



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

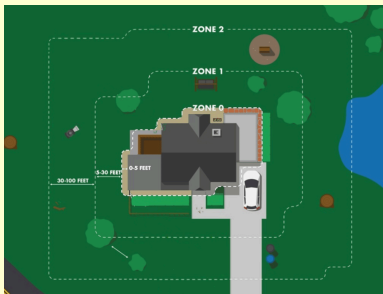
Today is Giving Tuesday!



Donate for Giving Tuesday, an international day of generosity that encourages people to join together in supporting meaningful initiatives and strengthening their communities.

Your donations will allow us to carry out projects such as habitat restoration through defensible space, the development of a tool library, and support for our community workdays.

Upcoming Events



ZONE ZERO REGULATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection will be holding their next zone zero meeting on Dec. 8th, 2025. Join to learn the most current information on zone zero regulations and make a public comment.

[Register Here](#)

GOLDSPOTTED OAK BORER VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

On Thursday, December 4, UCANR is hosting a virtual symposium on the Goldspotted Oak Borer. Join to learn more about this threat to oaks here in Southern California.

[Register Here](#)



Goldspotted Oak Borer 2025 Virtual Symposium • Online via Zoom Webinar December 4, 2025 • 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

The goldspotted oak borer (GOB) is an invasive wood-boring beetle that attacks and contributes to the mortality of oaks throughout southern California and remains a considerable threat. The **FREE Goldspotted Oak Borer Symposium** will provide updated and current information gleaned from the latest research, monitoring, management and outreach activities conducted over the last several years. Information presented will be helpful to land managers, parks and campground personnel, arborists, landscape professionals, and others who are interested in the stewardship of oaks and oak woodlands. Experts will share about the identification, impacts and control threats, GOB life cycle, and best practices for assessing and managing infestations to reduce its continued spread in oaks and oak woodlands, including practical examples of management at varying landscape scales.

PROGRAM AGENDA

Introduction to the Goldspotted Oak Borer: Threatened trees, biology, life cycle and distribution – Kim Corella, Forest Pathologist – Forest Entomology and Pathology Program, CAL FIRE

Best Management Practices for Goldspotted Oak Borer: IPM – monitoring, cultural, mechanical, chemical, and biological practices – Dr. Beatrix Hobbs-Borham, Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)

Infested Wood and Firewood Management – Dr. Beatrix Hobbs-Borham, Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)

Management in the Communities and Landscapes: Public and Private Lands –

• Oak Grove, San Diego County, State Hill, Forestry & Fire Prevention Project Manager, Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
• GOB Management in the Inland Empire – Kayla Thompson, Forestry Programs Specialist, and Jocelyn Pineda, Forest Ecologist, Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

New in Monitoring, Survey and Detection –

• GOB Blitz and Distribution Map Development – Kim Corella, Forest Pathologist – Forest Entomology and Pathology Program, CAL FIRE
• GOB Blitz Project: Introduction – Jan Gonzales, UCCE, Group Leader/Lessons Learned – Rachel Burnap, Inspector III, Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weeds and Resources Working with Specific Volunteer Audiences – Callie Squares, Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council

Research Update: Understanding Emergence Season, Insecticide Timing, and the Fundamentals of Handling Infested Wood – Jojoen Tamm, Natural Resources Director, La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians

Next Steps: GOB Education and Outreach Resources and Closing – Jan Gonzales, Community Education Supervisor, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)

Registration is **FREE** but required for this symposium. [Online Registration Here](#)

CEUs for this symposium are pending from WCSA and the California DPR.

Contact: Jan Gonzales, jgonzales@ucanr.edu

Vent Protection Program

SMMFSC is beginning a **pilot Vent Protection Program** for residents in the following communities:

Topanga
Pacific Palisades
Malibu

This program will allow you to have your vents retrofitted with wildfire defense mesh to better protect against ember intrusion.

We have **limited spots available!** Please help us get the word out to those residents that could benefit from this program.

