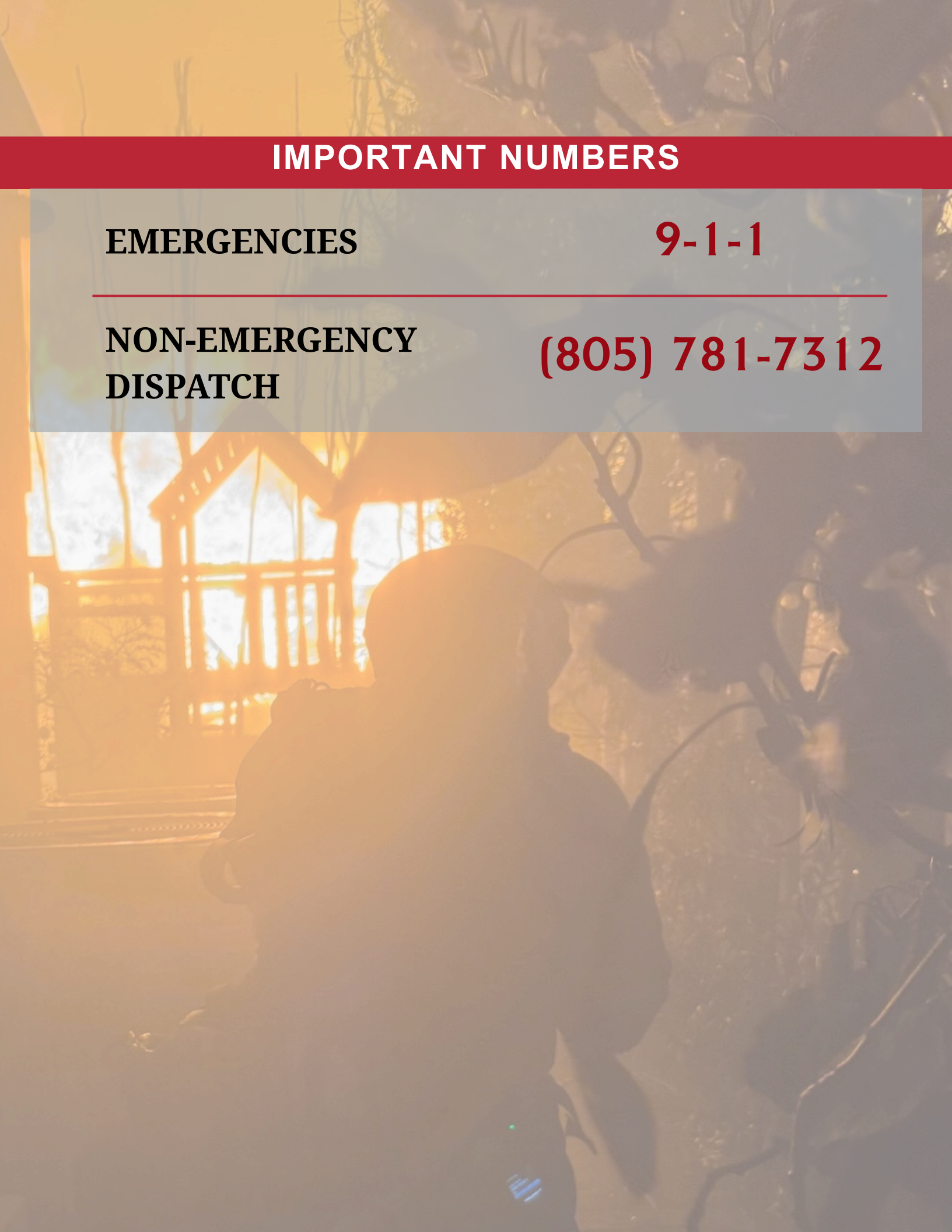




WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

STAY INFORMED. STAY PREPARED

**UPDATED FIRE HAZARD
SEVERITY ZONES
HOME HARDENING
DEFENSIBLE SPACE
EVACUATIONS**

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person in a winter setting. The person is in the foreground, seen from the back, wearing a dark jacket and a hat. They are looking towards a wooden deck or railing in the background. The scene is covered in snow, and there are bare trees and bushes. The lighting is soft and warm, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is serene and quiet.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES

9-1-1

**NON-EMERGENCY
DISPATCH**

(805) 781-7312

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**UPDATED FIRE
HAZARD
SEVERITY ZONES**



UPDATED FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

Adopted on June 17, 2025

What is a Fire Hazard Severity Zone?

A Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) is an area identified by the State Fire Marshal as having a certain level of wildfire hazard based on vegetation, slope, weather conditions, and wind. They are categorized in 3 levels of hazard: **Moderate**, **High**, and **Very High**. The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) consists of all 3 FHSZ's.

How are the FHSZ's determined?

Based on various factors: fire history, vegetation, potential flame length, ember cast, proximity to wildland, terrain, and weather conditions. The recent update incorporated new science in local climate data and improved fire hazard assessment modeling.

Will this impact my insurance?

For many years, insurance companies have been using alternate wildfire risk tools for determining where they will write and renew policies, and how much premium to charge a policyholder, not the FHSZ maps. The FHSZ maps are hazard identification, not risk maps. Therefore a change in designation on the maps for a single homeowner is unlikely to affect their insurance. The reality is that more accurate risk information enables homeowners and communities to reduce their wildfire risks. If you are concerned about changes to your insurance, please contact your insurance carrier.

What do I need to do if I am in a FHSZ?

All new buildings and remodels in the City of SLO will need to follow CA's Wildfire resistant building codes (use fire resistant materials)

Very High FHSZ - Required to have defensible space

High and **Very High** FHSZ - Must provide an AB 38 disclosure when selling your home.

The City of SLO does not provide AB 38 inspections

High and **Moderate** - Strongly encouraged to create defensible space

How do I get an AB 38?

The sale of property located in a VHFHSZ required documentation of a compliant defensible space inspection in accordance with Civil Code 1103.2 and GC § 51183.5. The City of SLO DOES NOT provide AB 38 inspections. We recommend contacting your local realtor or SLO Coastal Association of Realtors.



SLO Coastal Association
of Realtors

What is a Firewise Community?

A neighborhood or area formally recognized by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) (Firewise USA®) for taking action to reduce wildfire risks through education, planning, and mitigation. It involves residents and local officials collaborating to create meaningful goals and objectives over the course of 3-5 years. Contact jlittle@slocity.org for more information.



UPDATED FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

Adopted on June 17, 2025

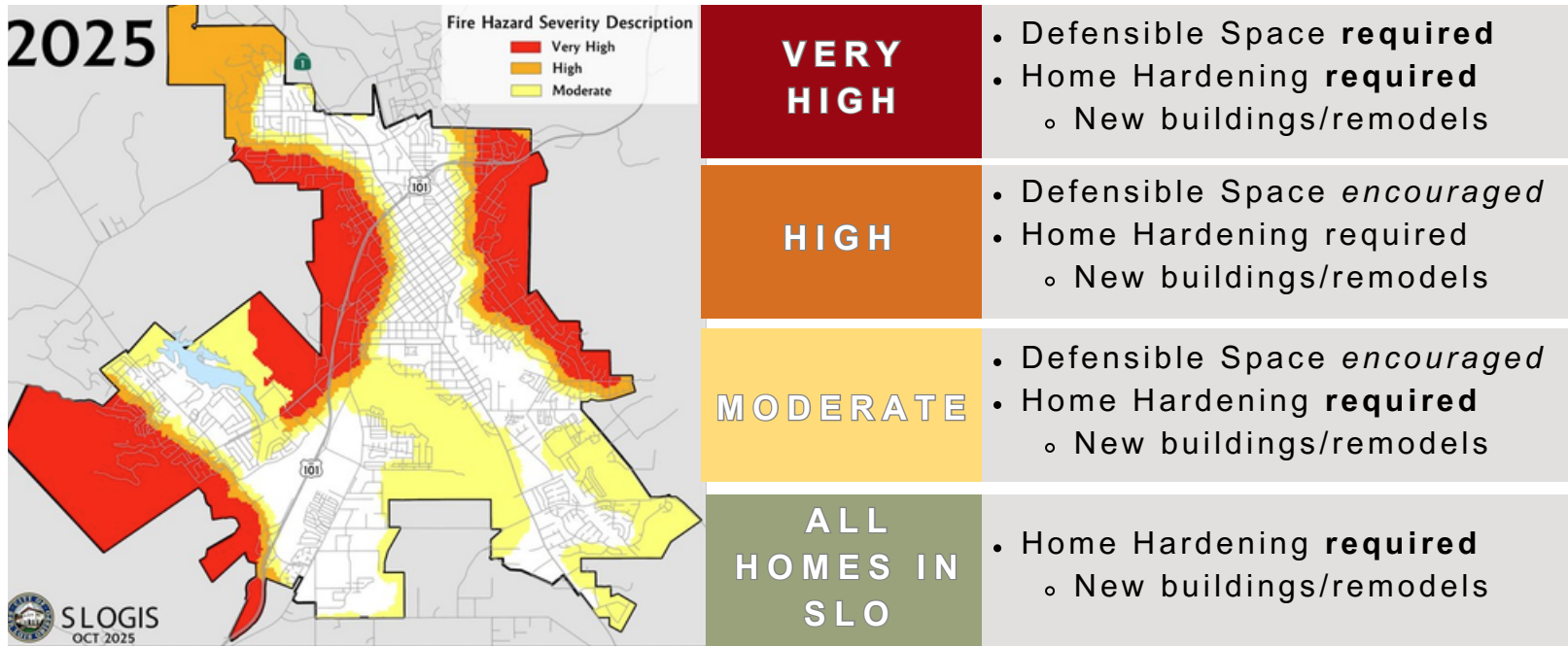
COMMUNITY
PREPAREDNESS **1**

VEGETATION
FUELS
MANAGEMENT **2**

DEFENSIBLE
SPACE **3**

HOME
HARDENING **4**

EMERGENCY
RESPONSE **5**



What steps can I take to be better prepared for wildfire?

