



Lemon Wood

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Who are we?

- **Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, 501c3 non-profit**
- **Our mission is to make Ventura County, and its residents, more resilient to wildfire.**



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What are we talking about this afternoon?

1. Risks posed by wildfire in Ventura
2. Lowering those Risks
3. Involving your Community



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- Ventura has a **High** risk of wildfire – higher than **87%** of communities in the United States



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- **Climate Change is making worse, even in Ventura County**
- **Fastest warming County in the lower 48**
- **Elongating “Critical Fuel Moisture” periods**
- **More Santa Ana Wind event overlap**



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Populated areas in Ventura are predominantly exposed to wildfire from indirect sources, such as embers or home-to-home ignition.

Populated areas in San Buenaventura (Ventura) are predominantly exposed to wildfire from indirect sources, such as embers or home-to-home ignition.

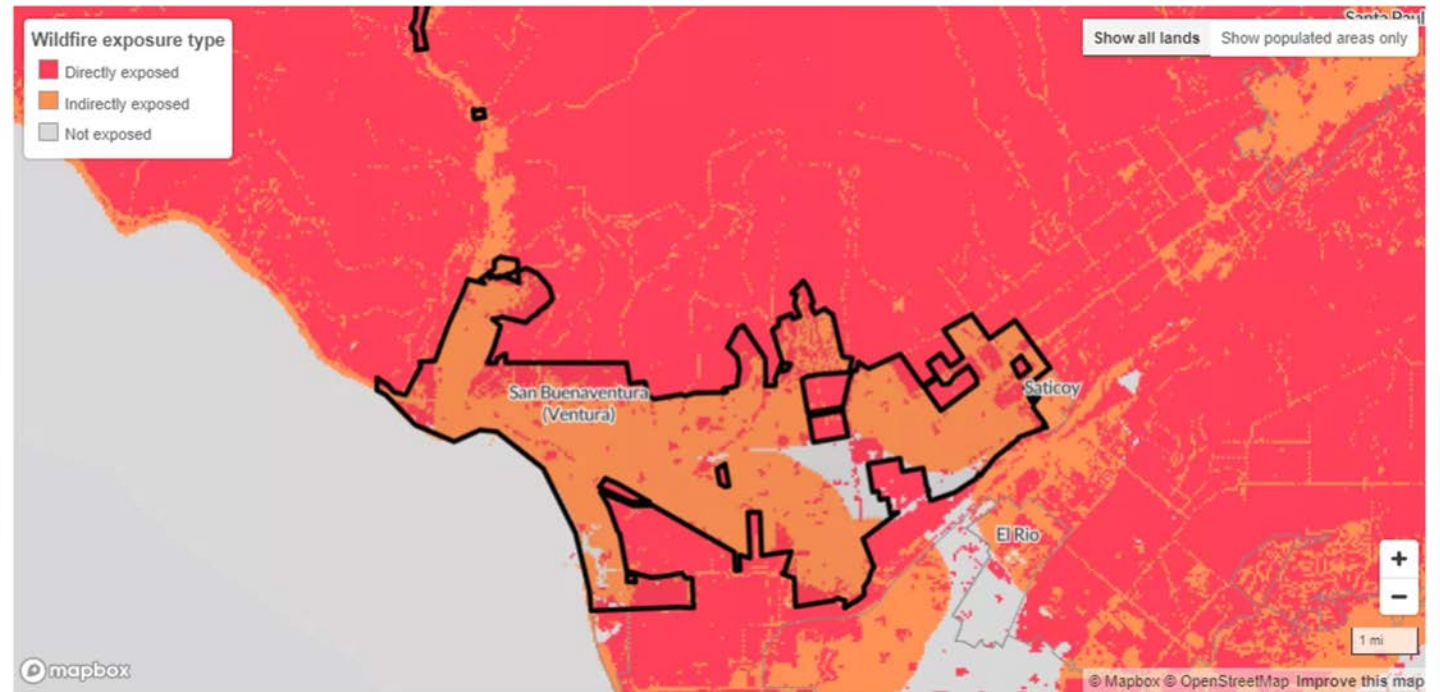
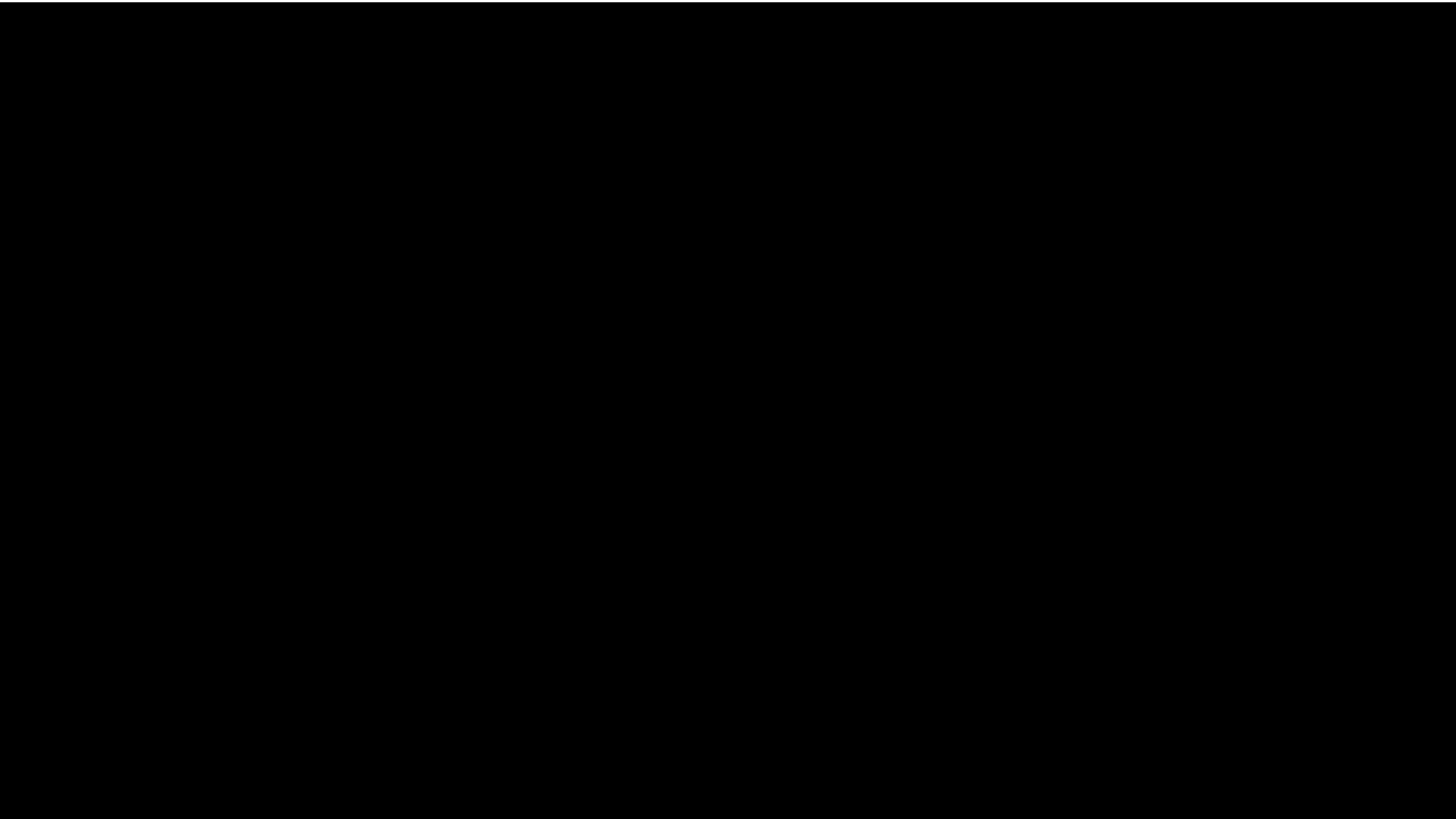




Photo: 2017 Thomas Fire, City of Ventura



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Why do most homes burn down?



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Why do most homes burn down?



