Homeowners are required to create and maintain defensible space—a buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildfires and improve safety for firefighters working to protect structures.

### ZONE 0
**THERE SHOULD BE “ZERO” COMBUSTIBLES IN “ZONE ZERO”**
- **Only use** inorganic, non-combustible mulches such as stone or gravel.
- **Remove** or relocate all combustible materials including firewood, garbage and recycling containers, lumber, and trash.
- **Choose** metal outdoor furniture instead of wood or wicker.
- **Replace** jute or natural fiber doormats with heavy rubber or metal grates.
- **No vegetation** is recommended in Zone 0.
- **Remove** tree limbs that extend into this zone.
- **Clean** fallen leaves and needles regularly, focusing on the roof, gutters, decks, & the base of walls.
- **Don’t** store combustibles on or under decks. Keep decks clean at all times.
- **Install** hardscaping and paths of stone, gravel, or concrete around the perimeter of structures.

### ZONE 1
**5–30 FEET FROM BUILDINGS, DECKS, AND OTHER STRUCTURES**
- **Remove** all dead grasses, weeds, plants, & foliage.
- **Remove** all fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches.
- **Use** compost or heavy bark mulch in this zone to maintain soil moisture and control erosion.
- **Choose** only fire resistant plants, and keep them healthy and well irrigated.
- **Remove** fire-prone plants.
- **Provide** spacing between shrubs, at least 2 times the height of the mature plant. Add space on slopes.
- **Trim** trees & remove limbs 6’ to 10’ from the ground.
- **Remove** branches that overhang your roof or within 10’ of chimneys.
- **Move** firewood & lumber out of Zone 1, or cover in a fire resistant enclosure.
- **Remove** combustibles around and under decks and awnings.
- **Clear** vegetation around fences, sheds, outdoor furniture, play structures.
- **Maintain** regularly, focusing on the areas closest to the structure.
- **Outbuildings and LPG storage tanks should have at least 10’ of clearance.**

### ZONE 2
**30–100 FEET FROM BUILDINGS, DECKS, AND OTHER STRUCTURES**
- **Cut** annual grasses and weeds to a maximum height of 4”.
- **Provide** horizontal spacing between shrubs & trees.
- **Create** vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and lower tree limbs.
- **Allow** no more than 3” of loose surface litter (consisting of fallen leaves, needles, twigs, cones, and small branches) if needed to protect from erosion.
- **Remove** all piles of dead vegetation.

### ACCESS ZONE
**PROPERTY OWNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR VEGETATION ADJACENT TO ROADS AND DRIVEWAYS.**
- **Clear** vegetation 14’ overhead and 10’ from sides of roads and driveways in the same manner as Defensible Space Zone 1.
- **Maintain** 12’ of unobstructed pavement for passage of vehicles.
- **Choose** only fire resistant plants and ensure that they do not extend into the roadway.
- **Address** numbers must be clearly visible from the road. Use 4” reflective or lighted numbers on a contrasting background.
- **Create** vertical spacing between shrubs and lower tree limbs.
Avoid:
- Eucalyptus
- Palm
- Most Conifers (Pines, Italian Cypress, Juniper, Firs, Cedars)
- Acacias

Suggested:
- Oaks
- Maples
- Sycamores
- Western Redbud
- Holly Leaf Cherry

---

LEARN MORE AT WWW.FIRESAFEMARIN.ORG/DEFENSIBLE-SPACE

---

Prefered plants and vegetation

**SHRUBS**
- Quail Bush
- Acacia
- Toyon
- Lemonade Berry
- Hollyleaf Cherry
- Karo
- Pacific Wax Myrtle
- Privet
- Rhododendrons and Azaleas
- Yucca

**TREES**
- Eucalyptus
- Palm
- Most Conifers (Pines, Italian Cypress, Juniper, Firs, Cedars)

**GROUNDCOVER**
- Carpet Bugle
- Beach Aster
- Strawberry
- Giant Turf Lily
- Alpine Cinquefoil
- Creeping Thyme

**GRASSES**
- Deer Grass
- Fountain Grass
- Pampas Grass
- Bamboo
- Brazilian Pepper
- Giant Reed

**SUCCULENTS**
- Prickly Pear Cactus
- Cholla
- Chaparral

**PERENNIALS**
- Most others...

**FIRE-RESISTANT MULCHES**
- Crushed Rock
- Pea Gravel
- Beaded Glass
- Decomposed Granite or other Non-Combustible Material

---

* Consult with the Community Development Department prior to changing your home or landscape as it might require a permit or design review

---

APRIL 2020: DESIGN AND FIRECLEAR MAP PROVIDED BY CLAUDINE JAENICHEN // GUEMIL ICONS BY RODRIGO RAMÍREZ

---

DEFENSIBLE HOME

A roofs must be “Class A,” with ignition resistant materials such as composition, metal or tile.

B eaves can be protected by enclosing them with stucco or cement siding to prevent ignition. Vent openings should be covered with 1/8” metal mesh to stop ember intrusion. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.

C exterior walls can be covered with non-combustible siding or stucco, with no gaps, cracks, or openings for embers to get in.

D weatherstripping around windows and doors can stop embers from entering the home. Choose double pane, tempered glass windows to protect from breakage if exposed to heat.

E balconies, decks, and fences attached to the building can be built with ignition resistant or non-combustible materials.

---

LEARN MORE AT WWW.FIRESAFEMARIN.ORG/HOME-HARDENING

---

LEARN MORE AT WWW.FIRESAFEMARIN.ORG/PLANTS