SLOFD continues to advise our community to always be fire safe and have a hardened home with defensible space. In this guide, you will learn more about defensible space, how to have a hardened home, enhancing your homes fire protection, Firewise and how to be evacuation ready, including creating a wildfire action plan.

We recognize these updated zones, along with the associated fire and building code requirements, represent a significant amount of information.

This guide is intended to help you:

- Evaluate how prepared your home is for a wildfire
- Identify specific vulnerabilities on your property
- Prioritize improvements that will have the greatest impact
- Learn practical steps to reduce risk over time
- Get you and your home prepared for wildfire



2025 WUI CODE STANDARDS
Adopted by City of SLO
Effective Jan 1, 2026



HOME HARDENING



HOME HARDENING

Required for all properties in SLO City
(All new construction/remodels)

What is Home Hardening?

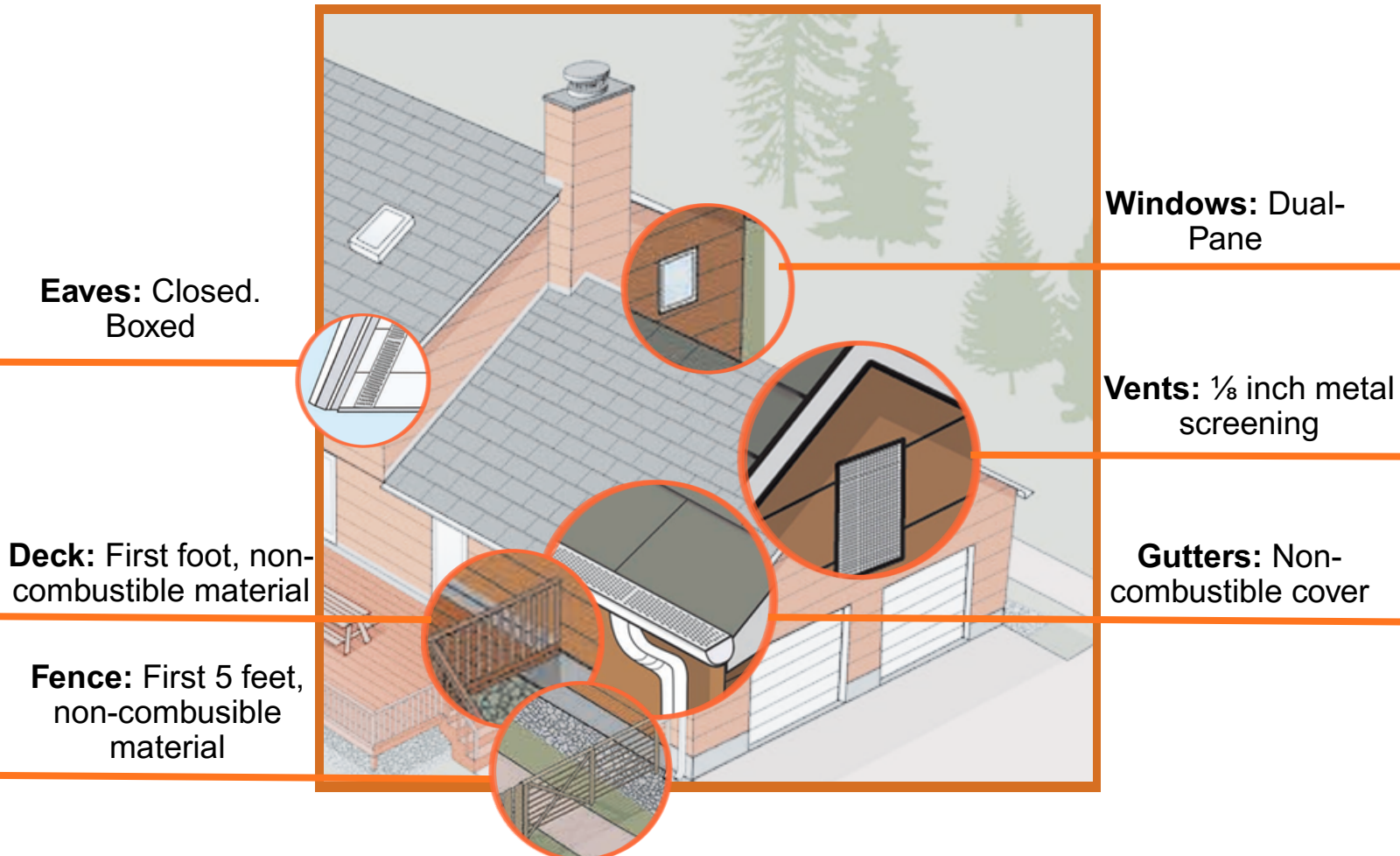
Retrofitting your home with ignition-resistant construction materials and maintenance practices to protect your home from flying embers and radiant heat and direct flame during wildfires.

I am not in a FHSZ, why do I have to do this?

Home Hardening significantly makes your home more resistant to ignition from wildfire embers, radiant heat, and direct flames. It protects your property from destruction, and increases safety for your family and neighborhood. The City of SLO is designated a Community at Risk. Home Hardening has been a Citywide requirement since 2012.

What if I don't have the money to do that?

Home Hardening only applies to new construction as well as qualifying additions and renovations. However, many of these measures are relatively low-cost and can often be incorporated into routine maintenance and is strongly encouraged for all property owners as an effective way to resist wildfire damage and mitigate fire spread.





Thank you for participating in our Detailed Home Assessment Program (DHA). The DHA program was designed to assist our community members with the Home Hardening Requirements. This assessment has no legal authority and is used solely as a tool to help homeowners in making voluntary adjustments to their property.

ROOF UPGRADES

1. Class A fire-rated roof cover such as asphalt shingles, tile, slate, or steel.
2. Barrel tile and some metal must also include noncombustible bird stops at the edges to prevent intrusion under the tile by birds or other wildlife.

GUTTERS

3. Noncombustible gutter cover to reduce the buildup of debris.
4. Replace plastic/vinyl gutters and downspouts with metal.
5. The roof has a metal drip edge installed that completely covers the space above your gutter system.

VENTS

6. Attic and foundation vents with openings between 1/16" and 1/8" and/or California State Fire Marshal-approved flame and ember-resistant vents.
7. Properly sealed openings, including around blocking in vent areas. Modifications may reduce airflow.
8. Install a metal dryer vent with louvers or a flap.

FENCES

9. Replace the first 5' of combustible fencing, gates, and other attachments to the home with noncombustible alternatives or to the drip edge of the eave.

0-5ft for Zone 0 compliance.

We are encouraging property owners to consider and to account for overhangs (Eaves).

DECKS

10. Inspect for combustible, damaged, or rotting deck boards, as they are more easily ignitable.
11. Install a minimum of 6" metal flashing, applied vertically on the exterior of the wall at the deck-to-wall intersection to protect the combustible siding material.

If a full replacement of the combustible deck is not possible, consider replacing the walking-surface boards with noncombustible boards within the first foot from the residence.

DOORS

12. Check for gaps, rot, and decay. Seal gaps around doors to prevent ember intrusion.
13. Install weather stripping or gasketing in gaps greater than 1/8" between doors and door frames to prevent ember intrusion.
14. Door screens should be made of metal mesh.



WINDOWS

15. Double Paned. (per ASTM E108 or UL 790).
16. Vinyl-framed windows without an internal reinforcement bar are prone to failure from radiant exposure due to frame deformation.

When it's time to replace your windows, choose multi-pane models with at least one pane of tempered glass and metal screens.

EAVES

17. Open eave construction with gaps or penetrations between the rafter tails and blocking, as these are entry points for embers.
18. Vents in eaves with gaps or penetrations in the blocking, use proper WUI vents. Seal all gaps.
19. Remove combustible materials stored under the eaves.

EXTERIOR SIDING

20. Inspect siding for dry rot, gaps, cracks, and warping. Caulk or plug gaps greater than 1/8" in siding and replace any damaged boards.
21. Seal all gaps.

When replacing your siding, use non-combustible or ignition-resistant materials. If a full replacement is not possible, consider a partial replacement of the bottom 2 feet of the wall and add metal flashing to protect the bottom edge of the sheathing.

SKYLIGHTS

22. Openable skylights have noncombustible metal mesh screens not exceeding 1/8" and multipaned glazing with one layer of tempered glass.

Plastic skylights are not recommended.

AUXILARY STRUCTURES

Due to their size and often what is stored inside, outbuildings and larger auxiliary structures can burn longer from fire exposure. If possible, remove the shed, relocate it away from the home, and/or replace or upgrade to ignition-resistant construction. The door should not face the home.

LOCATION

The structure's position relative to severe fire behavior is influenced by topography, fuels, weather, and structure separation distance. Homeowners should be aware of their risk factors.

LOW COST WAYS TO HARDEN YOUR HOME

Home hardening measures are intended to improve a structure's ability to resist damage from wildfires and help reduce the spread of fire between properties and throughout the community. Many of these measures are relatively low-cost and can often be incorporated into routine maintenance.

These requirements will apply to all properties within San Luis Obispo and will be triggered by new construction as well as qualifying additions and renovations. While not required for existing structures outside of those triggers, home hardening is strongly encouraged for all property owners as an effective way to resist wildfire damage and mitigate fire spread. All costs are fluctuating, these are estimates.