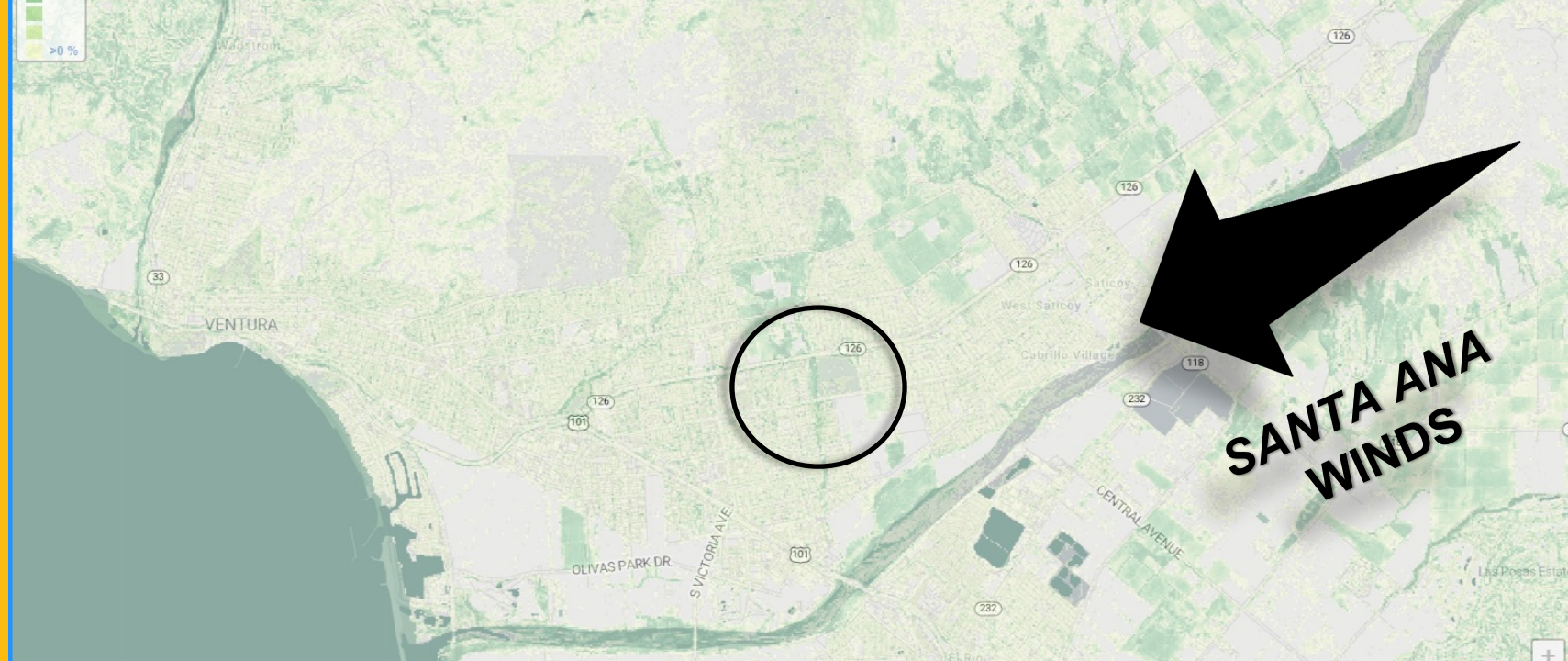
- Embers estimated to be responsible for as many as **90%** of destroyed Homes, during wildfires.
- Post-Fire analysis of Woosley, Camp, Tubbs, and Marshall Fires conclude:

“Zone 0” is most critical for ignition resistance.



Taking a look at Lemon Wood,
specifically :

- Primary “threat” is the Harmon Barranca to the E/NE
- Southern California Edison (SCE) ‘clears’ easement of light-flashy fuels between the community and Eucalyptus Tree windbreak of Barranca (approx. 175 feet)
- Lots of human-caused ignitions in both Harmon, Arundell and Brown Barrancas



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How do we “harden” our home to Embers?

