



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

ERIC L. PETERSON
FIRE CHIEF

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Defensible Space Inspections -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. May 27, 2015 –Santa Barbara County Fire Department will be conducting defensible space inspections beginning June 1. A minimum of 100 feet of defensible space is required around your home in Santa Barbara County. Engine companies will perform inspections and provide homeowners with an inspection form and educational material on how to comply. With the year-round threat of wildfire in Southern California, the defensible space requirement is enforced at all times in Santa Barbara County. Non-compliant homeowners are subject to be cited.

This year 13,000 homeowners in the Counties State Responsibly Area (SRA) will receive by mail a wildfire safety brochure, containing valuable tips to help your home withstand wildfire. This brochure is being sent to residents that live within the high fire hazard areas of the County. Santa Barbara County Fire Department hopes that the information found in the brochure will help homeowners prepare ahead of time before wildfire strikes.

More information on wildfire preparedness can be found at: www.sbcfire.com .

Contact Information:

Captain Dave Zaniboni
Information Officer
Office 805- 681-5531
Cell 805-689-0599
News Line 805-681-5546
Email david.zaniboni@sbcfire.com
Twitter @SBCFireInfo

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4410 Cathedral Oaks Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?

**Extreme Drought Conditions
Have Increased Wildfire Danger.**


Valuable Tips Inside To Help
Your Home Withstand Wildfire.

GET "READY"

- A home within one mile of a natural area is in the Ember Zone. Wind-driven embers can attack your home and destroy it far from the actual flame front.
- Provide defensible space around structures for a distance of at least 100 feet.
- Clear debris from rain gutters, eaves, and roof.
- Trim tree branches at least 10 feet from chimney.
- Replace flammable plants with fire resistant vegetation.
- Make digital copies of important papers and photos.
- Move wood piles and furniture away from home.
- Make sure water tank is full, hydrant is accessible, and marked with blue reflector.
- Have an escape plan. Locate egress routes and a meeting spot. Make them known to family and neighbors.
- Have an out-of-area friend or relative as a check-in contact.

GET "SET"

- Be ready to evacuate if asked to do so.
- Alert family and neighbors you will be evacuating.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., long pants, long sleeved shirt, goggles or glasses, hat, and a dry bandana over your face. Cotton clothing is best).
- Ensure you have an emergency supply kit with you. Pack all important paperwork, photos, portable electronic device chargers, prescription medications, pet items, radio, and enough water for every member of family. For more information on making a supply kit, go to Ready.gov.
- Tune to local radio, TV, or official government social media site for updates and information. Rumors will be rampant. Trust your sources.
- Remain close to home, stay hydrated, and keep pets near until you are ready to leave.
- Turn off all propane tanks.
- Don't leave sprinklers or water running, they waste valuable water pressure.
- Turn on your porch light.



Jesuita, Gap, Paint, and Sycamore. These names can recall terrifying memories for area residents.

Large wildfires have historically roared through our foothills, and more will surely follow.

Now is the time to prepare.

I encourage you to review the material in this brochure and to visit our website to help educate you how to make your home safer and easier to defend an approaching wildfire.

- Eric L Peterson, Fire Chief
Santa Barbara County Fire Department

"GO"

- The fire's intensity and location, weather conditions, and topography will dictate evacuation areas. Citizens will be notified to evacuate by firefighters, law enforcement, or through the reverse 911 system.
- Do not hesitate. Safely make your way out of the fire area.
- Heavy smoke may diminish visibility on roadways, do not overdrive what you can safely see.
- The Red Cross will establish evacuation centers.
- If evacuated, contact the Red Cross to provide information about your status so that family or friends can be informed.
- After an area has been evacuated, the area will remain closed with law enforcement checkpoints until the threat has passed.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY, if you feel unsafe, please don't wait for the order to evacuate. Follow the checklist items and get out.

Learn how to create a defensible space around your home.

Creating defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It creates a buffer and slows or stops the spread of wildfire and protects your home from catching fire.

Defensible space is also important for firefighters to protect your home.

If You Become Trapped

In your home:

- Stay inside until the fire passes.
- Close all windows.
- Keep all doors closed, but unlocked.
- Keep family together and remain calm.
- Remember, if it gets hot inside your house, it will be much hotter outside.

In your car:

- Park away from vegetation.
- Roll up windows.
- Cover mouth with dry cloth to protect airway.
- Cover yourself with a blanket or jacket.
- Stay in the car until the fire passes.
- If the vehicle catches on fire, exit only after the wildfire has passed.

On foot:

- Find an area away from vegetation.
- Lie face down.
- Cover mouth with dry cloth to protect airway.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONES



DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS BEGIN JUNE 1

Being fire safe isn't only a good idea, *It's also the law.*
Authority: PRC 4291 for State Responsibility Areas (SRA)
County Code Chapter 15, Section 4908 for Local Responsibility Areas (LRA)
VIOLATIONS SUBJECT TO CITATION

After the Fire Passes

- Check the roof and exterior of your home, extinguish all sparks and embers.
- Check your attic for hidden embers.
- Check your yard for burning wood piles, trees, fence posts or other material.

Returning to Your Home

- Emergency Managers will decide when it is safe to return.
- Information will be available through the media, at road blocks, shelters, and the SBC social media sites.

For more information go to our website SBCFire.com

All Santa Barbara County Fire Department News Releases are available at www.sbcfire.com

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