MESH		COST
	• Create ember-resistant vents with noncombustible mesh: 1/16" to 1/8".	\$10-\$40 per roll
	• Enclose areas beneath decks or cover with 1/8" mesh screens.	
	• Cover chimney and stovepipe outlets with noncombustible, corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen with 3/8 - 1/2 inch openings.	
	• Openable skylights have noncombustible metal mesh screens not exceeding 1/8" and multipaned glazing with one layer of tempered glass.	
	• Replace door screens with metal mesh.	
CAULK		COST
	• Plug or caulk gaps in eaves larger than 1/8" to prevent ember intrusion.	\$3-\$10 per tube
	• Inspect siding for dry rot, gaps, cracks, and warping. Caulk or plug gaps greater than 1/8" in siding and replace any damaged boards.	
WEATHER STRIPPING		COST
	• Install weather stripping or gasketing in gaps greater than 1/8" between doors and door frames to prevent ember intrusion.	\$50
REMOVE		COST
	• Remove combustible materials stored under the eaves and decks.	FREE
	• Remove or relocate shed away from home.	
LARGER-SCALE IMPROVEMENTS		COST
	• Enclose eaves with fire-resistant materials.	\$2000
	• Install noncombustible rain gutter and downspout.	\$1000
	• Install rain gutter covers to prevent accumulation of leaves and debris.	\$1500
	• Deck replacement (non-combustible materials).	\$1000
	• Replace windows with double pane.	\$1000 ea

CONTRACTOR TIPS

The City of San Luis Obispo Fire Department does not make guarantees about an individual business, their capabilities, insurance or licensing. Before signing a contract, get multiple bids and check for a license and adequate insurance with the Contractor's State License Board at: www.cslb.ca.gov.

CHECK

- Check for a permanent place of business, phone number, tax I.D. number, and a business license.
- If the contractor is a member of any regional or national industry associations, such as NRCA.
- Whether the contractor is properly licensed and bonded.
- Client references.
- Call the local Better Business Bureau to check for any complaints that have been filed.

REQUEST

- Verification of current professional liability insurance.
- Insist on a written proposal. The proposal should include complete descriptions of the work and specifications, including approximate start and completion dates and payment procedures.
- Have the contractor explain his project supervision and quality control procedures.
- Ask for a list or photos of completed projects.
- Request multiple bids. Obtain at least 3 written, detailed estimates. Avoid automatically choosing the lowest bid.
- Carefully read and make sure you understand any warranty offered; watch for provisions that would void the warranty.



A contractor may describe a project as "home hardened" or "fire-smart," but those terms do not guarantee compliance with applicable regulations. Verifying requirements before work begins can help avoid costly corrections later. If you have any concerns, please contact SLOFD for guidance.



**DEFENSIBLE
SPACE**



DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Required for all homes (including commercial buildings)
in the **Very High FHSZ**

(Recommended for all homes)

What is Defensible Space?

Defensible space is the essential, maintained buffer between a building and surrounding wildland vegetation (grass, trees, shrubs) that acts as a barrier to slow or halt wildfire spread. Defensible space consists of 3 zones.

ZONE 0 0 – 5 FT OF ALL HABITABLE STRUCTURES

Ember Resistant Zone

DRAFT : Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones - Required

“Zone 0” refers to the area 0-5ft around a structure.

Remove/limit combustible materials to reduce the risk of a home igniting from wind blown embers during a wildfire.

New homes must comply immediately.

Existing homes have a 3-5 year grace period.

ZONE 1 5–30 FT OF ALL HABITABLE STRUCTURES

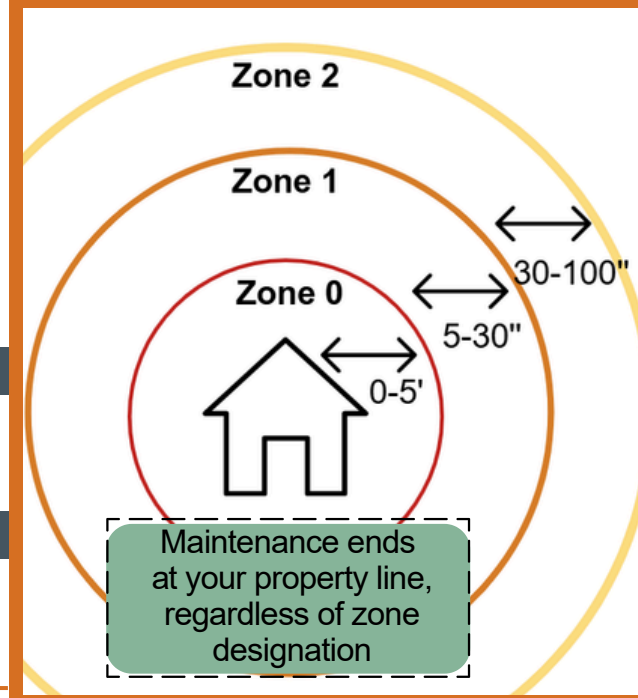
Lean, Clean, & Green (§)

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones - Required

ZONE 2 30–100 FT OF ALL HABITABLE STRUCTURES

Reduced Fuel Zone (§)

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones - Required



Am I required to do this work?

Homes in the **Very High** Fire Severity Zone are required to have defensible space.

To get started, visit www.slocity.org/wildfire and enter your address into the filter by address locator to identify your fire hazard severity area. We recommend all homes use defensible space practices to help our community be more wildfire resilient.

What if my neighbors plant/trees encroach on my property?

Your Zone 1, may be your neighbors Zone 2. If a tree or plant is on your property, it is your responsibility to maintain it. We ask that neighbors have a level of communication and understanding that benefits everyone.

Remember, wildfire resilience is a Citywide responsibility.

Do I need a vegetation/landscape plan?

New construction and all new plantings in the **Very High** FHSZ will require a landscape plan for vegetation management. This will be required upon submittal of a building permit. If you are planning on changing out your landscape, we ask you contact us for guidance.

VEGETATION/LANDSCAPE PLAN

Development and maintenance plan for vegetation management.

Required: New construction and all new planting in the **Very High** FHSZ.

Required upon submittal of building permit.

MUST INCLUDE

- **Marked Fuel-Management Zones:** Clearly show the 30-foot and 100-foot defensible-space zones around all structures
- **Vegetation Details:** Identify which existing plants will remain and what new plants are being added
- **Irrigation Areas:** Show all locations that will be irrigated
- **Plant Legend:** List both the botanical and common names of all plants, and include symbols used on the plan
- **Ground-Cover Information:** Identify all ground coverings within the 30-foot zone

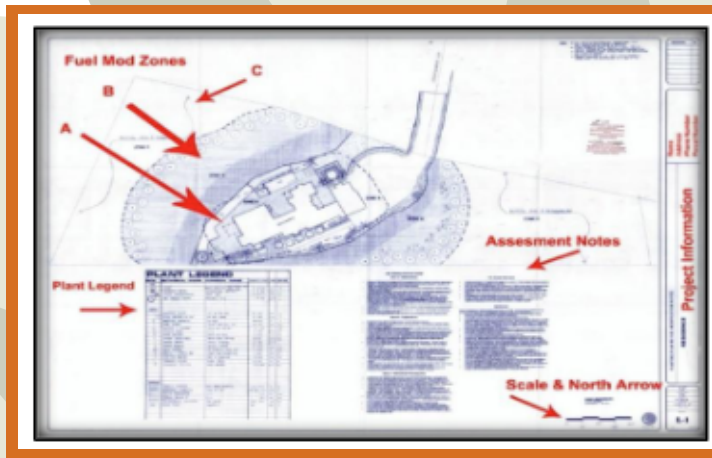
FIRE-SMART VEGETATION

MUST HAVE CHARACTERISTICS

- Nonresinous plants (willow, poplar or tulip trees)
- Plants with high live fuel moisture
- Drought-tolerant plants
- Plants requiring little maintenance
- Plants with woody stems and branches that require prolonged heating to ignite

CHARACTERISTICS THAT CAN BE MANAGED BY MAINTENANCE

- Growth with little or no accumulation of dead vegetation
- Low volume of total vegetation
- Stands without ladder fuels



Example: Landscape Plan

SHRUBS

- Not to exceed 6 ft in height
- Groupings limited to a max aggregate diameter of 10 ft
- Groupings separated 15 ft min
- Groupings separated from structures 30 ft min
- Below or within a trees drip line, lowest branch min 3x the height of the understory shrubs of 10 ft

TREES (Within 30 foot zone)

- Planted and maintained so the drip line at maturity is 10 ft from structure min
- Horizontal distance between crowns of new trees and adjacent trees 10 ft min
- Trimmed to 10 ft separation from chimney min



[Fire-Smart Zone 1
Tree List](#)



[Approved
Tree List](#)



Thank you for participating in our Detailed Home Assessment Program (DHA). The DHA program was designed to assist our community members with the Defensible Space Requirements. This assessment has no legal authority and is used solely as a tool to help homeowners in making voluntary adjustments to their property.

ZONE 0**0–5 FEET OF ALL HABITABLE STRUCTURES**

DRAFT: Once adopted, Zone 0 will be effective immediately for new construction. There will be a 3-5 year grace period for existing homes.



Check here for
updates and
final code

PHASE 1 “Low-Combustibility Zone” (Implementation within the first 3 years - 2029):

1. Remove ALL dead vegetation and combustible materials (mulch, firewood, debris) from within 5ft of all structures.
2. Remove live vegetation within 1ft of all structures, not under eaves, 2ft from windows/doors/vents, 5ft from all attached decks, pergolas, or stairs.
PERMITTED VEGETATION: (§)
 - < 3in groundcovers and non-woody.
 - If 3-18in: no more than 1 sq ft and spaced apart by 1.5x the height of the tallest plant and non-woody.
 - Maintained, non-woody, potted plants: < 18in and in non-combustible 5 gallon or less pots and spaced apart by 1.5x the height of the plant.
3. Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches.
4. Begin tree compliance (See page 19).

