

WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT DISTRICT



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chief's Message.....	1
Chipping Map.....	2
Chipping Instructions.....	3
Defensible Space	4
Be Prepared.....	5
Vegetation Management.....	6
Grants.....	7
Websites.....	8

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

Chipped more than
6000 tons of vegetation through
our annual chipping program

Cleared 240 miles of roadways
through our vegetation road
clearance program

Treated 210 acres of flammable
vegetation through fuels
management projects

Evaluated over 750 properties
to assess potential defensible
space improvements

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Thank you for your continued support of the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District (WFSAD). As we often state, we believe the program to be very beneficial to the community. Your continued support, participation and guidance is much appreciated.

This last year, we have received several inquiries from similar communities asking about this program. We are clear to articulate the community support and engagement. Simply, a large part of our success relies on each and every citizen in the WFSAD.

Building on the news we shared last year, the City Parks and Recreation and Fire Departments received a \$525,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy. In October, the Department hired five temporary vegetation management crew specialists. They are responsible for maintaining open-space parks in our City. Look for them working in all areas of the City over the next year. This is a brand new program in the City and we are thrilled for this partnership to accomplish goals for both Parks and Recreation and the Fire Department.

We are also most-excited to share that the City has secured a 2.9 million dollar grant from CAL FIRE. This grant will fund another hand crew that will work in open-space parks throughout the City. This grant runs for five years and assures continued efforts to manage and maintain our open spaces. This grant was authored by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Fire Department will provide the personnel and will work closely and collaboratively with Parks personnel. Both of these vegetation management crews will help to accomplish the tasks and goals as determined by the approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan in defending our community from the risk of wildfire.

We also continue to bolster our collaboration efforts for the WFSAD with external organizations. The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council, our local homeowner associations, and our designated Firewise communities, to help us accomplish these community wide benefits. That's where YOU come in, the homeowner. Through the installation of California State Fire Marshal approved home hardening components to your existing home, taking advantage of our free defensible space evaluations, and utilizing the Ready Set Go! program (page 5). These individual efforts with benefit your property, loved ones, and this special area of the Central Coast we call home.

-Chris Mailes, Fire Chief

-Ryan DiGuilio, Fire Marshal

2024 DEFENSIBLE SPACE CHIPPING

Sheffield/Parma.....	February 26
Las Canoas.....	March 11
Eucalyptus Hill.....	March 25
Sycamore Canyon/Las Alturas.....	April 8
Lower Riviera.....	April 22
San Roque/Ontare.....	April 29
Las Tunas.....	May 13
Circle/Westmont.....	May 28
West Mountain/Coyote.....	June 3

