

# WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT DISTRICT



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### Thank you for your support. Since 2006 we've:

**Chipped** more than  
5400 tons of vegetation through  
our annual chipping program

**Cleared** 230 miles of roadways  
through our vegetation road  
clearance program

**Treated** 200 acres of flammable  
vegetation through fuels  
management projects

**Evaluated** over 700 properties  
to assess potential defensible  
space improvements

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Thank you for taking time to learn more about your Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District. The WFSAD is a highly successful program that has shown tremendous results in our community.

The Santa Barbara City Fire Department is dedicated to providing the safety of all our residents and visitors. We take this responsibility to heart and go to great efforts to carry out this mission on a daily basis.

We have some very exciting news to share with you this year. The City Fire Department and the Parks & Recreation Department have secured a \$525,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy. This grant will allow the City to purchase equipment and utilize an hourly five to six person crew to conduct vegetation management in parks and open spaces. This grant will also allow us to implement additional goals of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Look for more information soon!

The Department also continues to offer Defensible Space Evaluations along with recommendations for home hardening. With the amount of rain we have received we anticipate the growing season will be longer this year. It's never too early to start your defensible space clearance.

Home hardening techniques have proven results showing significant risk lowering during wildfires. With our recent rains, we are expecting a large growth of annual grasses and vegetation. This year would be a great time to take advantage of our annual chipping services.

Please continue to learn the "Ready! Set! GO!" program and pay close attention to Red Flag Watches and Warnings. Wildland fire season is just around the corner, we must remain engaged and educated on the risk of wildfire in all of our communities.

*-Fire Chief, Chris Mailes*

*-Fire Marshal, Ryan DiGuilio*

## THIS YEAR IN THE WFSAD

In this year's newsletter we are highlighting our programs and services that we continue to provide to all homeowners within the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District. We have also included information on the projects and activities completed in 2022 and what we have planned for this coming year.

We would like to thank all members of the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District for your continued support and ongoing defensible space clearing around your homes. Your cooperation is integral in reducing the threat of wildfire within the City and our surrounding communities.

## 2023 DEFENSIBLE SPACE CHIPPING

Sheffield/Parma.....	February 27
Las Canoas.....	March 13
Eucalyptus Hill.....	March 27
Sycamore Canyon/Las Alturas.....	April 10
Lower Riviera.....	April 24
San Roque/Ontare.....	May 1
Las Tunas.....	May 15
Circle/Westmont.....	May 30
West Mountain/Coyote.....	June 5

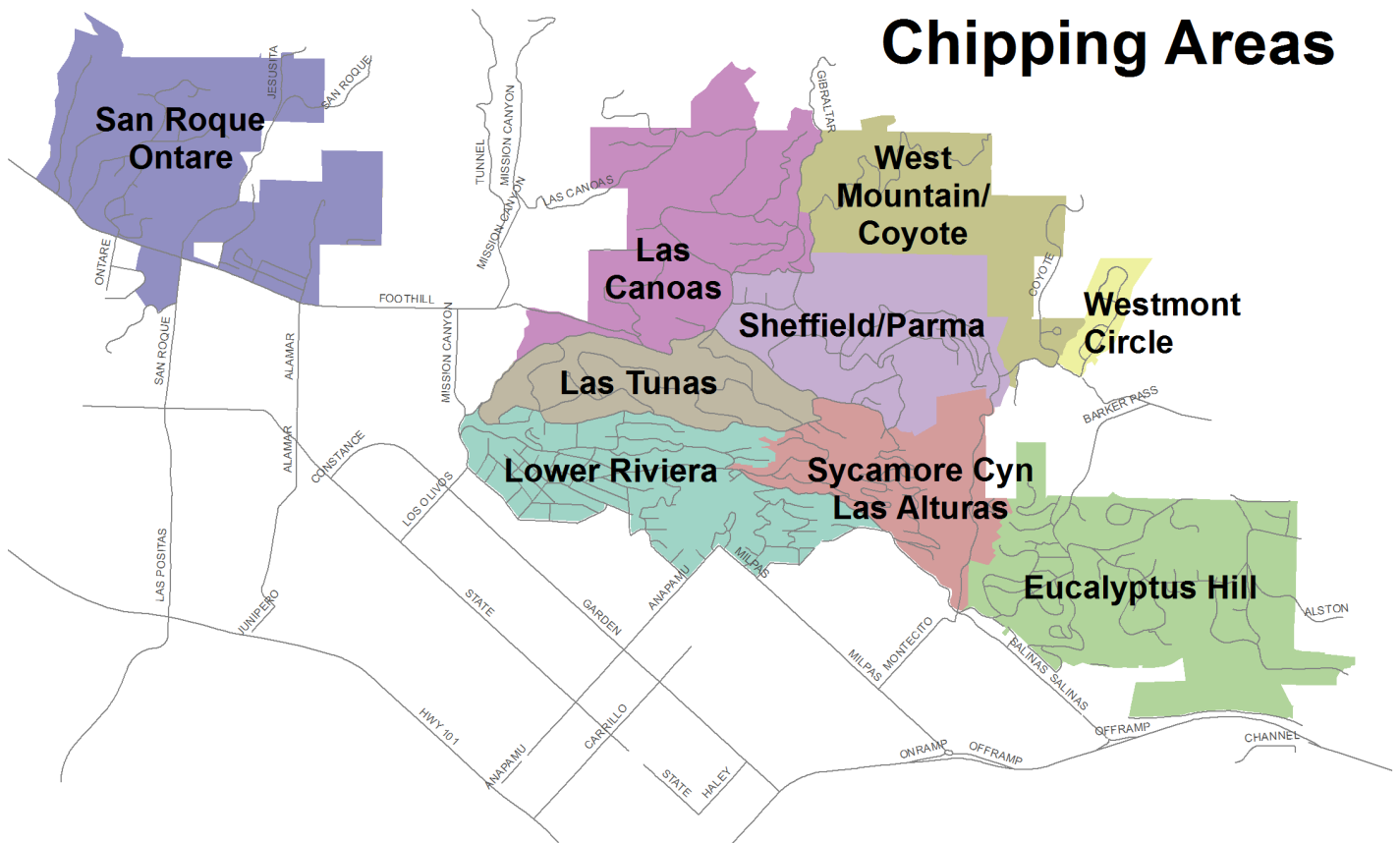
### Exotic pest plants that will **NOT** be chipped include:

Arundo • All species of ivy •  
Castor bean • Fennel •  
All species of broom • Ice plant  
Tobacco weed  
Any type of grass • Tamarisk  
Any kind of Bamboo

Please put your cut vegetation out on roadways **no sooner than two weeks** and **no later than 7am the morning** your chipping area is scheduled to begin (second passes will not be made).

Please refer to the map of chip areas below. For further detail visit our website at [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD) or call us at (805) 564-5737

## Chipping Areas



## CHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS



Chipping services are provided to encourage property owners to create defensible space and provide a cost effective way to dispose of cut material.

As part of the City's environmental efforts, our goal is to re-use 100% of all chipped material. To achieve this goal we need your help. If you can use chips on your property please contact us at (805) 564-5737. A load of chips is approximately 14 cubic yards. Partial loads are not available.

The chipping instructions (right) outline the specific requirements. Vegetation that does not meet these requirements will not be chipped and will be left on site. The property owner will be responsible for the legal disposal of any material that cannot be chipped.

- Cut vegetation must be stacked by the first day of the chipping schedule in your area.
- Cut vegetation should be laid out in a pile along the street outside the drivable roadway.
- The cut end of all vegetation must face the street so we can easily handle the material.
- Brush should be left in long lengths (4-7 feet). This makes it is much easier to chip.
- Cut branches should be no greater than 10 inches in diameter.
- Material in plastic bags will not be picked up.
- Twine or string must not be used to tie vegetation.
- Rocks or other debris will not be chipped.
- Long piles OK as long as they are not over 4 feet in height.
- Old dead vegetation that has been lying around for years will not be chipped (this type of vegetation damages chipper blades).
- Pine needles or other leaf litter cannot be chipped.
- Piles pushed or moved by mechanical means, i.e. tractor, will not be chipped.
- Grasses, palm fronds, succulents or agaves will not be chipped.



