



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



October is officially the month to celebrate oak trees, an important part of California's ecosystems and communities. Throughout the month, we'll be sharing fun facts about different species of oaks found in California, and their role in wildfire resiliency.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to learn more and celebrate these incredible trees with us.



California is home to about 20 different species of oaks.



Many oak species can re-sprout after fire damage due to their deep roots.

National Fire Prevention Week

Join us in celebrating National Fire Prevention Week from October 5-11! This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home". Help us spread the word about making smart choices when it comes to buying, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries—because the wrong move can lead to a fire. For more info, visit fpw.org.

A promotional graphic for National Fire Prevention Week. It features the text "CHARGE into Fire Safety™" in large, bold letters. Below it, "Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home" is highlighted in a blue box. A list of instructions includes: "BUY only listed products.", "CHARGE devices safely.", and "RECYCLE batteries responsibly." The graphic also features the NFPA logo, the website "fpw.org", and the cartoon dog Sparky holding a house with a lightning bolt.



Join the University of Southern California's Agriculture and Natural Resources team to help scientists and land managers identify where action is needed to protect our trees. This is a community-driven event to detect and map goldspotted oak borer infestations across Southern California. Take action with us during the last two weeks of October on 10/26, 10/28, and 10/29.

[Want to learn more about GSOB Blitz?](#)

Welcome CCAC Fellows

Why are you excited to join the SMMFSC?

Emma Strassner



I am excited to begin working with SMMFSC! I hope that I can not only expand my own knowledge of wildfire safety and prevention, but that I can support community engagement in these areas.

My Fire Story

In 2016, the Sand Fire burned in Santa Clarita and sent multiple friends packing as flames got dangerously close to their homes. As fires continued to get worse here in LA, I felt I needed to find ways to get involved and make a difference. My time in college studying ecology and wildfire led me to this fellowship!

Jessica Laubender



I'm excited to join the SMMFSC because it gives me the opportunity to give back to my community while helping to reduce wildfire risks.

My Fire Story

The 2018 Woolsey Fire narrowly missed my home, shaping my early awareness of wildfires. After moving to Chico in 2021, the lingering effects of the Camp Fire highlighted the need for wildfire resilience.

By 2023 I was conducting home assessments, and the Park Fire in 2024 further directed my focus toward fire behavior and ecology.

Heliodoro (Helio) Sigala



I'm excited to join the Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Council because it allows me to actively contribute to wildfire prevention and community safety. I'm especially motivated by the opportunity to help protect homes and natural areas while educating the public about fire preparedness.

My Fire Story

It started in 2019, when I began serving as a firefighter in Eagle Grove, IA. What started as a commitment to public service quickly grew into a passion for fire prevention, community safety, and environmental protection. While responding to emergencies and operating fire apparatus, I realized how important it was to prepare communities before disaster strikes. That experience pushed me to expand my skills through certifications in hazard awareness, emergency response, and incident command.

Home Hardening and Defensible Space Monthly Tips



FIRE SAFETY 101: GUTTERS

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

HARDEN YOUR GUTTERS



In order to be resilient to wildfire, gutters should:

1. Be made out of non-combustible materials
2. Have non-combustible gutter guards
3. Be clear of debris
4. Have a metal drip edge

Even with a class A roof, if the gutter itself or material in a gutter is ignited, it can easily spread to your siding and into the home.

NON-COMBUSTIBLE GUTTERS

RECOMMENDATIONS

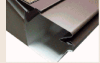
Gutters should be made out of non-combustible materials like aluminum, copper, or other metal.

Materials like vinyl or plastic will melt in fire conditions, which poses a risk to your home.

METAL



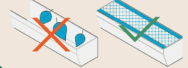
ALUMINUM



GUTTER GUARDS

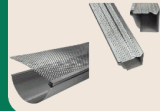
EFFECTIVENESS

Non-combustible gutter guards are very effective in order to prevent debris build-up. Accumulated dry debris can act as kindling and ignite by wind-blown embers.



GUTTER GUARD TYPES

Install non-combustible **metal-mesh screens** or **metal hoods** that properly fit the gutter. Ensure there are no gaps when installed.

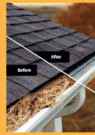


MAINTENANCE

All gutters need to be properly maintained to be effective.

Regularly clear gutters of debris, even if there are gutter guards.

Repair any warped or damaged sections.



DRIP EDGES

A drip edge is a piece of metal flashing that is necessary in order to prevent water damage and wind-blown embers from entering.

If a drip edge is not present, install one.



RESOURCES

Check out defensiblespace.org and fire.ca.gov/buildingmaterials for more information



Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Council
www.smmfsc.org

This October we're highlighting Fire Safe Gutters! Learn about gutter materials, gutter guards, and drip edges.

Upcoming Events

ReadyFest
TOPANGA
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR

How Ready Are You?

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025
10AM - 4PM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
TOPANGA COMMUNITY CENTER
1440 N TOPANGA CANYON BLVD. TOPANGA 90290

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR
LINDSEY Horvath
THIRD DISTRICT

TCEP
TOPANGA

TOPANGA COALITION
for EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS

ORGANIZED BY
THE TOPANGA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

READYFEST 2025 PARTNERS

A grid of logos for various partner organizations, including:

- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY Horvath THIRD DISTRICT
- TCEP TOPANGA
- World Central Kitchen
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY Horvath THIRD DISTRICT
- CAL FIRE
- SMOKEY
- FORESTRY DIVISION
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY Horvath THIRD DISTRICT
- CHP
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY Horvath THIRD DISTRICT
- Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY Horvath THIRD DISTRICT
- CARES
- NFPA
- FIREWISE USA RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS
- ARSON WATCH
- CALIF
- TOPANGA CANYON Fire COUNCIL
- TOPANGA CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
- MIRCA Multiple Resource Conservation & Conservation Authority
- RCD RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT WITH SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS
- WEST BASIN METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
- American Red Cross
- SOS SURVIVAL PRODUCTS
- Fire Santa Monica Mountains
- BrandGuard Vents
- WWM
- AGOURA HILLS Fire
- WILDFIRE DEFENSE MESH U.S. Patent Pending
- United Policyholders Empowering the People
- Public Works LOS ANGELES COUNTY
- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
- BURNBOT
- TOPANGA FARMERS MARKET
- TOPANGA TOWNSHIP
- TCC
- ANKER SOLIX
- Topanga Creek
- The Canyon Sages Topanga Animal Reserve.org
- GREENER EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

ORGANIZED BY
THE TOPANGA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



SAVE THE DATE
**TENDING OAKS
WITH FIRE
MIMICRY
WORKSHOP**

Oct. 24th to Oct. 26th, 2025

Time:
9am-5pm

Location:
Tapia State Park

This 3 day workshop is focused on oak tree care and ecosystem resiliency through the implementation of fire mimicry with Dr. Lee Klinger tree scientist and author of "Forged by Fire". Applications are open until Sept. 24th. Registration confirmation and payment will occur in September. Free entrance offered to all tribal members.



Apply and learn more at smmfsc.org/oakworkshop

If you would like to unsubscribe, please click here.