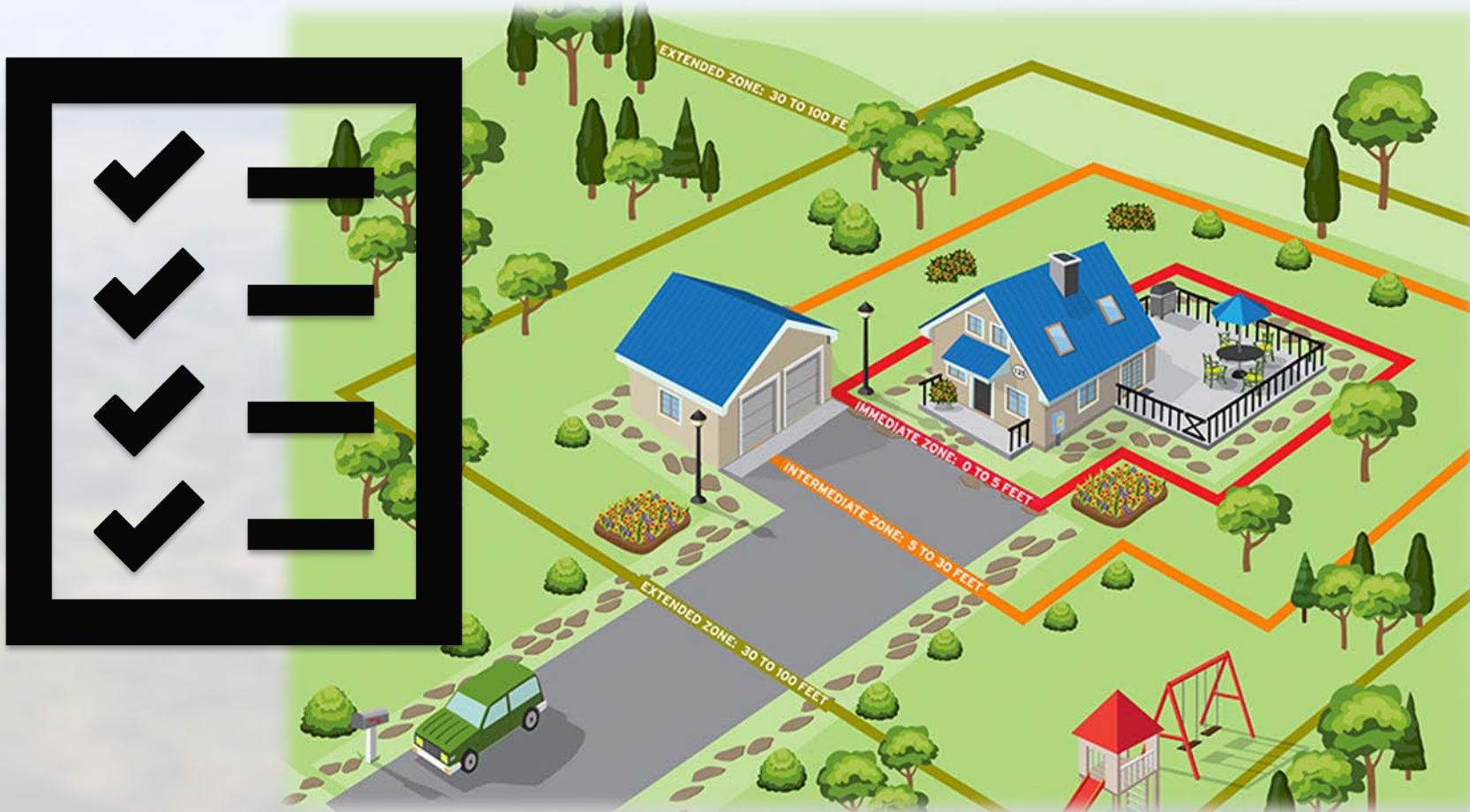


Zone Zero

Zero Combustibles!

- Patio Furniture (+ furniture cushions)
- Woody Plants/Vines/Trees
- Wooden Mulch
- Plastic sheds
- Firewood
- Leaf Litter