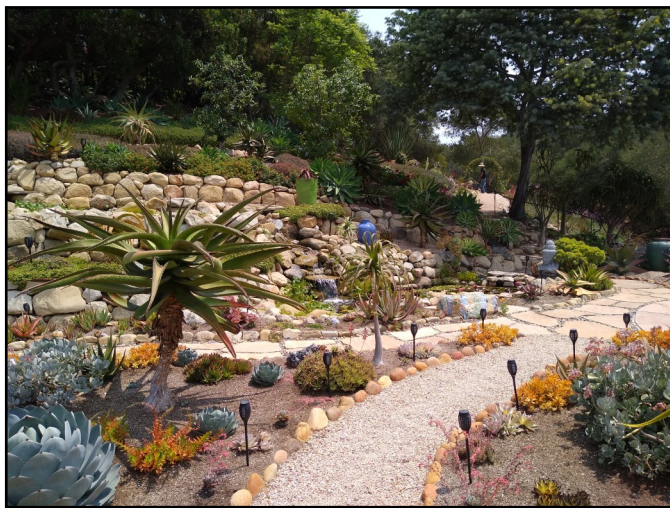


# DEFENSIBLE SPACE EVALUATIONS

## WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Defensible Space is the landscaped area around your home maintained to reduce the fire danger to structures and your property. A good defensible space area is key in providing a buffer between an approaching wildfire. It can make the difference between saving or losing your home.

**Defensible Space Evaluations are informative and FREE to all residents of the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District**



## Defensible Space Tips

**Reduce Fire Ladders:** Separate and space your plants both horizontally and vertically.

**Reduce Ignition Sources:** Embers may blow miles ahead of the fire. Frequently check and remove leaves and debris from roofs and gutters. Check under decks and porches, deck furniture, play/storage structures, doormats, and potted plants.

**Trees:** Remove branches from the ground a minimum of 6 feet or 1/3 the total height of the tree. Remove all dead branches.

**Brush:** Remove dead fuel and limb up 2 feet from the ground. Keep separation between shrubs, brush and trees.

**Grass:** Mow to 4 inches from the ground.

**Debris Piles:** Do not pile wood chips or mulch on your property. Spread and maintain them no greater than a 4 to 4 inch depth. Compost should be kept in an appropriate container.

**Ornamental Plants:** Should be irrigated, maintained and pruned year-round.

## WHAT IS INVOLVED IN A DEFENSIBLE SPACE EVALUATION?

During a Voluntary Defensible Space Evaluation we meet you on site and walk around your property. We will discuss your current landscaping, exterior building construction, assess its current condition for things that are beneficial as well as any additional interior improvements that can be made.

## AVOID FLAMMABLE SPECIES

Many species of ornamental and invasive vegetation should not be planted due to their flammable characteristics within the high fire hazard area. These are some of the species not allowed to be planted within the high fire hazard area:

- Acacia
- Bamboo
- Bottlebrush
- Bougainvillea
- Broom Species
- Camphora
- Cape Plumbago
- Castor Bean
- Coyote Bush
- Cypress
- Cedar
- Douglas Fir
- Eucalyptus
- Fountain Grass
- Honey Suckle
- Ivy
- Juniper
- Madrone
- Manzanita
- Melaleuca
- Palm Trees
- Pampas Grass
- Pepper Trees
- Periwinkle
- Pine Trees
- Sage
- Spruce Trees
- Sumac

**For a full list see 'High Fire Hazard Area Landscape Requirements' at:**  
[www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Wildland](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Wildland)

**FOR A VOLUNTARY DEFENSIBLE  
SPACE EVALUATION PLEASE CALL (805) 564-5737**

## BE PREPARED

In addition to preparing your defensible space it is important to utilize services that can provide critical information in the event of a wildfire or other natural disaster. Signing up for **READY SBC Alerts** will register your phone number and/or email address for alerts during emergencies. A message will be sent regarding potential safety hazards or concerns to the voice, email, or text communication methods that you have registered. Registration only takes a minute and can be found at:

**ReadySBC.org**

**READY SBC.org**  
SIGN-UP • PLAN • UNDERSTAND



Santa Barbara City's **READY, SET, GO!** guide is part of a national campaign that provides a wildland fire action plan for homeowners and information critical in preparing for a wildfire. This guide covers defensible space strategies, fire-wise landscape management tips specific to our local landscape and provides a personal wildfire action plan to prepare before having to evacuate. A copy of the guide can be found on the WFSAD website under the "Helpful Links" tab on the left menu:

**[www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD)**

If you would like a copy of Ready, Set, Go!, please contact Chris Braden, Fire Services Specialist at  
**(805) 564-5737**

## ROADWAYS MUST BE MAINTAINED

Each year the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department clears approximately 14 miles of vegetation along roadways within the WFSAD. Flammable vegetation along roadways creates hazardous conditions, especially during an evacuation. Burning vegetation along roads can force the closure of important evacuation routes, impedes the ingress of first responders and the egress of residents evacuating from areas. It is critical all property owners in the High Fire Hazard Area Zones maintain vegetation bordering roadways on their property year round.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Each year the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department conducts fuel reduction within Vegetation Management Units as outlined in the 2021 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Vegetation management is also completed within the Community Fuels Treatment Network (CFTN). The CFTN is an area that ties together fuel reduction projects completed by Santa Barbara City, Montecito and Santa Barbara County.

