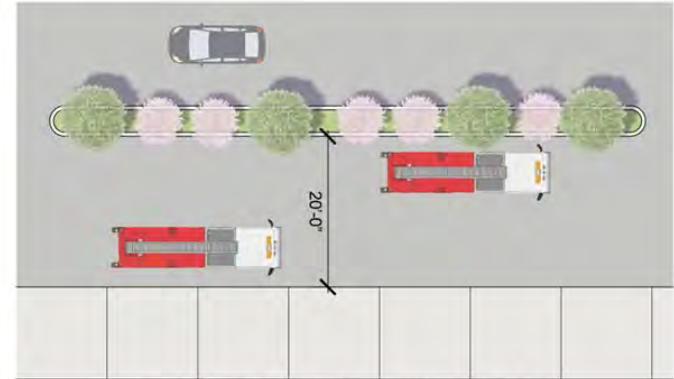


FIGURE 5-2 FIRE ACCESS UNOBSTRUCTED WIDTH OF 20 FT

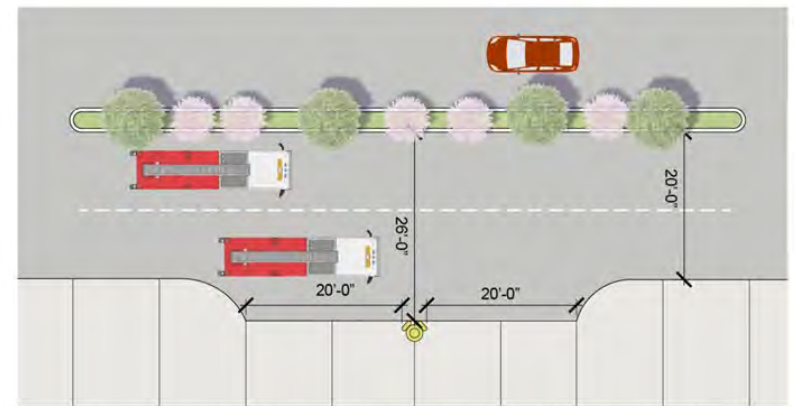


FIGURE 5-3 FIRE ACCESS UNOBSTRUCTED WIDTH OF 26 FT ADJACENT TO FIRE HYDRANT

Coordination/Education – Planning

SB 1409 – Gov 65302

- **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**
- **Safety Element**
 - **Evacuation routes**
 1. **Capacity**
 2. **Safety**
 3. **Viability**

**Multi-Jurisdictional
Hazard Mitigation Plan: City of San
Diego Annex**
San Diego County, California
2023



Coordination/Education – Planning



- **Worked with Planning Department on updating the Safety Element during the 2024 general plan update.**
- **Introduced OSFM Land Use Planning Liaison**
- **Review EIR's and Community Plan updates**
- **Ongoing discussions to improve coordination**

Grant Funded Projects

San Diego River Conservancy's Directed Grant Program \$366,949

- Emissions Free/Battery Powered equipment
- EPA Fuel Treatment for 46 acres of evacuation corridors
- HIZ/DSI Assessments, Zone-0, Home Hardening



HIZ/DSI Inspections



- San Diego Fire-Rescue HIZ/DSI Inspections.
- If you are interested in requesting a HIZ/DSI, please contact San Diego Fire/ Community Risk Reduction Division.
<https://www.sandiego.gov/fire/fireprevention>



Grant Funded Projects – Home Risk Assessment



HIZ/DSI Inspections



- San Diego Fire-Rescue HIZ/DSI Inspections.
- If you are interested in requesting a HIZ/DSI, please contact San Diego Fire/ Community Risk Reduction Division.
<https://www.sandiego.gov/fire/fireprevention>

Defensible Space 100ft

Zone 0

Home hardening guidance

IBHS Insurance

Grant Funded Projects – Home Risk Assessment

5. IMMEDIATE ZONE 0 – 5 FEET FROM STRUCTURE

Landscaped trees/vegetation	Trees/Vegetation needs attention	Flammable Containers
Propane tanks	Compliant	Vehicles




MITIGATION & MAINTENANCE

Landscaped trees/vegetation	Install 5 feet of hard groundcover material, base, steppingstones, or concrete. Remove mulch, within 5 feet of your home, and remove any lower limbs that can contact the structure.
Propane Tanks	Store propane tanks more than 5' from the structure. Keep propane away from home.
Flammable and Combustible Materials	Do not store anything combustible, such as cans, pet houses, or other combustible materials. Routine maintenance to ensure 5' buffer zone.
Vehicles	Do not park or store any vehicles, boats, or trailers. Ideally, vehicles and trailers should be parked away from the home.
Other Observations:	Keep an eye out for where the leaves are falling during fires. Keep these areas clear of debris.

