



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Council

Tips on Home Hardening

- ✓ The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home, as embers can ignite combustible materials. Regular maintenance—such as removing debris, trimming vegetation, inspecting intersections, checking for gaps, and using spark arrestors—is crucial.
- ✓ Vents are also vulnerable to flame entry, so identify all locations, including attics and roof ridges. If updating vents, use metal and install screens with a maximum opening of 1/8 inch, preferably 1/16 inch; regular checks for debris buildup are essential.
- ✓ Gutters should be made of non-combustible materials like galvanized steel, copper, or aluminum, and metal hood leaf guards can help reduce debris. Keeping gutters clear is vital for preventing ignition from flying embers, so regular maintenance is necessary.



Tips on Defensible Space

- ✓ Zone 0 is the first 5 ft of your yard extended from your house. In this section you should try to limit the amount of combustible material placed here such as outdoor furniture and planters. Use gravel or stone instead of mulch or bark for landscaping in this zone.
- ✓ Zone 1 is the next 5 ft to 30 ft of your house, in this section focus on the upkeep and maintenance of your vegetation. Make sure the vegetation is regularly watered and trimmed, where branches of trees are at least 10 ft apart.
- ✓ Zone 2 is the next 30 ft to 100 ft of your house. In this section it is important to create vertical and horizontal space with your vegetation. This means trimming lower branches, creating distance between trees and shrubs, as well as clearing up dead leaves and vegetation.

Upcoming Events

- ✿ Agoura Hills FSC community meeting 1/29/25 5-7pm
- ✿ FSC/ Community Leaders meeting TBA

Looking for Funding?

Water Rebates

For areas like Malibu, Topanga, and Marina del Rey water rebates can include:

- High efficiency clothes washers
- Weather based irrigation controllers
- Rotary Sprinkler nozzles
- Flow Monitor devices
- Commercial Devices

For more information on water rebates in your district and to see if you qualify: [Click Here!](#)

Home Hardening grants

Agoura hills is offering a one time \$1,000 grant for homeowners that need help with hardening their home and creating defensible space through the City of Agoura Hills Home Hardening Wildfire Resiliency Incentive Grant. For more information about the application and to find out if you are eligible, [Click Here!](#)

Want to learn more?

Here are some great resources:

- The Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation district's youtube series on home hardening: [Click Here!](#)
- The Defensible Space Website on defensible space and fire resistant landscaping: [Click Here!](#)
- Cal Fire's Ready for Wildfire website prepare your for step to take before, during, and after wildfire: [Click Here!](#)
- NFPA's Website on FIREWISE USA program offers information about becoming FIREWISE recognized and the program in general: [Click Here!](#)

