

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
CWPP Update	7
CA Firesafe Council Grant	7
Websites.....	8

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

Chipped more than
5000 tons of vegetation through
our annual chipping program

Cleared 220 miles of roadways
through our vegetation road
clearance program

Treated 190 acres of flammable
vegetation through fuels
management projects

Evaluated over 600 properties
to assess potential defensible
space improvements

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The City of Santa Barbara Fire Department is dedicated to the safety and well-being of the community through preparedness, prevention and response. We take great efforts to maintain these promises to serve our community.

The City Of Santa Barbara is a world renowned destination for its climate, architecture, and unique beauty that encompass both the mountains and ocean. Unfortunately, this comes with a risk of wildfires, as evident with the recent Loma and Alisal Fires. Through leadership from the City Administrators Office and City Council, the Fire Department continues to be dedicated to the prevention of the next catastrophic wildfire in our area.

In February of 2021, your City Council adopted the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This comprehensive document establishes goals and guidelines to help reduce the risk of large-scale wildfires in our community. We encourage you to look at the document to gain a comprehensive understanding for what our City faces due to wildfire. It can be found at www.cwpp.santabarbara.gov.

Also in 2021, City Council approved an additional Wildland Fire Specialist position and funding to help implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. With the vast wildland urban interface in our City, this additional position and funding will help coordinate road clearance, vegetation management objectives, and defensible space inspections. Additionally, we continually strive to secure grants from Federal, State, and Local entities to help bolster these efforts.

The first word of our CWPP is “Community” and that is not by accident. It takes our whole community working together to help reduce the risk of wildfire. Please take advantage of our free defensible space inspections, plant fire resistant and drought tolerant vegetation, and utilize our free chipping program. Stay current with more tips and fire safety measures through our social media platforms and have a “Ready, Set, Go!” action plan for you and your family.

We appreciate your commitment in this shared reasonability to maintain our beautiful and unique City.

-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. Additionally, we will be taking a look at vegetation management completed in 2021 and fuel reproduction projects for this year. Finally, we are happy to announce the WFSAD has received a \$15,000 grant through the California Fire Safe Council that will provide additional funds for educational outreach and fuel reduction projects.

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.

2022 DEFENSIBLE SPACE CHIPPING

Sheffield/Parma.....	February 28
Las Canoas.....	March 14
Eucalyptus Hill.....	March 28
Sycamore Canyon/Las Alturas.....	April 11
Lower Riviera.....	April 25
San Roque/Ontare.....	May 2
Las Tunas.....	May 16
Circle/Westmont.....	May 31
West Mountain/Coyote.....	June 6

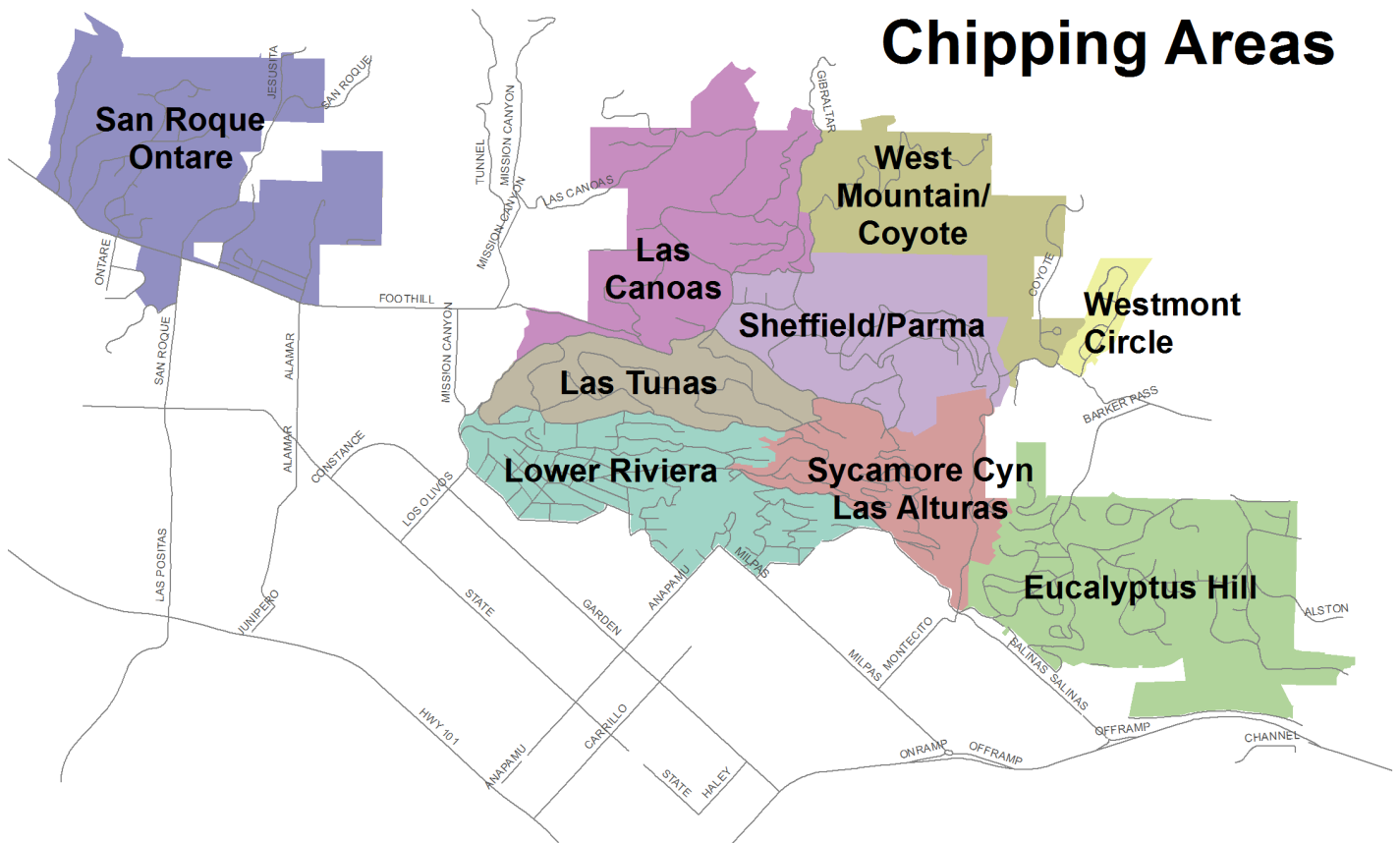
Exotic pest plants that will **NOT** be chipped include:

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:

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



BEFORE

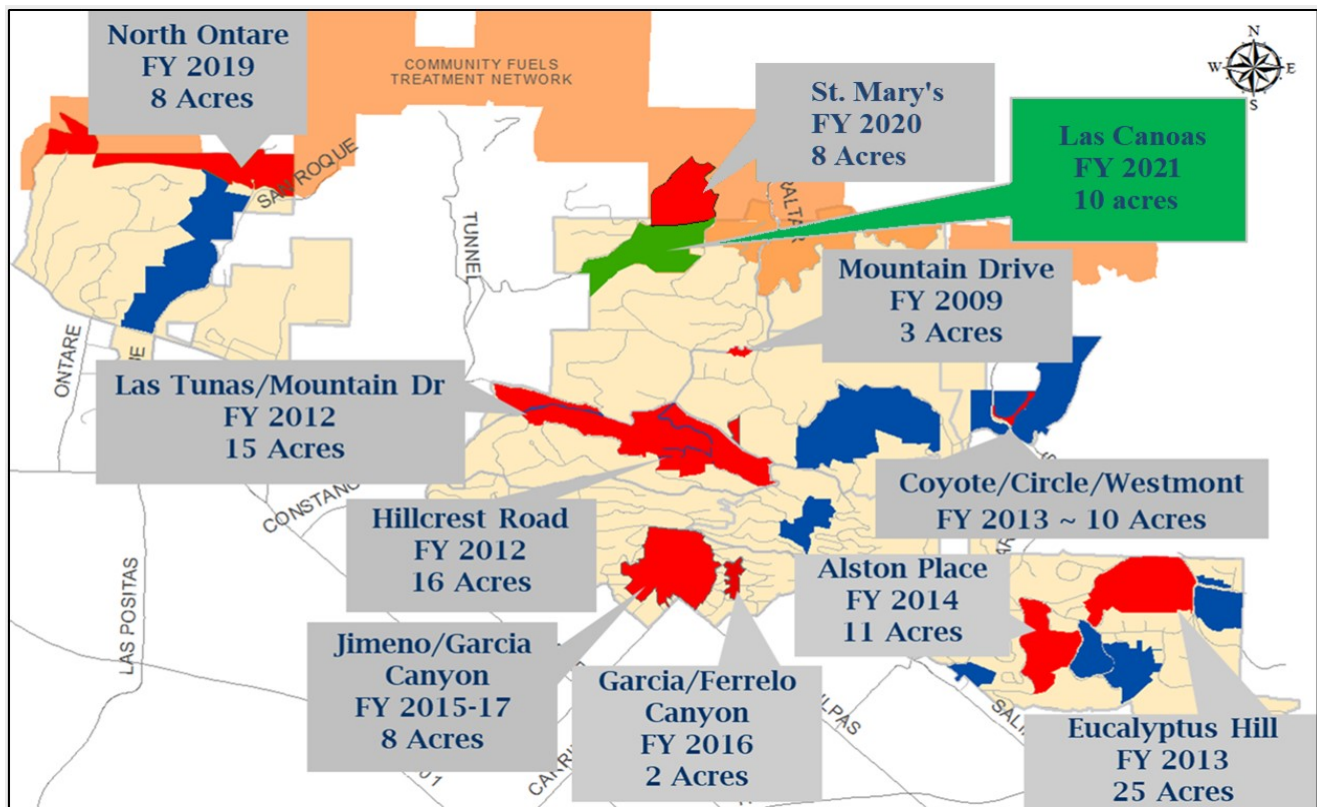


AFTER

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.



Over the past three 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.



COMMUNITYWILDFIRE

CITY OF
SANTA BARBARA

PROTECTION PLAN

On February 9th, 2021, Santa Barbara City Council adopted the City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). The CWPP and PEIR was developed over a two year period through collaboration with public stakeholders, planners, public agencies and City departments.

Prior to implementation, the public was provided the opportunity to review the Draft CWPP and PEIR and submit written comments regarding the proposed project. These comments and feedback were integral to develop a plan that outlines and prioritizes wildfire safety measures and goals to be implemented within our communities.



We would like to thank everyone involved in the development and implementation of the City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the ongoing public effort of to improve wildfire safety.

For more information about this project or to download a copy of the CWPP and PEIR visit:

<https://CWPP.SantaBarbaraCA.gov>

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 will fund additional removal of flammable vegetation in the Communities Fuels Treatment Network (CFTN) within the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District over the next two years. In 2022, working with CALFIRE crews, more than 10 acres of fuel reduction will be 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 will also include updating our website, a social media campaign, and copies of the updated brochure will be made available in English and Spanish available free of cost for all homeowners within the City's High Fire Hazard Areas.





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

Visit our Blog!

WFSAD.blogspot.com

**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	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

Look for Defensible Space Evaluations
under the Services tab.

YOUR ASSESSMENT DOLLARS PROVIDE FOR:

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