

## FIRE SAFETY 101:

**ZONE ZERO** 

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

# WHAT IS ZONE ZERO?



Zone Zero extends 0 to 5 ft from the edge of the structure, this mean 5 ft from the roof overhang, deck, patio, etc.

Zone Zero is the most important area and should be prioritized when completing defensible space work!

Keeping Zone Zero clean is crucial in order to prevent embers from igniting materials close to the structure that could then spread to your home.

## **VEGETATION IN ZONE ZERO**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The safest option is to clear all vegetation from zone zero. New regulations recommend zone zero should be free of all plants.



#### **POTS**

Fire-resistant plants like succulents can be in Zone Zero if placed in non-combustible pots (5 gallons or smaller) that are easy to move.

#### **TREES**

It is proven that healthy and mature trees, **especially oaks**, are beneficial to fire protection and should be left. Trim back trees so there is at least 5ft of clearance from your home.

## **MATERIALS IN ZONE ZERO**

#### REMOVE ALL COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS

Remove all combustible materials from zone zero either proactively or if they remain, remove items from the first 5ft on red flag warning days. Items to remove include trash cans, doormats, furniture, and decor.



## **GROUND COVER**

The ground cover in zone zero should be non-combustible. Best practice is to have permeable non-combustible materials such as gravel, cement, or dirt.

## **ZONE ZERO REGULATIONS**

New Regulations Here



## **MAINTENANCE**

Zone Zero is the most crucial area to prioritize after home hardening. 90% of fires begin in Zone Zero due to flying embers igniting debris or structures.

Embers that land in Zone Zero can easily ignite if there are combustible materials present such as dry vegetation, mulch, or combustible furniture.

If this area is not clear, fire can easily travel from the surrounding area to the home.

## RESOURCES

defensiblespace.org
and
fire.ca.gov/building
materials
for more information