For those who apply and are not selected, we will put you on a waitlist, as we aim to expand this program in the future!



[Apply Here](#)

November Highlights

Entrance to the Oaks Planting Day

On November 22, the SMMFSC held their first planting day in Topanga! They planted 69 native plants with community members to promote wildfire safety through habitat restoration.



A big thank you goes out to the **Entrada Encina Association**, whose passion and persistence were the driving force behind this event. Their involvement helped make this planting day run seamlessly. We're also grateful to **State Parks** for providing tools and assisting with volunteer coordination. A special thanks to State Parks Senior Environmental Scientist **Noa Rishe**, who guided us in selecting the best planting locations to ensure each tree thrives at maturity. A big thank you also goes to the **Malibu Forestry Unit** for supplying oaks. We especially want to thank our **volunteers** for coming out on a Saturday morning to help us plant these native trees. Because of your enthusiasm and hard work, we finished much faster than expected and turned this into a true community effort.

November Tabling Events

On November 1, our director Pauline attended the Be Prepared Safety Fair in Calabasas. She gave a presentation on Home Hardening to some engaged community members.





On November 16, our Fire Safety Liaison JoJo tabled at the Get Ready, Stay Ready Emergency Preparedness Event, and presented on Home Hardening topics.

Home Hardening and Defensible Space Monthly Tips



FIRE SAFETY 101: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

For more information visit smmfsc.org to stay informed on the latest educational material from our monthly fires safety series

BE PREPARED



Wildfires can happen quickly, leaving little time to react. It is important to always be prepared, but especially on red flag warning days and during peak fire season.

Prepare now by creating and practicing an evacuation plan with your household, assembling an emergency "go bag", and maintaining defensible space.

RED FLAG WARNING DAY

WHAT IS IT?

A red flag warning day is a weather warning issued when there are strong winds, high temperatures, dry conditions, low humidity levels, and/or possibility of lightning strikes. A warning signifies a high risk of fire, therefore residents should be prepared and ready to evacuate if necessary.

RISKS

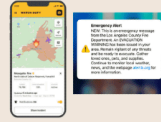
On high advisory days, do not perform any actions that could produce a spark. For example smoking, starting campfires, using power tools, or using tire chains.



ALERTS AND EVACUATIONS

STAY IN THE KNOW

Follow the latest updates and changes. Check out [WatchDuty](#), [Alert LA County](#), [Notify LA](#), and [EPIC Calabasas](#).



EVACUATION ROUTES

Know what evacuation zone you are in. Check out [Genasys](#) to learn your zone or the [LA Fire Dept](#) for zones and alerts



GO BAG CHECKLIST

- A 3-day supply of non-perishable food & 3 gallons of water per person
- A map with at least 2 evacuation routes
- Necessary prescriptions or medications
- A change of clothes & extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Extra car keys, credit cards, cash, or traveler's checks
- A first aid kit & sanitation supplies
- A flashlight & battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Pet food & water

[Learn more here](#)

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

- Move combustibles out of Zone Zero (0-5 ft). This includes garbage bins, doormats, outdoor cushions, propane grills, etc.
- Clean gutters
- Clear debris and dry vegetation around the home
- Close all windows and doors
- Protect wooden fences/gates — If attached to your home, prop gates open to break the fire path.

RESOURCES

Check out readyforwildfire.org for more tips and watchduty.org to stay informed



Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Council
www.smmfsc.org

Don't Forget to Join our Firewise Networking Call!



FIREWISE NETWORKING CALL

JOIN US ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH FOR OUR FIREWISE NETWORKING CALL!

- MEET OTHER INVOLVED CITIZENS
- LEARN HOW TO START A FIREWISE COMMUNITY
- EXCHANGE IDEAS ON HOW TO WORK TOWARDS FIRE SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS



12 - 1 PM



To account for the holidays, our next
Firewise networking call will be **January
28th, 2026!**

[Register Here](#)

If you would like to unsubscribe, please [click here](#).