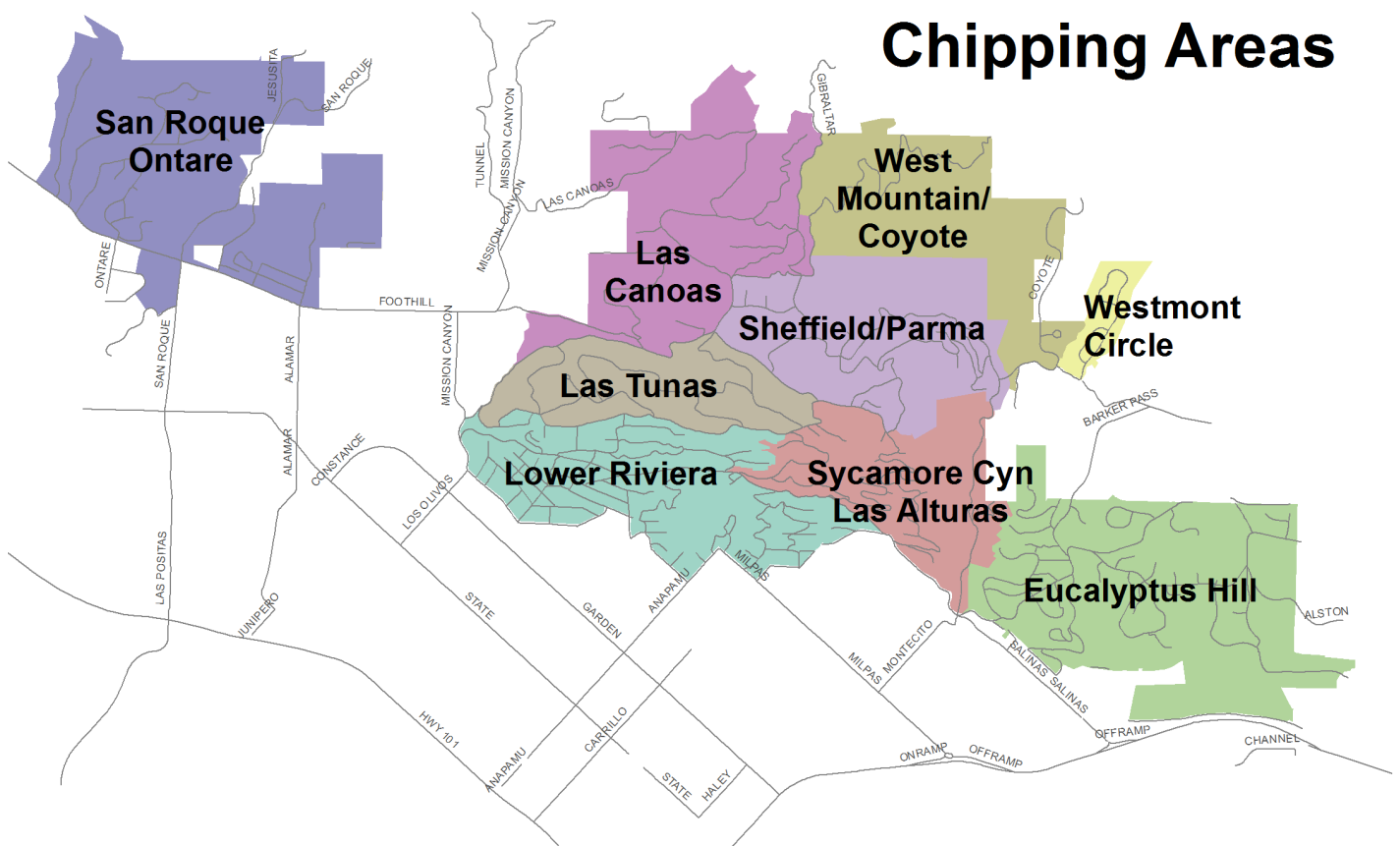
Exotic pest plants that will **NOT** be chipped include:

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

For a full list see 'High Fire Hazard Area Landscape Requirements' at: 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

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 Parma Park areas.

COASTAL CONSERVANCY GRANT

In February 2023 the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department was awarded a \$525,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy in order to complete fuels reduction projects within the City's High Fire Hazard Areas. These areas include Parma Park, Honda Valley Park and Elings Park.

Vegetation management projects in these open space areas will target the removal of invasive and non-native species in addition to the clearing of dead and overgrown vegetation that poses a hazard to surrounding communities.

The City of Santa Barbara Fire Department has also hired 5 full-time crew members who will be conducting fuel reduction projects by hand cutting and chipping vegetation. The Fire Department has also purchased a chipper with grant funding to dispose of the cut material by broadcasting on site. Non-native and invasive material that cannot be chipped will be disposed of at the landfill.

This is a multi-year grant with project work expected to be completed in 2026.

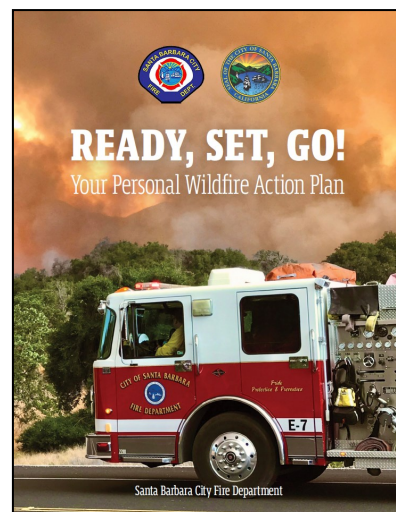


READY, SET, GO! UPDATE

In November 2021 the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department received a \$15,000 grant from the California Firesafe Council. Part of the funding from this grant was used to update the City's Ready, Set, Go! brochure in order to provide all homeowners within the City's High Fire Hazard Areas a personalized action plan in the event of a wildfire.

This brochure includes important actions you should take to protect your home from wildfire and outlines strategies to use when creating defensible space around structures. Additionally, it provides checklists and tools in order to prepare your household on what actions to take in the event of an evacuation.

This brochure is available online in both English and Spanish. If you would like to request hard copies for your household or to distribute in your community, please contact us at (805)564-5737.





CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE DEPARTMENT

SBFD Website

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/FIRE

CWPP Website

<https://cwpp.santabarbaraca.gov>

WFSAD Website

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD

SBFD Facebook

Facebook.com/SantaBarbaraCityFire

Ready SBC

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	Jesuita	8,733	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

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**