Vegetation management focuses on the removal of flammable vegetation by preferentially removing exotic pest plants, thinning, pruning and limbing existing vegetation to remove fire ladders, pruning out dead material, and thinning out continuous areas of brush. Vegetation management is focused outside property owners required defensible space areas.

All vegetation management activities include a biological and ecological evaluation prior to conducting work in order to protect environmental resources. By targeting fuel reduction activities in areas most prone to wildfire we can decrease the overall risk wildfire poses to the City.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

Over the past four years, Vegetation Management projects have been primarily focused within the Community Fuels Treatment Network (CFTN), including the Ontare, Las Canoas, West Mountain, Skofield Park and St. Mary's areas.



## FUELS REDUCION IN STEVENS PARK

In November 2022 the Santa Barbra City Fire and Parks Departments worked in collaboration to conduct fuels reduction in Stevens Park to the north of the Foothill bridge. Invasive species such as Cape Ivy and Arundo were removed in order to promote native growth and reduce their spread. Additionally, a large dead oak tree which had fallen near the trail was bucked up and thinned in order to reduce the overall fuel load and break up potential fire ladders.

By working together, the Fire and Parks Departments can achieved our goals of both reducing the overall fuel and hazardous vegetation within the City in addition to promoting the health of our native ecological and biological resources.

In the coming months and years we hope to have additional projects throughout the City High Fire hazard Areas, partnering with City departments in order to reduce the threat wildfires pose within the City and our surrounding communities.



## CALIFORNIA FIRESAFE GRANT

In November 2021 the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department received a \$15,000 grant from the California Firesafe Council for vegetation removal in the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District. This grant has funded additional removal of flammable vegetation in the Communities Fuels Treatment Network (CFTN) within the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District. In 2022, working with CALFIRE crews, more than 10 acres of fuel reduction has been completed on three separate parcels.

Funds will also be used to update and distribute the Ready! Set! Go! brochure so that it accurately reflects the priorities and changes established within the 2021 Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This brochure will be distributed to all homeowners within High Fire Hazard Areas within the City and copies will be made available to all members of the public upon request. Finally, both English and Spanish language versions will be available online and in hard copy format. We anticipate the distribution of the updated Ready! Set! Go! brochure to be mailed out in the Spring of 2023.





CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

**SBFD Website**

[SantaBarbaraCA.gov/FIRE](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/FIRE)

**CWPP Website**

<https://cwpp.santabarbaraca.gov>

**WFSAD Website**

[SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD)

**SBFD Facebook**

[Facebook.com/SantaBarbaraCityFire](https://Facebook.com/SantaBarbaraCityFire)

**Ready SBC**

[ReadySBC.org](http://ReadySBC.org)

**Santa Barbara County  
Fire History**

Year	Fire Name	Acres	Homes Lost
1955	Refugio	84,770	Several
1964	Coyote	67,000	100+
1971	Romero	14,538	4
1977	Sycamore	805	234
1977	Hondo	10,000	0
1979	Eagle	4,530	5
1990	Painted Cave	4,900	524
1993	Marre	43,864	0
2002	Sudden	7,160	0
2004	Gaviota	7,440	1
2007	Zaca	240,207	0
2008	Gap	9,445	0
2008	Tea	1,940	238
2009	Jesusita	8733	80
2016	Sherpa	7,474	0
2016	Rey	32,606	0
2016	Canyon	12,518	0
2017	Alamo	28,687	1
2017	Whittier	18,430	16
2017	Thomas	281,893	1,063
2019	Holiday	113	24
2019	Cave	3,126	0
2021	Loma	7	0
2021	Alisal	16,970	12

City of Santa Barbara  
Fire Department  
925 Chapala Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**SIGN UP FOR A FREE  
DEFENSIBLE SPACE EVALUATION**



Just snap the above QR code with your smartphone and it will take you to our sign up form. You will be contacted to set up an appointment within 1-2 business days. You can also visit:

**[www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD)**

Click on Defensible Space Evaluations  
on the menu to the left.

**YOUR ASSESSMENT DOLLARS PROVIDE FOR:**

**Vegetation Management Projects • Defensible Space Evaluations • Vegetation Chipping  
Public Education & Outreach • Vegetation Road Clearance**