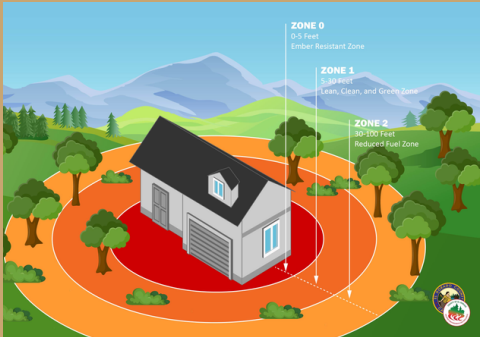


FIRE SAFETY 101:

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

PHASE 1 (Implemented within the first 3 years):

Includes removing combustible items such as firewood, dead leaves and branches, mulch, and wood chips within 5 feet of the structure. Cleaning gutters, removing dead and dying plants, trimming trees according to regulations

PHASE 2 (Implemented within 5 years):

Local jurisdictions will assign a timeline for the creation of an under-eave safety zone for vegetation other than trees, replacing combustible gates, and making any necessary adjustments to sheds and fencing.

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

Check out
defensiblespace.org
and
[fire.ca.gov/building
materials](http://fire.ca.gov/buildingmaterials)
for more information

