RECOVER. REBUILD. REIMAGINE.

ZONE ZERO

It Can Still Be Beautiful and Fire Safe.



Zone Zero is the **first 5 feet** around your home—the area most vulnerable to ember ignition during a wildfire.

1. Relocate plants beyond 5 feet.
2. Replace bark mulch with rock, gravel, pavers, or concrete.
3. Reduce wildfire risk and improve insurance eligibility.
4. Create beautiful, low-maintenance landscapes.

The goal is:

It can still be beautiful and fire safe.

THE TWO-PHASE TIMELINE

You do not have to do everything at once.



Existing homeowners have up to 5 years to reach full compliance. During Phase 1, the focus is education, assistance, and measurable progress.

1 — CLEAN AND REDUCE FUELS

YEARS 0–3

GOAL: REMOVE IGNITION SOURCES QUICKLY

- Remove combustible materials: mulch, wood chips, firewood, leaves, and debris.
- Clean roofs and gutters thoroughly.
- Remove dead or dying plants; trim trees per the new guidelines.
- Begin transitioning landscaping to compliant, low-combustibility types.

2 — HARDEN THE STRUCTURE EDGE

YEARS 3–5

GOAL: ELIMINATE IGNITION AT THE HOME ITSELF

- Create a non-combustible safety zone directly next to the house.
- Replace or modify combustible fences and gates attached to the home.
- Address vulnerabilities under eaves and at structure attachments.
- Bring sheds and outbuildings into compliance.

THE PLAIN-ENGLISH BOTTOM LINE

The goal is not to make your yard ugly or bare. It is to remove anything within 5 feet of your house that an ember can ignite. Plants, trees, and curb appeal are still possible – just managed carefully. The payoff is real: a Zone Zero yard is more likely to survive a fire and more likely to qualify for home insurance.

LOCAL FLEXIBILITY

Your local fire agency can adjust the rules for your property.

Requirements can be modified based on topography, lot size, fire risk, building materials, and evacuation capacity – as long as equivalent fire safety outcomes are maintained.

On enforcement: During Phase 1, inspectors are expected to focus on education, assistance, and tracking progress – not penalties. Ask your local fire safe council what applies to your home.

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WALK THE 5 FEET

A quick homeowner action sheet

Start with the items most likely to ignite first. Small changes near the house edge can matter more than expensive work farther away.

NOW
CLEAR

- [ ] Move firewood, lumber, and storage away from the house.
- [ ] Remove leaves, pine needles, and debris.
- [ ] Clean roofs and gutters.

YEAR 3
REDUCE

- [ ] Remove mulch, bark, and wood chips in Zone 0.
- [ ] Keep plants low, green, maintained, and spaced.
- [ ] Remove dead or dying vegetation.

YEAR 5
HARDEN

- [ ] Create the non-combustible safety zone at the home edge.
- [ ] Update attached combustible fences and gates.
- [ ] Address sheds, decks, stairs, eaves, vents, windows, and doors.

NOW	YEAR 3	YEAR 5
Start removing combustibles. Clean gutters and roof.	All combustible materials gone. Vegetation under control.	Non-combustible safety zone complete. Fences and structures updated.

USE THE RULE OF THUMB

If an ember can ignite it, do not keep it against the house.

Replace combustible ground cover with gravel, pavers, decomposed granite, flagstone, or concrete. Keep anything movable – pots, patio items, storage, bins – away from the structure edge when fire weather is present.

STILL POSSIBLE

Zone 0 does not have to look barren. The design goal is intentional, low-combustibility landscaping: non-combustible surfaces, small movable pots, low plants where allowed, and well-maintained trees that do not create ladder fuels.

RECOVER. REBUILD. REIMAGINE.
You can recover, rebuild, and reimagine after megafire. We will be here with you.

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WALK YOUR PROPERTY WITH THIS PAGE

Zone 0 Walk-Around

Start at your front door and go all the way around the house. Wind-driven embers are the leading cause of home ignition, and the first five feet decide what they land in.

PROPERTY ADDRESS	WALKED BY	DATE

CHECK EACH SIDE OF THE HOUSE	FRONT	BACK	LEFT	RIGHT
First five feet clear of plants, mulch, and groundcover	☐	☐	☐	☐
No shrubs or branches touching siding, windows, or eaves	☐	☐	☐	☐
Firewood, lumber, and stored items moved out of Zone 0	☐	☐	☐	☐
Surface is gravel, concrete, pavers, rock, or bare soil	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gutters and roof valleys clear of leaves and needles	☐	☐	☐	☐
Deck surface and the space underneath swept clean	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vents screened with 1/16"–1/8" ember-resistant mesh	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fence, gate, or trellis meeting the wall is non-combustible	☐	☐	☐	☐
Doormat, furniture, and planters are non-combustible	☐	☐	☐	☐

SURFACES THAT COUNT AS READY

Gravel · concrete · pavers · rock · bare mineral soil

WHAT HAS TO COME OUT

Plants · bark mulch · wood chips · firewood · clutter · shrubs touching the wall

WHAT STILL NEEDS DOING — AND WHO IS DOING IT