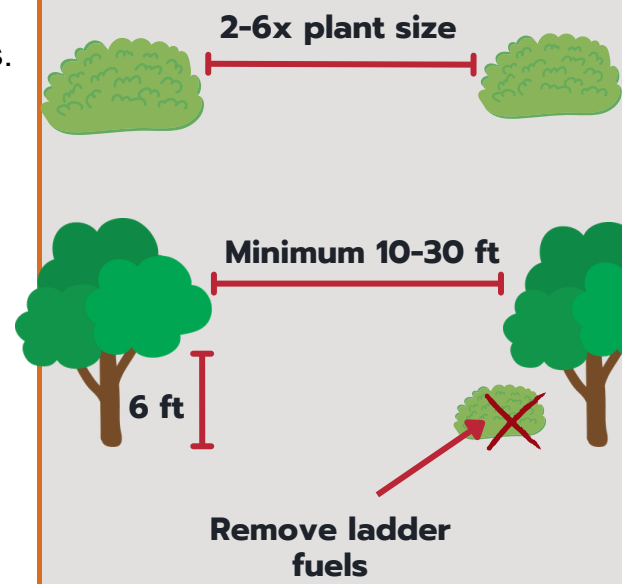
PHASE 2 “Non-Combustible Immediate Safety Zone” (Implementation within the 5 years - 2031):

5. Replace combustible fence/gate connections with non-combustible material.
6. Modify sheds and outbuildings as required.

(§) 14 CCR 1298.04

ZONE 1**5-30 FEET OF ALL HABITABLE STRUCTURES**

7. Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet.
8. Remove all dead and dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds and needles.
9. Remove or separate live flammable groundcover and shrubs.
10. Relocate exposed wood piles outside of Zone 1 unless completely covered in a fire-resistant material.
11. Non-fire smart plants should be removed and replaced with fire-smart vegetation.
12. Single specimens of trees (that are not considered pyrophytic) are required to be well spaced to 10 feet from each other and remove branches beneath large trees for a six-foot minimum clearance or from the lower third of the tree for smaller trees.
13. When shrubs are below tree canopies, vertical clearance from plants or shrubs should be 3x the height of any shrubs between the shrubs and the lowest branches on the tree.
14. Cut and maintain all annual grasses to 4 inches or less in height.
15. Plants shall have a minimum separation of 3 ft from each other.
Singular = 3 feet. Groupings = 15 feet.

ZONE 1 PLANT CLEARANCE



ZONE 2 30-100 FEET OF ALL HABITABLE STRUCTURES

16. Cut and maintain all annual grasses to 4 inches or less in height. Remove all surface fuels that are greater than 4 inches in height.
17. Cut and remove low hanging branches and ensure that all trees have a minimum of 6 ft of vertical clearance from the ground.
18. When shrubs are below tree canopies, vertical clearance from plants or shrubs should be 3x the height of any shrubs between the shrubs and the lowest branches on the tree.
19. Cut branches so all tree canopies have a min. of 10 ft of horizontal clearance from each other.
20. Remove all dead and dry vegetation.
21. Shrub and plants shall have a minimum separation of 3 ft from each other. Singular = 3 feet. Groupings = 15 feet.
22. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from other vegetation.
23. All exposed woodpiles must have a minimum of 10 ft clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.
24. Dead and dying woody surface fuels and aerial fuels shall be removed. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, permitted to a maximum depth of 3 inches.

Online Wildfire Self-Assessment



Schedule a Detailed Home Assessment (Free)



AB 38 Inspection

Contact SLO Coastal Association of Realtors

****City of SLO does not provide AB 38 inspections****



SLO Coastal Association of Realtors



Schedule a Detailed Home Assessment with our Community Risk Reduction Interns

LOW COST WAYS TO MAINTAIN DEFENSIBLE SPACE

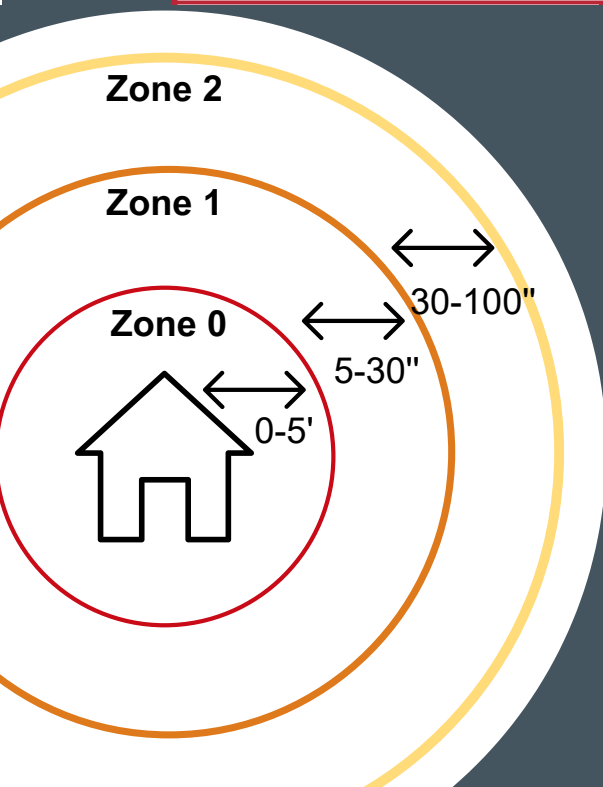
Below are low cost ways to maintain defensible space requirements.

Low-cost defensible space maintenance focuses on manual labor to remove ladder fuels, clear debris, and create spacing between plants within 100 feet of a property (or property line).

This regular maintenance will reduce wildfire risk to your home and is strongly recommended.

Please note: Homes and commercial properties located in the **Very High** Fire Hazard Severity Zone are required to meet defensible space standards.

HOME & STRUCTURE UPKEEP		COST
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Roofs & Gutters: Regularly clean roofs, roof to wall joints, skylights, and gutters to remove leaves, pine needles, and other debris.	\$0 *if done by homeowner
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chimneys: Remove branches within 10 ft.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Decks: Clean decks and remove combustibles within 5 ft and underneath.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Windows & Doors: Remove combustibles and vegetation within 5 ft.	
COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL		COST
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Firewood: Store at least 30 ft from structures or enclose in fire-resistant material; clear 10 ft around piles.	\$0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fences: Keep vegetation and debris away from fences.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdoor Items: Store combustible furniture, umbrellas, awnings when not in use.	
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT		COST
DRAFT: Zone 0: 0-5' Ember Resistant Zone		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No combustible materials permitted.No dead or dying branches on trees, all live tree branches maintained 5' above the adjacent roof.		\$0
Zone 1: 5-30' Lean, Clean, Green		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain a tree, shrub or other plant free of dead or dying vegetation.Trees within Zone 1: Keep dripline at least 10' from combustible structures.		\$0
Zone 2: 30-100' Reduced Fuel Zone		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fire-Smart Vegetation is strongly recommended.		\$Varies



The logo consists of a central red rectangle containing the text "VEGETATION & TREE MANAGEMENT" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The text is arranged in three lines: "VEGETATION" on the top line, "&" on the middle line, and "TREE MANAGEMENT" on the bottom line. The red rectangle is framed by a thin blue border, which is itself surrounded by a thicker yellow border, all set against a black background.

VEGETATION & TREE MANAGEMENT



VEGETATION & TREE MANAGEMENT

*Required for all homes (including commercial buildings)
in the **Very High FHSZ***

(Recommended for all homes)

Vegetation Maintenance vs. Fire Smart Landscaping?

Vegetation management focuses on the general upkeep and health of your vegetation.

Fire-smart landscaping focuses on reducing building ignition potential through careful plant selection, placement, spacing, and maintenance.



Zone 0
0-5 feet from home

Zone 1

5-30 feet from home

Zone 2

30-100 feet from home

- Do not plant anything within 5 feet (Zone 0) of your house or other structures.
- Utilize non-combustible mulches such as rocks, decomposed granite, and gravel or install hardscaping such as concrete, brick, or pavers or other such material.

- Select fire-smart plants.
- Space plants apart.
- Remove dead/dry vegetation.
- Prune trees away from roof & chimney.

- Reduce plant and tree density.

Vegetation Maintenance ends at your property line regardless of zone designation

How do I know if my plants are Fire-Smart?

Here are key plant traits to consider when choosing fire-smart plants:

- **Moisture content**: Opt for plants with leaves that retain moisture, as they're less likely to catch fire.
- **Waxes & oils**: Plants high in waxes, oils, and resins can be more flammable.
- **Growth structure**: Open-growth plants may have lower fire risk than dense ones.
- **Growth speed**: Fast-growing plants need more space and maintenance.
- **Height potential**: Know how tall a plant can get to ensure it fits your space.
- **Shedding habits**: Plants that shed bark or leaves need frequent cleanup to reduce fire hazards.