San Diego Fire-Rescue | Community Risk Reduction
525 B St. #300 San Diego, CA 92101

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

[Community Tools - Wildfire Risk to Communities](#)
[Defensible Space, Home Hardening, etc.](#)
[Home Hardening \(FEMA\); Outdoor Fire Safety](#)
[Defensible Space](#)
[Firewise Landscaping](#)
[Water Catchment: Rebates & Incentives](#)
[Native Plants/Pollinator Habitat](#)
[Low Cost Home Hardening Retrofit Guide](#)
[Home Hardening](#)
[Home Hardening \(UCANR\)](#)
[Fact Sheets: Firewise USA - Research Fact Sheet Series \(nfpfa.org\)](#)

PROGRAM REFERRALS

[Defensible Space Assistance Program](#)
[Community Curbside Chipping Program](#)
[San Diego County Home Hardening Program](#)
[Sunrise Powerlink Mitigation Grants Program](#)
[American Red Cross Resources](#)

LOW-COST RETROFITS & HOME HARDENING PRODUCTS

[OSFM Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) Products Handbook](#)
[OSFM Approved Inspection Agencies for Products Listed for WUI Areas](#)

Playsets/Accessory Structures	Not observed
Tree Litter/Debris	Compliant
Dead Plant and Tree Material	Compliant

