



**VENTURA COUNTY  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

June/July 2025

# **WILDFIRE HAZARD, PREPAREDNESS, AND MITIGATION**

**Presentation to Municipal Advisory Committees**

**By: VCFD Chief Officers**

# WILDFIRE HAZARD, PREPAREDNESS & MITIGATION

## Wildfire hazard

- Fire History
- Fire Behavior
- Cal Fire Maps

## Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation

- County
- Community
- Parcel and household



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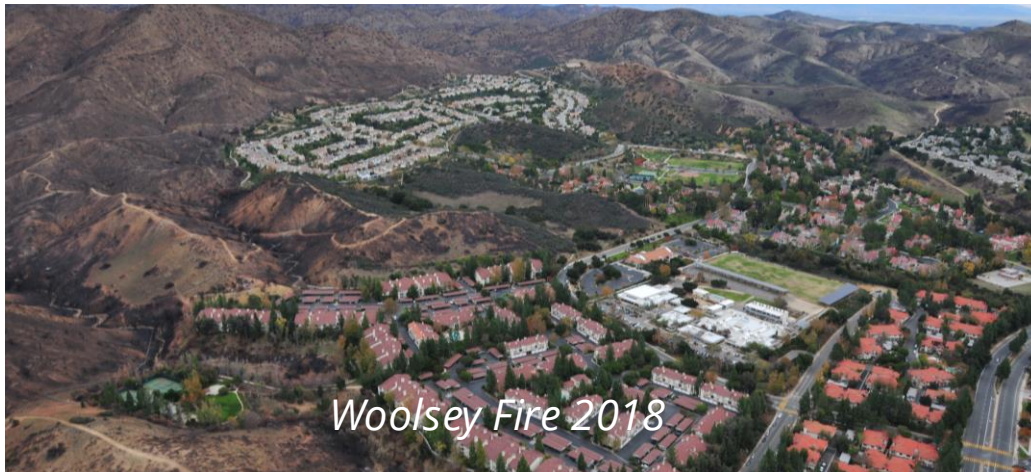
# FIRE HISTORY



*Springs Fire 2013*



*Thomas Fire 2017*



*Woolsey Fire 2018*



*Mountain Fire 2024*



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# FIRE BEHAVIOR



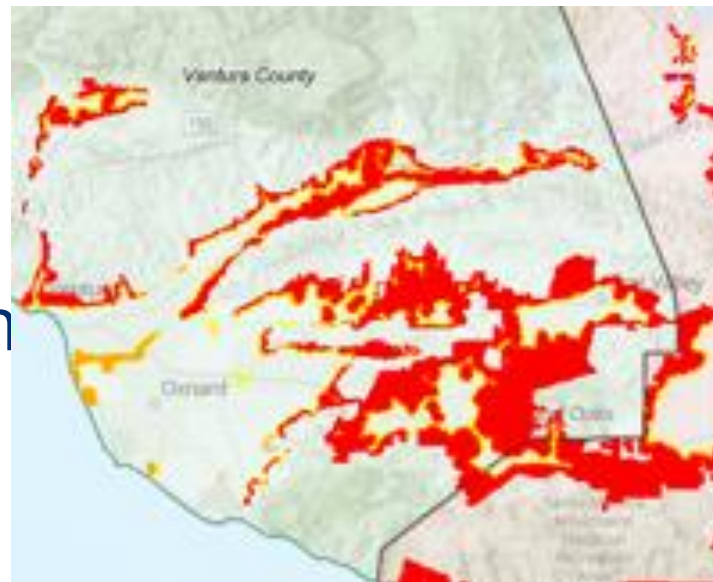
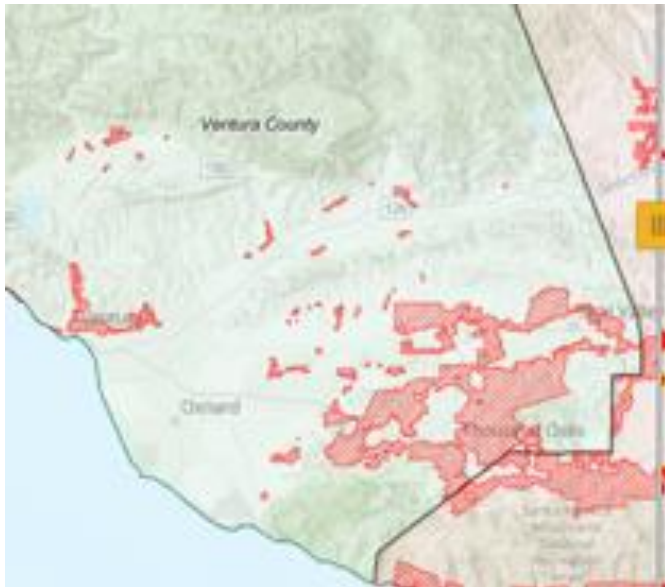
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# CAL FIRE MAPS