**REMEMBER FIRE SMART PLANTS ARE NOT FIREPROOF.
MAINTENANCE IS CRITICAL.**



FIRE SMART SHRUBS

Required for all homes (including commercial buildings)
in the **Very High FHSZ**

(Recommended for all homes)

CALIFORNIA NATIVE

LIGHT REQUIREMENT - SUN

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
California Lilac	<i>Ceanothus spp.</i>	Use away from structures, avoid using for continuous hedges, and prune deadwood annually
Bush Poppy	<i>Dendromecon rigida</i>	
Slender Wooly Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum gracile</i>	
Coast Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>	
Golden Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum luteolum</i>	
Nude Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum nudum</i>	
Jojoba	<i>Simmondsia chinensis</i>	

CALIFORNIA NATIVE

LIGHT REQUIREMENT - SHADE

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Western Azalea	<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>	Deciduous
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	



Western Azalea



Snowberry

FIRE SMART SHRUBS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE

LIGHT REQUIREMENT - SUN, SHADE

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
California Barberry	<i>Berberis pinnata</i>	Use as an accent shrub, avoid using for continuous hedges and requires regular thinning
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	
Creek Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Not suited for dry slopes
Coffeeberry	<i>Frangula californica</i> (<i>Rhamnus californica</i>)	
Island Snapdragon	<i>Gambelia speciosa</i>	
Silk Tassel Bush	<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	
Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica (Morella) californica</i>	
Holly-leaved Cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Use away from structures, avoid using for continuous hedges, and prune deadwood annually
Spiny Redberry	<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	
Chaparral Currant	<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	
Flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> var. <i>glutinosum</i>	
Wood Rose	<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	
Blue Elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	
Pacific Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum chilense</i>	

FIRE SMART SHRUBS

NOT CA NATIVE

LIGHT REQUIREMENT - SUN

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Island Bush Poppy	<i>Dendromecon harfordii</i>	
Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum arborescens</i>	Very woody and requires regular thinning
St. Catherine's Lace	<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	Very woody and requires regular thinning
Hesperaloe (Red Yucca)	<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	
Beargrass	<i>Nolina bigelovii</i>	
Parry's Nolina	<i>Nolina parryi</i>	
		Beargrass

NOT CA NATIVE

LIGHT REQUIREMENT - SHADE

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Boxwood	<i>Buxus spp.</i>	
Bush Anemone	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	
Pacific Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>	Evergreen, not suitable for dry slopes

NOT CA NATIVE

LIGHT REQUIREMENT - SUN, SHADE

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mountain Grape	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	Avoid using for continuous hedges and requires regular thinning
Summer Holly	<i>Comarostaphylis diversifolia</i> , <i>Comarostaphylis planifolia</i>	Use away from structures, avoid using for continuous hedges
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	
Lemonade Berry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	Use away from structures, avoid using for continuous hedges, and prune deadwood annually



FIRE SMART TREES

Required for all homes (including commercial buildings)
in the **Very High FHSZ**

(Recommended for all homes)

Common Name	Scientific Name
Flame Bottle Tree	<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>
Kurrajong	<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>
Maidenhair Tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Sweetshade	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>)
Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>
Primrose Tree	<i>Lagunaria patersonia</i>
Brisbane Box	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>
Gold Markhamia	<i>Markhamia lutea</i>
Sweet Michelia	<i>Michelia doltsopa</i>
Western Sycamore	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>
Columbia London Plane Tree	<i>Platanus x hispanica 'Columbia'</i>
Hollyleaf Cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia ssp. ilicifolia</i>
Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>
Engelmann Oak	<i>Quercus engelmannii</i>
Silverleaf Oak	<i>Quercus hypoleucoides</i>
Mexican Blue Oak	<i>Quercus oblongifolia</i>
Netleaf Oak	<i>Quercus rugosa</i>
Loquat Oak	<i>Quercus rysophylla</i>
Cork Oak	<i>Quercus suber</i>
Water Gum	<i>Tristaniaopsis laurina</i>



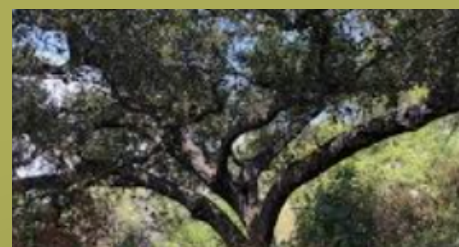
Maidenhair Tree



Primrose Tree



Western Sycamore



Coast Live Oak



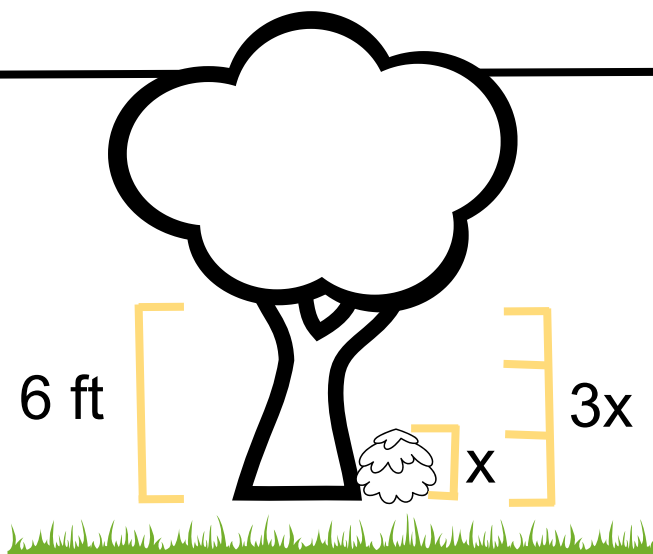
Water Gum

VEGETATION SEPARATION

Vegetation spacing is the strategic, intentional distance maintained between plants, shrubs, and trees to manage fire risk or ensure healthy growth. It involves horizontal separation (distance between plants) and vertical separation (distance between ground cover and tree branches) to prevent fire from spreading from one plant to another this is called "Fire Pathways."

VERTICAL SPACING

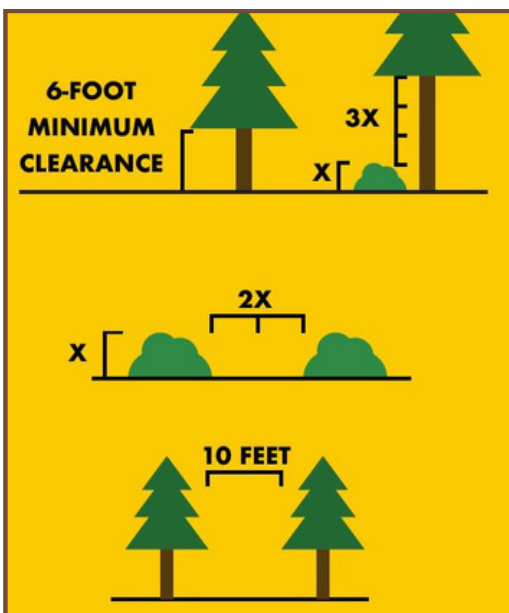
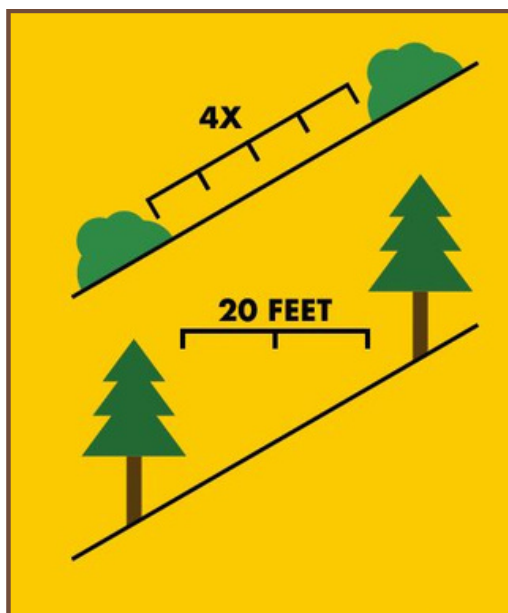
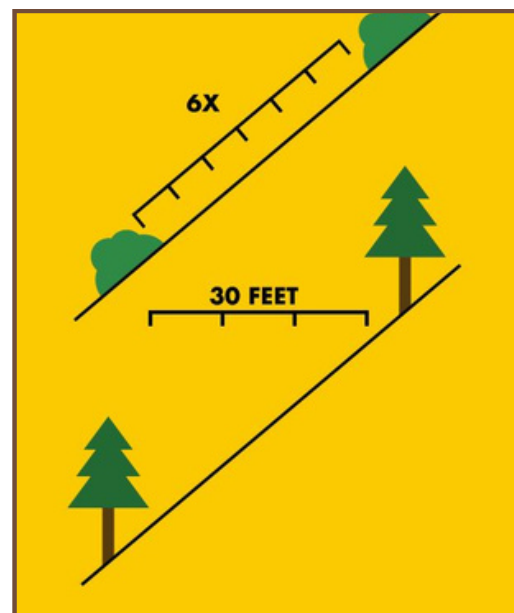
- Eliminate opportunities for a vertical "fire ladder."
- Remove branches beneath large trees for a six-foot minimum clearance or from the lower third of the tree for smaller trees.
- Create proper vertical spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees.
- It's best not to plant shrubs below trees, if you do, keep at least three times the height of any shrubs between the shrubs and the lowest branches of trees.



HORIZONTAL SPACING

- Horizontal spacing depends on the slope of the land and the height of the trees.
- For example, a property on a steep slope with larger plant life will require greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

GENERAL RULE: Provide space between shrubs that is two times the height of the shrub



TREE MAINTENANCE

The City of SLO is committed to reducing wildfire risk. One way to reduce opportunities for fire to spread is by creating and maintaining separation (vertical and horizontal) between trees and your home. The first step is Tree Maintenance. If Tree Maintenance is not possible, then Tree Removal may be required. Below are tips to guide you on how to manage trees located on properties within the **Very High** FHSZ.

TREE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Trim tree canopy at least 5 ft away from walls and above roofs and 10 ft away from any chimney from a house or structure for trees planted within 5 ft of structure
- ☐ Trim tree canopy 10 ft away from any structure that is planted in Zone 1
- ☐ Water trees regularly and place mulch around trees in Zone 1 (5–30 ft) and Zone 2 (30–100 ft)
- ☐ Prune all dead branches from trees
- ☐ Prune lower branches to 6 feet above the ground

TREE PRUNING RESOURCES



[Urban Tree Foundation](#)



[Tree Training Cue Card](#)

If you are unable to maintain your trees yourself, The City recommends hiring an ISA Certified Arborist

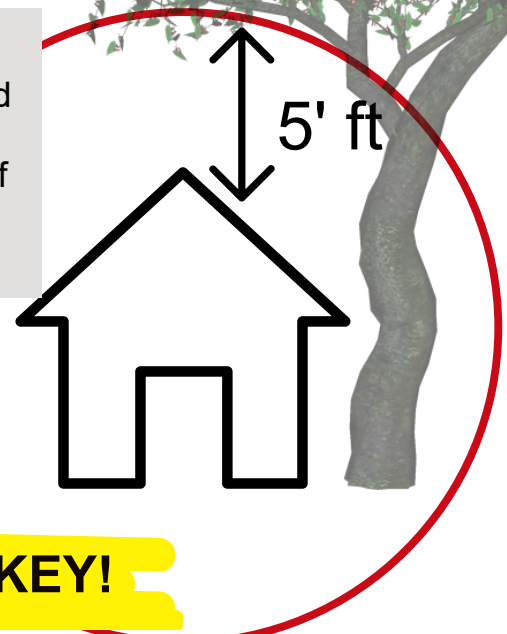


[Approved
Tree List](#)



[Fire-Smart Zone 1
Tree List](#)

Trees are allowed to be in Zone 0 as long as they are maintained and their lower branches are pruned to having no branches within 5 feet of the roof or walls or 10 feet of chimneys.