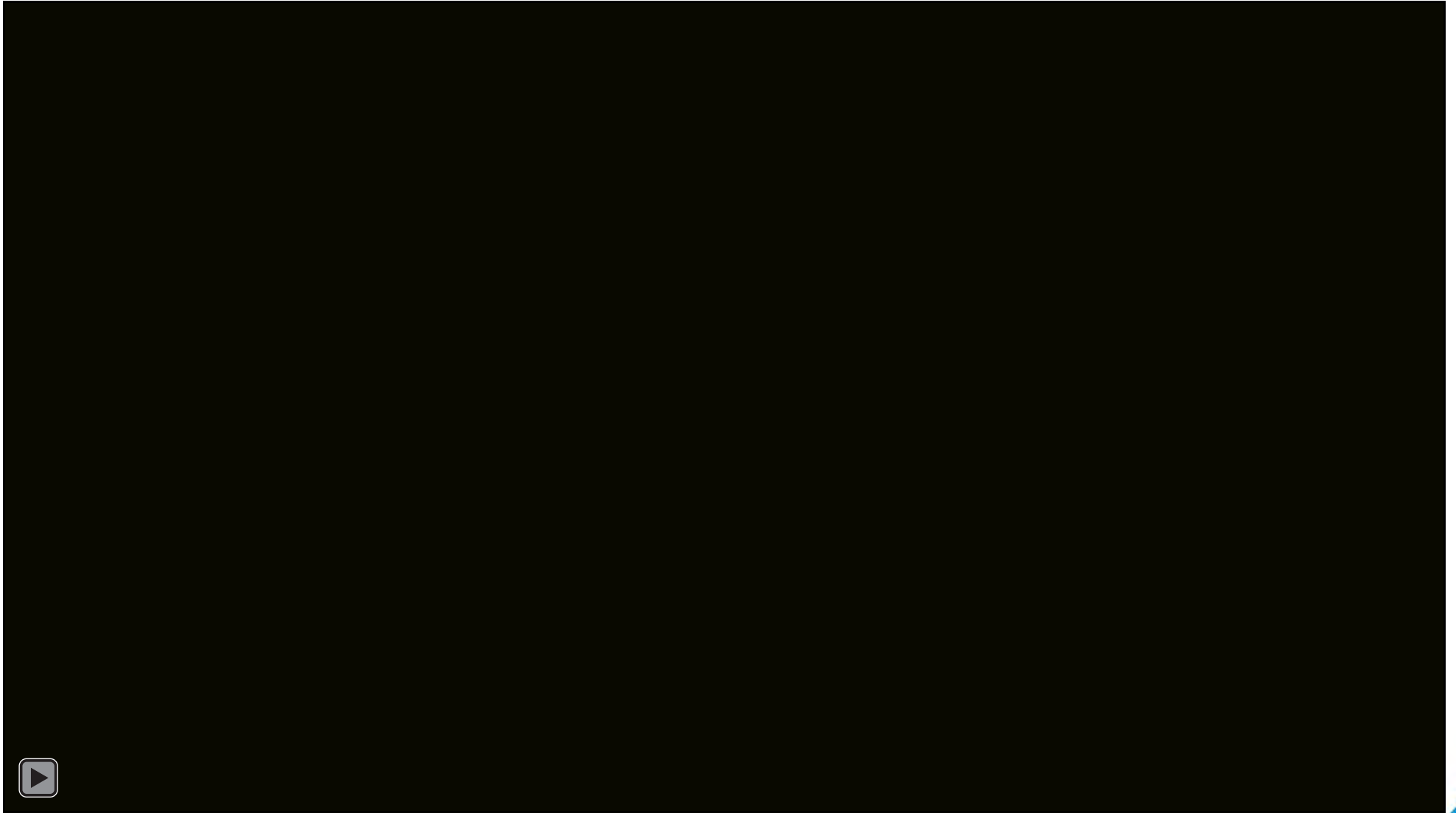
RISK RECOMMENDATIONS

Grass is no more than 4" high. Keep ground fuels limited to 4"
 Maintain them routinely by removing dead leaves, trimming
 reduce fire risk. Break vegetation into islands to disrupted
 by trimming tree branches and clearing tall grasses or shrubs
 ing lower branches.
 Pruning trees to ensure at least 10 feet of space
 oring trees
 as leaves and pine needles
 trees, and fallen branches to reduce fire risk and maintain a
 property
 -resistant plants. See links at the end of the report for more

Community Risk Reduction
San Diego, CA 92101



Grant Funded Projects- Citrotech

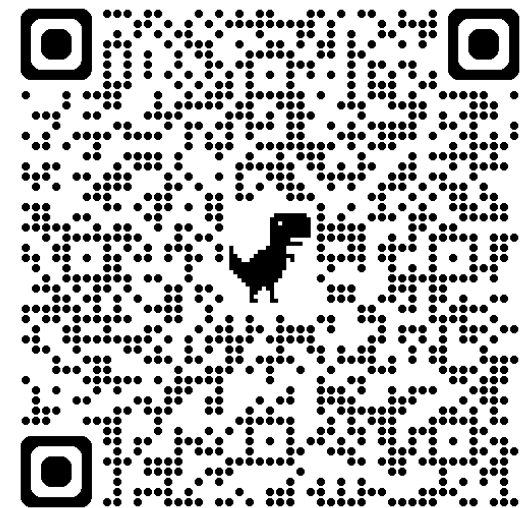


Grant Funded Projects- Encampments

San Diego firefighters try chemically safe spray to prevent brush fires

Officials estimate that around half of the 4,000 gallons has been sprayed on more than 40 fire-prone acres, including at least six places where homeless people have been known to camp

February 09, 2025 08:00 AM



Grant Funded Projects

<https://www.sandiego.gov/fire/fireprev/grants>

Regional Resilience Grant \$1,588,388

- Roadside Vegetation Management 32.24 acres
- Community Wood Chipping Events
- Public Education and Community Engagement





Grant Funded Projects 2025

CWDG Application

Citywide - Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Performance Audit Brush Management on City-Owned Land Staffing Analysis



- (1) Information Systems Analyst (ISA II)
(Wildfire Risk Analyst)**
- (1) Program Manager
(Assistant Fire Marshal)**
- (1) Wildfire Prevention Specialist Supervisor
(Fire Prevention Supervisor)**
- (2) Wildfire Prevention Specialist
(Fire Prevention Inspector II)**

(Primary Focus City-owned land)



Questions?



Thank you!