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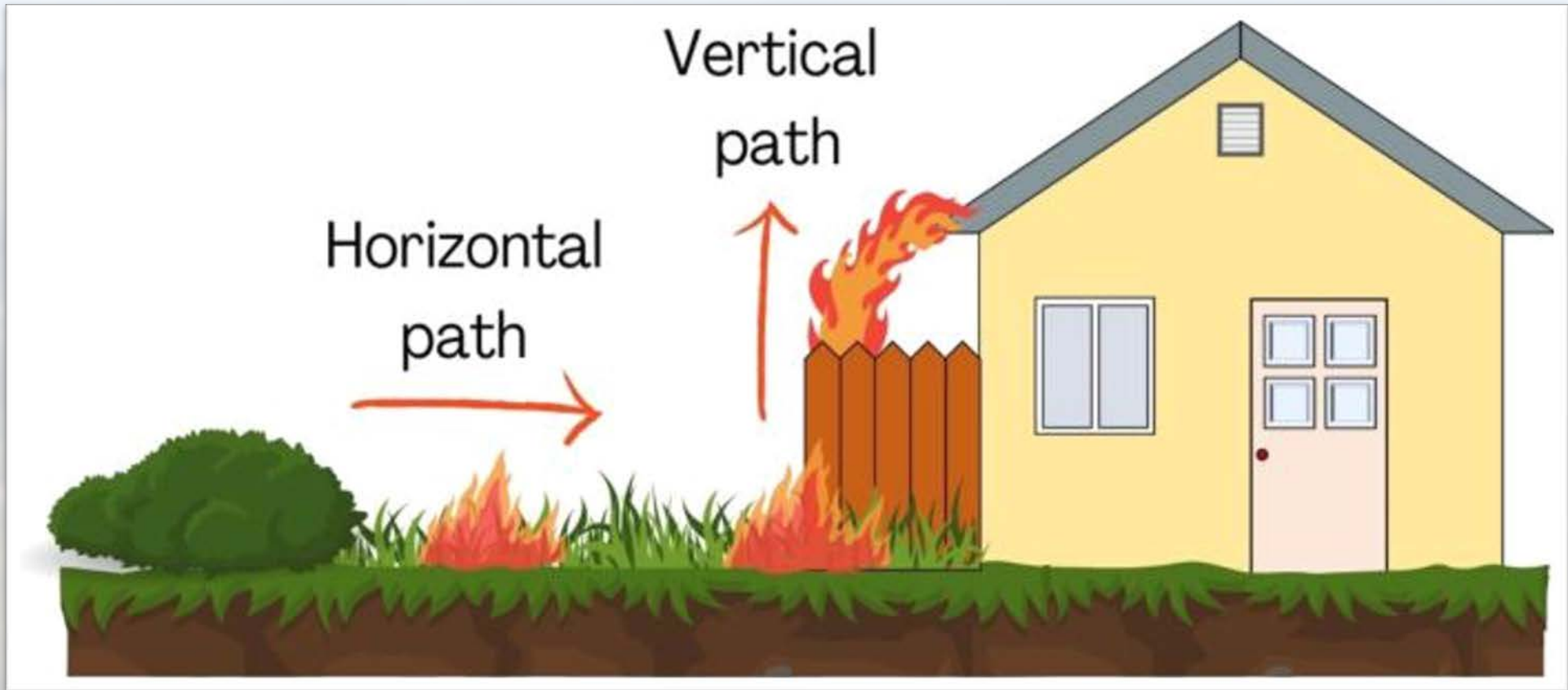
Responsibility