MAINTENANCE IS KEY!

Tree Training Cue Card

Trees that grow to be large are more structurally sound and cost-effective to maintain when trained with a central dominant leader that extends 30 feet or more into the crown (Fig. 1, left). Vigorous, upright branches and stems that compete with the central leader can become weakly attached (Fig. 1, right).



Figure 1. Good tree structure (left); poor structure (right).

Trees with branches spaced along the central leader, or trunk, (Fig. 1, left) are stronger than trees with branches clustered together (Fig. 1, right). Prune newly planted trees to one central leader by shortening competing stems (Fig. 2). All branches and stems should be shorter than the central leader after pruning is completed (Fig. 2, right).



Figure 2. Shorten competing stems to improve structure.

Shorten or remove branches that are larger than half the trunk diameter at planting and every few years thereafter. Shorten them by cutting back to a live lateral branch (Fig 3, top drawing). This lateral branch should be pointed away from the trunk and it should not be growing upright. The central leader should be more visible in the crown center after pruning. Only large-diameter branches need to be pruned because they compete with the leader and could be weakly attached (Fig 3, L). Small branches (Fig. 3, S) do not need pruning because they will not compete with the leader.

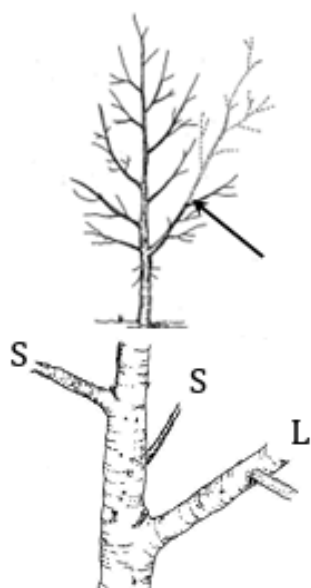


Figure 3. Only large branches need pruning (L). Small branches (S) do not need to be pruned.

Shorten the largest low branches when the tree is young to keep them small (Fig. 4). These shortened branches may be removed later for clearance; removing small branches creates smaller wounds with less likelihood of decay.



Figure 4. Shorten larger low branches to encourage growth in the leader and improve tree structure.

The best way to shorten large or long stems and branches is to cut them back to a live lateral branch (Fig 5). This slows growth on the pruned parts and encourages growth in the dominant leader creating sound structure.

Remove larger branches by making three cuts (Fig. 6). This prevents the bark from peeling or splitting off the trunk below the cut. Make the final cut back to the branch collar (enlarged area around union of branch and trunk).



Figure 5. Reduce a stem back to a live lateral branch to slow its growth.

Structural Pruning Checklist

1. Develop and maintain a central leader.
2. Identify the lowest branch in what will become the permanent crown.
3. Prevent branches below the permanent crown from growing larger than half the trunk diameter.
4. Space main branches along the central leader.
5. Reduce vigorous upright stems back to lateral branches.

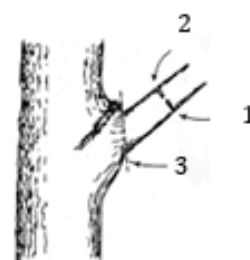


Figure 6. Remove large branches using three cuts.

Pruning Safety

Prune from the ground using proper tools and safety equipment. Do not prune near power lines.

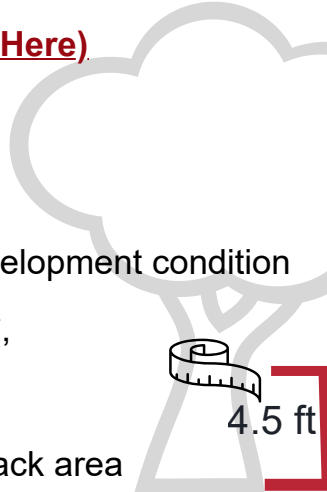
Copyright © 2010 Edward F. Gilman and Brian Kempf www.urbantree.org



TREE REMOVAL

If you must remove your tree, determine first if you need to submit a tree removal application. You do not need a tree removal application if **ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY (§)**

- ☐ Property is zoned R-1 or R-2 ([Check Here](#))
- ☐ Tree is not a designated street tree
- ☐ Tree is not within 10 ft of the sidewalk
- ☐ Tree was not required as part of a development condition
- ☐ Tree is native and trunk is <10" DSH**, or nonnative and trunk is <20" DSH, or a palm with trunk <12" DSH
- ☐ Tree is not located within a creek setback area



HOW TO MEASURE DSH (DIAMETER AT SHOULDER HEIGHT)

- Measure the circumference of the tree at 4.5 feet above ground
- Take the circumference measurement and divide by 3.14
- Example: 36-inch circumference
 $36 \div 3.14 = 11.5\text{-inch diameter}$

If your tree does not meet ALL the above criteria, a Tree Removal Application IS REQUIRED.

IS MY TREE LOCATED IN THE CREEK BELOW THE TOP OF A BANK?

If the diameter at shoulder height (DSH) of the tree is

- ☐ less than 4-inches at 4.5 feet above grade, it can be removed without a City Tree Removal Application

If a tree or any of its branches are over 4-inches in diameter, a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife may be required. Owners should consult the [Lake and Streambed Alteration \(LSA\) Program](#) for guidance before vegetation management activities are undertaken.



Municipal Code
17.70.030
Creek Setbacks



Lake and Streambed
Alteration Program



QUESTIONS?

Contact the City's Office of
Sustainability and Natural Resources
Freddy Otte, City Biologist
fotte@slocity.org

TREE REMOVAL

STEP 1 FILL OUT THE CITY'S TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

The following criteria are generally most applicable to locations in

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Removal may be approved if one or more of the following apply (12.24.090.E):

- There are too many trees that are too close together
- Tree(s) require excessive debris clean-up
- Tree(s) are dead, dying or diseased beyond recovery
- Tree(s) have structural defects limiting lifespan



**Tree Removal
Application**

STEP 2 SUBMIT APPLICATION

- Submit through the City's Permit Portal
- Details on the Tree Removal Application can be found on the City's Urban Forestry Website



www.infoslo.slocity.org/energov

STEP 3 REPLANT A TREE

You are required to replace a tree removed from your property, as part of a Tree Removal Application, with another tree (1:1 minimum)

Below are tips and guidelines for replanting new trees

- Select a tree from the City's **Approved City Tree List**
 - For a refined list of fire smart trees, check out **City of SLO Zone 1 (5-30ft) Defensible Space Tree List**
- Replant the tree a minimum of 10 feet from any structure
- Practice Fire Smart Landscaping
 - Mulch around the tree
 - Infrequent, longer/deeper irrigation during establishment or drought
- The healthier and less water stressed your tree is, the more fire resistant it will be



**Approved
Tree List**



**Fire-Smart Zone 1
Tree List**



Community Development

919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3218
805.781.7170
slocity.org

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

For all Non-Construction and Construction related tree removals

Owner Name:		Applicant Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City:	Zip:	City:	Zip:
Phone:		Phone:	
Email:		Email:	
Address of Tree(s):			
Number of trees applying to remove:			
Tree Species:			
Application Description & Reason for Removal:			
Is this removal a City Tree? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ DON'T KNOW Dog in yard? ☐ YES ☐ NO			
Is this associated with a Building Permit or Development Plan? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, please provide appropriate reference numbers:			
Is this property governed by a Homeowners Association (HOA)? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, please provide HOA Board Approved Meeting minutes authorizing tree removal(s) with your tree removal application.			

ALL ITEMS BELOW MUST BE INCLUDED TO PROCESS TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

- ☐ Tree(s) banded with ribbon or duct tape for identification
- ☐ Site plan drawing or photo of tree site with Tree ID (Tree#1, Tree #2, etc.)
- ☐ Supporting documentation (repair, receipts, etc.)
- ☐ Photo log showing damage or reasons for removal¹
- ☐ Replanting plan²
- ☐ Arborist Report³

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

FAILURE TO KEEP TREES BANDED MAY RESULT IN A REJECTED APPLICATION.



1. Include a photo log that clearly shows the trees requested for removal. All tree(s) must be uniquely identified by a number and a ribbon, or an identifier wrapped around the trunk in the photo and prior to inspection.
2. Include a replanting plan in accordance with Section [12.24.090\(J\)](#) of the City's Municipal Code. A minimum 1:1 replanting rate is required for plantings onsite, and a minimum 2:1 replanting rate is required for plantings offsite or within the public right-of-way.
3. An application for tree removal on a site where a discretionary or ministerial development permit is requested shall include an arborist report and a site plan that includes accurate drip line delineation and cross sections of construction work impacting both trees proposed for removal and trees planned to remain.
4. If an "Imminent Hazard to Life or Property" Application is being submitted, a statement from a TRAQ Qualified & Certified Arborist must be provided.