- Local Responsibility Area map development
- State law requirement to adopt, maps effective 7/1/25
- Cal Fire interactive viewer

<https://vcfd.org/cal-fire-fire-hazard-severity-zone-map-update/>



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# WILDFIRE MITIGATIONS

- Countywide
- Community
- Parcel and household level



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# COUNTYWIDE MITIGATIONS

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- Emergency response
- Fire Hazard Reduction Program – 100' defensible space
- Vegetation Management Program
- Partnerships and Community Education



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# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- 33 Stations / 5 Battalions (623 personnel)
- VCFD has increased air suppression by the purchase of 2 Firehawk helicopters
  - 1000 gallons water dropping capacity
  - Larger room for crews to insert into fire areas
- 2 hand crews increased to 4 hand crews



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# 100' DEFENSIBLE SPACE

- 19,000 annual inspections to verify defensible space
- Within 100', cut grasses down to 3 inches, remove dead and dying plants, weeds, and grasses, remove deadwood and litter from trees.



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# ZONE 0 – EMBER RESISTANT

- 0-5' from structures, critical area for preventing ignition
- Well maintained low growing plants, limit combustibles
- No mulch, relocate firewood piles out of area to zone 2
- Roofs and gutters: Maintain free of leaves and needles



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# ZONE 1: 5-30'

- Extends 5-30' from structures, designed to reduce the likelihood of a fire burning directly to the structure.
- Plants should be limited and separated into groups to limit the pathways for fire to burn up to the structure.
- Trim existing trees 10' from chimneys or stove pipes
- Limb trees 6' from the ground or 1/3 tree height (whichever is less).
- Maintain free of leaves, mow grasses to max height of 3"



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# ZONE 2: 30-100'

- 30-100 feet from structures and is designed to reduce flame heights and ember generation, and to reduce radiant heat and drop approaching crown fires in trees to the ground
- Greater spacing of vegetation should occur in this area
- Limb trees 6' from the ground or 1/3 tree height, Fruit trees when approved can provide 12" clearance above ground
- Firewood piles are allowable within this area
- Additional details provided on all 3 zones at [www.vcfd.org](http://www.vcfd.org)



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# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- Prescribed burns
- Vegetation Removal and Modification
- VCFD maintains 340 miles of Fire, Utility, and Ranch Roads for Fire Access
- 319 acres of fuel reduction projects and provided 5 community chipping events with partners in 2024



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# PARTNERSHIPS & EDUCATION

- VCFD partners with
  - 5 Fire Safe Councils to educate & support community
  - Resource Conservation Districts, Parks and Open Space Agencies, ranchers, and other community groups for wildfire preparedness & educational outreach to our communities
- VCFD involved in the review of Countywide and Local Community Wildfire Protection Plans



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**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

- Community level mitigation
- Firewise USA® Communities raise awareness, organize at the community level, and take action to create fire-adapted communities
- See [vcfd.org/firewise/](https://vcfd.org/firewise/) for more information, **or**
- Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council monthly meetings on home hardening and becoming Firewise designated. See [venturafiresafe.org](https://venturafiresafe.org)



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# MORE RESOURCES/QUESTIONS

- VCFD.org, Prevention, Community Wildfire Preparedness
- VCAAlert.org to sign up for emergency alerts
- Contact: Community Wildfire Preparedness Division
  - [fhrp@ventura.org](mailto:fhrp@ventura.org)
  - 805-389-9759



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