- Fire Department
- Property Management Company

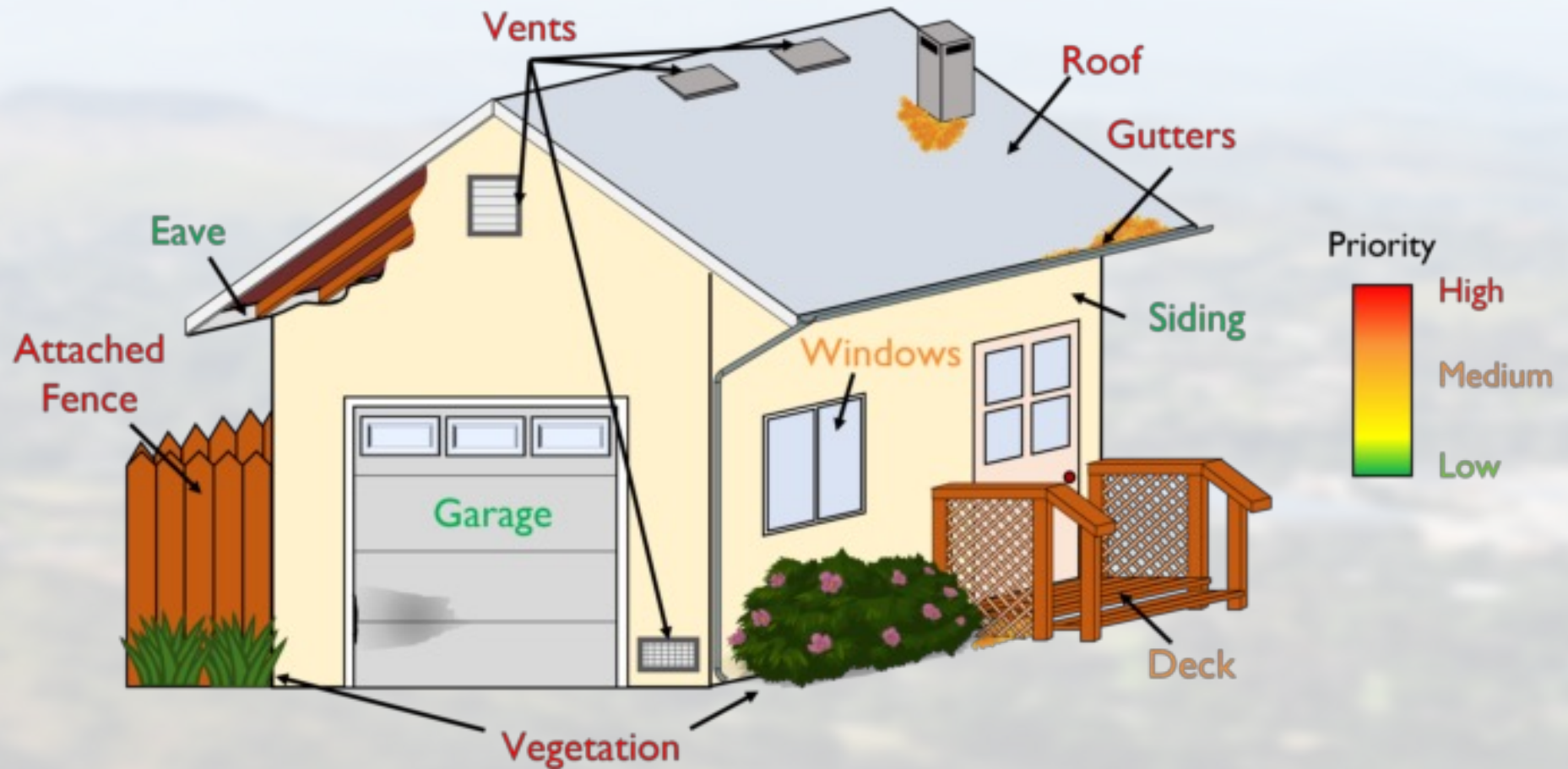
Responsibility

- Homeowner

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Where can I learn more?

DEFENSIBLE SPACE MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Maintaining the **Defensible Space** around your home is an important part of reducing the risk of damage to your home and the injury or loss of life from a wildfire. It also provides a safe area for firefighters to help defend the home and slow the wildfire. The items listed here are only a portion of how defensible space should be maintained. For specific requirements on defensible space, please visit VCFD.org.



Defensible Space Zones. Zones 0, 1 and 2 currently make up the 100-feet of defensible space required by the Ventura County Fire Code. Areas beyond Zone 2 that require additional clearance is identified as Zone 3.

Zone 0 – Immediate (Ember-Resistant Zone)

Zone 0 extends first 0-5 feet from structures, outbuildings, attached decks and stairs. The ember resistant zone is designed to keep fire or embers from igniting materials that can spread fire to a building or structure.

Landscape requirements This should be a lean and clean noncombustible fire-resistant planting zone. Limit plants in this area to low growing, non-woody, properly maintained and watered plants. While plants are allowed in this zone, the VCFD



Fuel Management
Defensible Space
break up your home
a wildfire
vegetation



Sustainable Defensible Space

Eco-appropriate Homescaping for Wildfire Resilience

LANDSCAPE (UPGRADE)

NEW			UPGRADE			SEASONAL MAINTENANCE		
Zone 0	Zone 1	Zone 2						
<p>The Ember-Resistant Zone (ERZ)</p> <p>This section provides information about important changes to make to your existing landscape to increase fire safety and reduce ignition risk. These recommendations apply to the Ember-Resistant Zone (5-foot distance) around your home. <u>Keep in mind this zone is a no-planting zone</u> and these recommendations apply only to existing vegetation. No vegetation is recommended within 5 feet of any structure.</p>								
						<p>Maintenance guidelines</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Keep surrounding area of your structures clear of combustible materials</p> <p>Replace combustible organic mulch with noncombustible products such as rocks and gravels</p> 		



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Zone Zero - Specifically

- Vents: 1/16" Mesh
- Landscaping with appropriate vegetation
- Removing Wooden Mulch
- Removing stored combustibles
- Moving firewood or BBQ Charcoals
- Removing Leaf Litter in Gutters



MOBILE HOME FIRE SAFETY

Mobile homes are more properly called manufactured homes. Manufactured homes are produced according to the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) safety standards. These unified national safety standards help make sure that manufactured homes are as safe as site-built homes.