Tree Removal Decisions as outlined in Section 12.24.090 of the City's Municipal Code

SELECT TYPE OF TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION BEING SUBMITTED		DECISION MAKER
☐	Tree Health and Hazard Mitigation SLOMC 12.24.090(E)	City Arborist
☐	Convenience Removal SLOMC 12.24.090(E)(3) <i>Tree Committee makes recommendation to Community Development Director</i>	Community Development Director
☐	Minor Ministerial Development Permit SLOMC 12.24.090(F)(1) <i>Removal for residential or accessory construction on an R-1 or R-2 lot</i>	City Arborist
☐	Discretionary Permits Construction Tree Removal SLOMC 12.24.090(F)(3)	Community Development Director
☐	Major Development / Tentative Tract Map/ Conditional Use Permit SLOMC 12.24.090(F)(4)	Planning Commission
☐	Imminent Hazard to Life or Property SLOMC 12.24.090(E)(1)(a) ☐ Statement from Certified Arborist with TRAQ	City Arborist

Submittal Instructions

Submit Tree Removal applications to the City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department at the following address: 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 or by email to trees@slocity.org.

Payment of the "Tree Removal Permit" fee shall be submitted along with this application. Refer to the City's current Comprehensive Fee Schedule for the current fee.

Property Owner Authorization:

By signing this application, I certify that I have reviewed this completed application and the attached material and consent to its filing. I agree to allow the Community Development Department to duplicate and distribute submitted materials to interested persons as it determines is necessary for the processing of the application.

Signed _____

Date _____

Applicant/ Representative Certification:

By signing this application, I certify that the information provided is accurate. I understand the City might not approve what I'm applying for or might set conditions of approval. I agree to allow the Community Development Department to duplicate and distribute submitted materials to interested persons as it determines is necessary for processing of the application.

Signed _____

Date _____

Permission to Access Property:

This section is to be completed by the property owner and/or occupant who controls access to the property. To adequately evaluate the submitted proposal, Community Development Department Staff, Commissioners and City Council Members will have to gain access to the exterior of the real property in order to adequately review and report on the proposed request. Your signature below certifies that you agree to give the City permission to access the project site from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, as part of the normal review of this application.

Signed _____

Date _____

Indemnification Agreement:

The Owner/Applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City or its agents or officers and employees from any claim, action or proceeding against the City or its agents, officers or employees, to attack, set aside, void, or annul, in whole or in part, the City's approval of this project. In the event that the City fails to promptly notify the Owner / Applicant of any such claim, action or proceeding, or that the City fails to cooperate fully in the defense of said claim, this condition shall thereafter be of no further force or effect.

Signed _____

Date _____



FIREWISE



FIREWISE

*Recommended for all neighborhoods,
ESPECIALLY those in the **Very High** FHSZ*

What is Firewise?

Firewise empowers residents to take coordinated, practical steps to protect homes, neighborhoods, and critical infrastructure, particularly in areas near open space and within Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

What are the benefits?

Neighborhoods in Fire Hazard Severity Zones, face increased wildfire exposure. Firewise participation not only helps build local wildfire risk reduction, but it also can affect your homes insurance, helps with evacuations, and gets you access to funding and resources.

What are the steps to becoming a Firewise neighborhood?

1. Form a five (5) person neighborhood committee with your neighbors
2. Define your Firewise site boundaries (8–2,500 single-family dwelling units)
3. Appoint a community leader or liaison
4. Schedule a neighborhood meeting with Emergency Manager Joe Little jlittle@slocity.org to help create a **Wildfire Risk Assessment** and a **Wildfire Action Plan**
5. Apply for Recognition through the Firewise USA portal
6. Track your mitigation efforts. Aim for 1 hour per home per year

WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

- Living document, updated every 5 years
- Identifies:
 - Wildfire Hazards
 - Fuels
 - Vulnerabilities

WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN

- Updated every 3 years
- Broken down by year
- Identified and prioritizes actions to reduce ignition to homes (Homeowner actions and education activities)

Firewise USA



FOR QUESTIONS OR TO SET UP A NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
Contact Joe Little, Emergency Manager
jlittle@slocity.org



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

FIREWISE USA® RECOGNITION PROGRAM COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Firewise USA® and the US Wildfire Problem

Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States. At the same time, a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk. While these fires will continue to happen, there are things you can do to help protect your home and neighborhood as well as your family's safety.

The NFPA Firewise USA® recognition program was designed to help people learn about wildfire and how they can make their homes and neighborhoods safer. It's based on research that shows how to prepare homes to withstand embers and prevent flames or surface fire from igniting the home and its immediate surroundings, by working in an area known as the home ignition zone (HIZ). This is the home and everything around it within 100 feet.



The community risk assessment should focus on the vulnerability of homes and surrounding home ignition zones to embers.

In many neighborhoods, home ignition zones often overlap onto adjacent properties—meaning that homes are closer than 100 feet to one another. This makes the conditions of neighboring homes and vegetation a part of the wildfire threat. It's extremely important that neighbors work collaboratively with each other—and talk with each other—to reduce their shared risk.

Using Firewise USA® to create ignition-resistant communities

Firewise USA® is a voluntary recognition program that provides a framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and communities from wildfire.

[Download the entire Wildfire Risk Assessment Template Here](#)



A graphic of a rectangular sign with a thick black border. Inside the black border is a yellow border, followed by a blue border, and then a large red rectangular area in the center. The word "INSURANCE" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the red area.

INSURANCE



INSURANCE

Will my insurance go up if I am now in a Fire Severity Zone?

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara issued a [fact sheet](#) explaining that CAL FIRE hazard maps do not affect insurance rates or availability (page 28)

My Insurance is going up, is there anything I can do?

Review and update your home's insurance policy before a wildfire occurs. Property owners are encouraged to review the CA Department of Insurance's Safer from Wildfires and CA Dept of Insurance Prevention and Preparedness for a list of action items homeowners can do to qualify for insurance discounts. Neighborhoods can also work together to become a Firewise certified neighborhood which can lead to insurance discounts.

Safer from
Wildfires



THE CITY OF SLO IS RECOGNIZED AS A **FIRE RISK REDUCTION COMMUNITY**. RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INFORM THEIR INSURANCE PROVIDERS

INSURANCE CHECKLIST

- **Conduct an annual insurance checkup** - Discuss your policy limits and coverage
- **Know what your policy covers** - Know if you have a replacement cost policy or an actual cash value policy
- **Update your policy to cover home improvements** - If you make home improvements, update your coverage
- **Maintain insurance** - If your home is paid off, be sure to maintain insurance
- **Get renters insurance** - If you're renting look into renters insurance. Many insurers bundle it with auto insurance
- **Make a home inventory** - Document the contents of your home before a wildfire occurs. Include cost of items, photos, and receipts.

Q&A – Insurance and CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps

1. How will the updated CAL FIRE maps affect insurance availability and affordability?

CAL FIRE's maps are intended to drive local planning decisions, not insurance decisions. Under Commissioner Lara's new regulation finalized in October 2022, insurance companies must provide discounts for wildfire safety actions such as community mitigation and home-hardening, which CAL FIRE's maps do not assess. In addition, insurance companies are already using risk analysis tools and models that go beyond CAL FIRE's proposed maps in determining what properties they will underwrite.

Commissioner Lara's new wildfire safety regulation will help increase access to insurance by promoting wildfire safety across the state. Reducing wildfire risks throughout the state is the primary way we can make insurance more available and affordable, and our regulation is a major step towards that goal. CAL FIRE's maps support that goal through improving public education about hazard and the need for safety preparation.

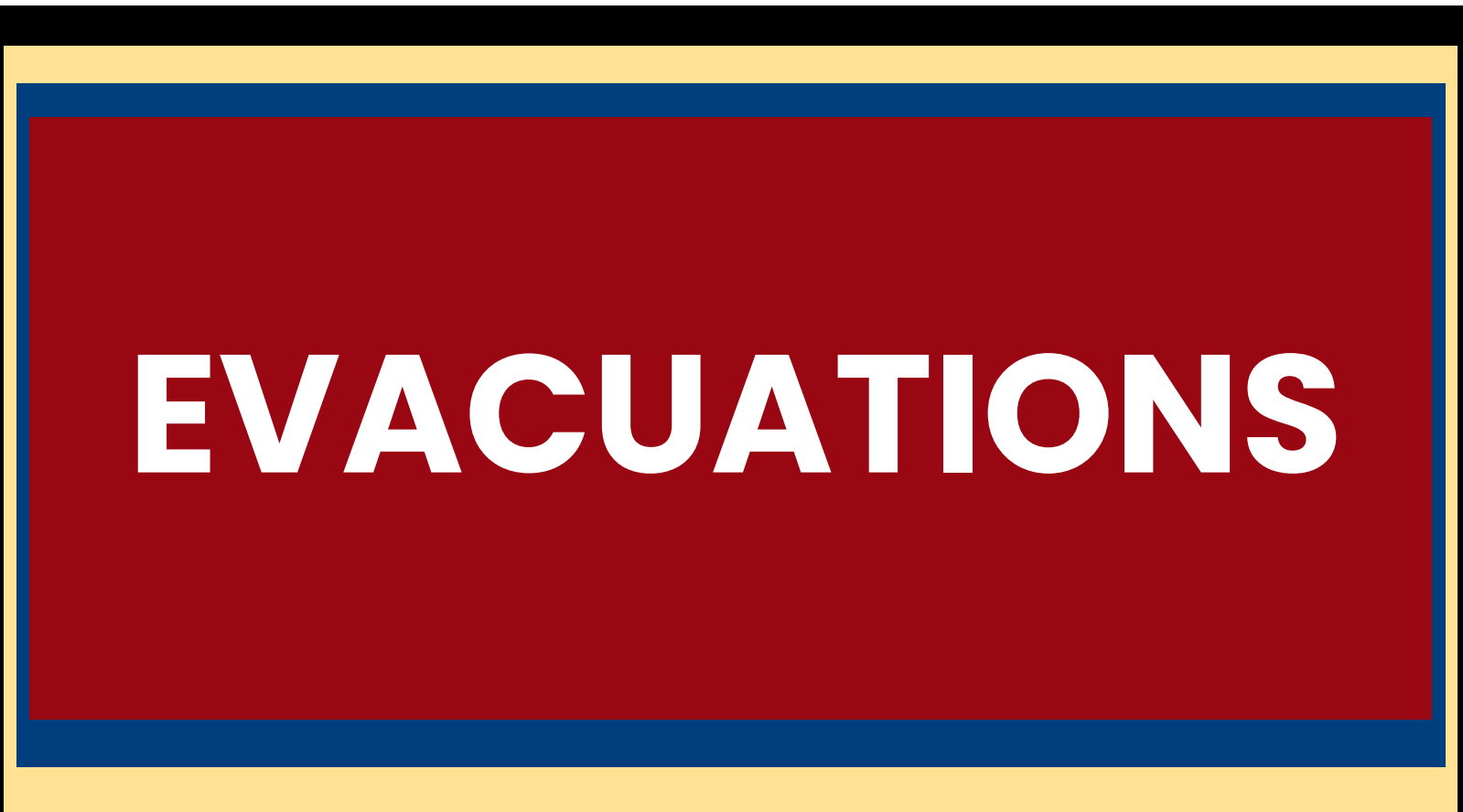
2. How will these maps benefit the public?

Public education about where current wildfire hazards exist is essential to reducing the threat to local communities and maintaining access to available and affordable insurance. When communities know and understand their risks, they can plan and prepare.

In addition, the Department's [first-ever report on climate insurance](#) recommended updated wildfire hazard mapping to improve public safety.

3. If you are a homeowner and your zone changed from High Hazard to Very High Hazard, will this impact your insurance premiums or renewal ability?

For many years, insurance companies have been using alternate wildfire risk tools for determining where they will write and renew policies, and how much premium to charge a policyholder, not the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps. Therefore, a change in designation on the maps for a single homeowner is unlikely to affect their insurance. The reality is that more accurate risk information enables homeowners and communities to reduce their wildfire risks, and Commissioner Lara's new wildfire mitigation regulation clarifies what actions you should take to reduce wildfire risks. Once that regulation is fully implemented, if a homeowner or business owner takes those risk mitigation actions, they will be able to see a discount in their insurance premium.

A rectangular sign with a red background and white text. The sign is framed by a thick yellow border, which is itself surrounded by a thin blue border and a thick black border. The word "EVACUATIONS" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

EVACUATIONS



EVACUATIONS

How should I prepare for an evacuation?

An evacuation requires swift action to ensure safety, beginning with monitoring local officials and immediately leaving when ordered. Pack essential items (go-bag), secure your home, and follow designated routes. Prepare for both evacuation warnings (be prepared to leave) and orders (leave immediately) to avoid being trapped.

Before an evacuation

Get Prepared. Know your local evacuation zone and prepare a go-bag with essentials like food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries, cash, chargers, and important documents such as passports, insurance policies, and medical records. Make plans for pets by bringing leashes, carriers, and food, and keep your vehicle ready with a full gas tank and an emergency kit.

How will I be notified if I need to evacuate?

You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. In an intense wildfire, emergency personnel may not have time to knock on every door. You must take the initiative to stay informed and be aware.

1. Sign up for Alerts (Reverse 911, Alert SLO, WEA)
2. Follow local social media
3. Listen to the radio and/or local news

If you feel like you are in danger, evacuate.



@slocityfd
@slo_police
@countyofslooes

During an evacuation

During an evacuation warning, stay informed through prepareslo.org or local media, gather your family and pets, and consider leaving early if you have special needs or animals. During an evacuation order, leave immediately without delay, secure your home by locking doors and windows, and turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Follow designated evacuation routes and never drive through flooded areas. Remember: "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

After an evacuation

Wait to return home until officials announce it is safe to do so. Once you are safe, check in with family members or emergency contacts to let them know your status.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WAIT TO BE ORDERED BY AUTHORITIES TO EVACUATE. IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE IN DANGER, THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO EVACUATE. IF YOU ARE ADVISED TO LEAVE, DON'T HESITATE!

ALERTS

DONT WAIT TO EVACUATE!



● **Evacuation Warning:** Potential Threat

● **Evacuation Order:** Immediate Threat

● **Shelter in Place:** Stay Inside

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

Emergencies

REVERSE 9-1-1

PrepareSLO.org
Alerts on phone

**Emergencies and
Important Info**

ALERT SLO

AlertSLO.org
Alerts on phone
and email

**Large-Scale
Emergencies**

WEA

No-opt in required
Alerts on cell phones



www.PrepareSLO.org



KNOW YOUR ZONE



My Diablo (PAZ) Zone is:_____

My Evac Zone is:_____

Visit PrepareSLO.org to enter your address and identify your PAZ and Evacuation Zone.

EVACUATION CHECKLIST

PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Family	
Out of Area Contact	
School	
Animal Shelter	
Other	

IMPORTANT INFO

Location of Emergency Supply Kit	
Meeting Location	
Evacuation Route	
Evacuation Zone	
Diablo (PAZ) Zone	

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT (SHOULD ALREADY BE PACKED)

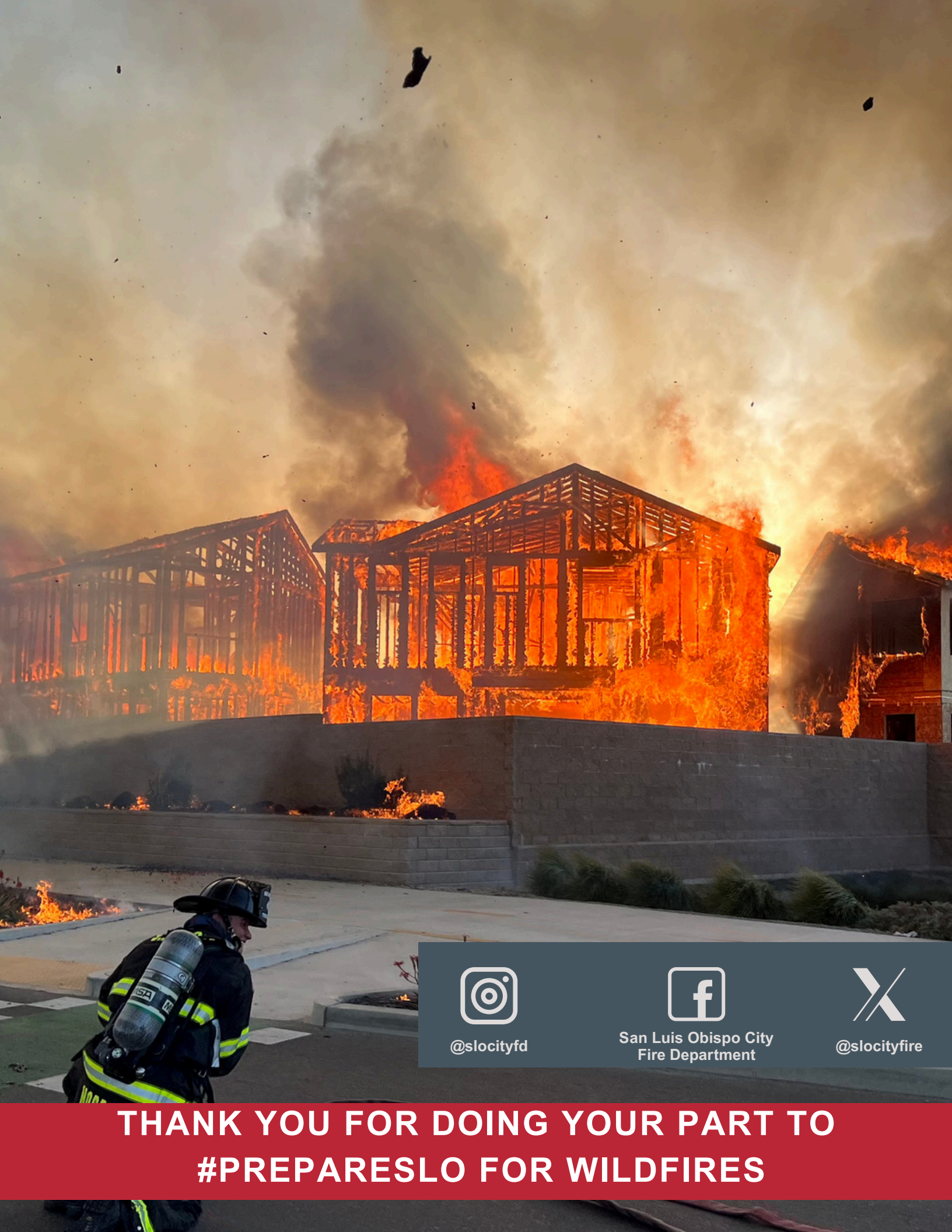
	Important Documents (Passport, birth certificates, SSN, Insurance)
	Cash
	Prescription Medications
	Glasses/Contacts
	First Aid Kit
	Chargers, Portable Battery Bank
	Food (3 Day Supply)
	Water (3 gallons per person)
	Clothes, Shoes
	Blanket, Sleeping Bag
	Flashlight, Hand Crank Radio
	Hygiene Items

PET SUPPLY KIT

	Food and Water and Bowls
	Collar and Leash
	Crate, Bed
	Medications
	Large Animal Evacuation: 805.466.7457

VEHICLE PREP

	Always Keep Gas Tank ½ Full
	Emergency Car Kit
	Jumper Cables
	Don't abandon your car in the middle of the road



@slocityfd



San Luis Obispo City
Fire Department



@slocityfire

**THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART TO
#PREPARESLO FOR WILDFIRES**