Embers from nearby fires are the most common cause of ignition for both site built and manufactured homes.

When embers land on or near your house, they can ignite nearby vegetation, accumulated debris, or enter the home through openings or vents. Homes can also ignite from direct flame contact exposure or radiant heat exposure (the heat felt when standing next to a campfire or fireplace). In most mobile home parks the homes are sited relatively close together. This can make mobile homes more vulnerable if adjacent homes are ignited by wildfire.

Take Action in Four Areas to Reduce Fire Risk.

- 1.** Create defensible space around your home. The first five feet around the home should be clear of all combustibles. Clear dead vegetation and foliage from within 30 feet from your home. Limb up trees and create space between plants. firesafemarin.org/create-a-fire-smart-yard
- 2.** Improve the fire resistance of your home exterior by choosing the right exterior cladding. Fire-resistant siding can increase energy efficiency and improve curb-appeal. Harden attached decks and fences to resist embers. Use metal trash containers. firesafemarin.org/harden-your-home/mobile-home-wildfire-safety
- 3.** Prepare yourself and your family. Make a disaster plan, sign up for alerts and warnings, know your evacuation routes, pack a go bag, make a plan for your pets. firesafemarin.org/prepare-yourself
- 4.** Become a firewise community. Mobile home parks tend to be community oriented. Neighbors helping neighbors is a great way to prepare. firesafemarin.org/programs/firewise-usa

Save this document:



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Let us teach you how!



Reduce Your Risk by Hardening Your Home

The number one indicator of a structure's survivability during a wildfire is how ember resistant their Zone 0 is, or the 5 feet perimeter around a home. A **fire-hardened home** is a home that's taken smart steps ahead of time to prepare for wildfires and ember storms. A Home Wildfire Assessment (also known as a Home Hardening Assessment) from the VRFSC team can help you create an action plan unique to your home.

Schedule Your FREE Home Wildfire Assessment

Is your home or property in a high-risk neighborhood in Ventura County? If so, we can help you lower your wildfire risk through the Home Hardening Resiliency Program. Simply sign up today and one of our Wildfire Safety Staff will visit to assess and provide recommendations for hardening your home.

[SIGN UP NOW](#)



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Register for a Home Hardening Assessment here:

- Free
- Private
- Specific to your home
- Digital report for reference
- Helps the community with Firewise Recognition!



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- ~~2. Lowering those Risks~~
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What is Firewise USA?

- **Firewise USA is a National “Grassroots” Program administered by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)**
- **Free and voluntary**
- **No regulation or enforcement involved**
- **More than 2,400 communities across the country**





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What are the benefits?

- **Get a framework for action**
- **Learn about wildfire**
- **Community building**
- **Garner publicity**
- **Access to funding opportunities**
- **Get AHEAD of changing laws**
- **Keep your insurers happy**
- **Make your home safer from wildfire.**



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What does it mean to become a Firewise USA Community?





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Where can I learn more?



Monthly Firewise USA Workshops

Why Join Our Firewise Monthly Workshop?

- Explore the Program: Learn the steps and benefits of the Firewise program for your community.
- Connect with Others: Hear how different communities found success by chatting with each other.
- Q&A Sessions: Engage in a Q&A session with our Regional Coordinators for valuable insights.

Firewise Monthly Workshops are held virtually on the third Friday of every month via Zoom. The workshop is open to the public (online only) and begins at 1:00pm. It lasts 1-2 hours.

You can also book a 15-minute virtual chat with our Regional Coordinator.

[Join a Workshop on Zoom](#)

[Book a 15min Consultation](#)

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Your home is only as safe as your *neighbors* home.

You can help protect your entire community by protecting *your* home.

You can feel peace of mind knowing you've done everything you can.



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Questions

**(A.K.A. –
the Insurance Part)**

