



Defensible Space

Defend your home against wildfires by creating a safe perimeter.



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Your home's wildfire safety buffer

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Wildfire Prepared Home - Incorporating Zone 0

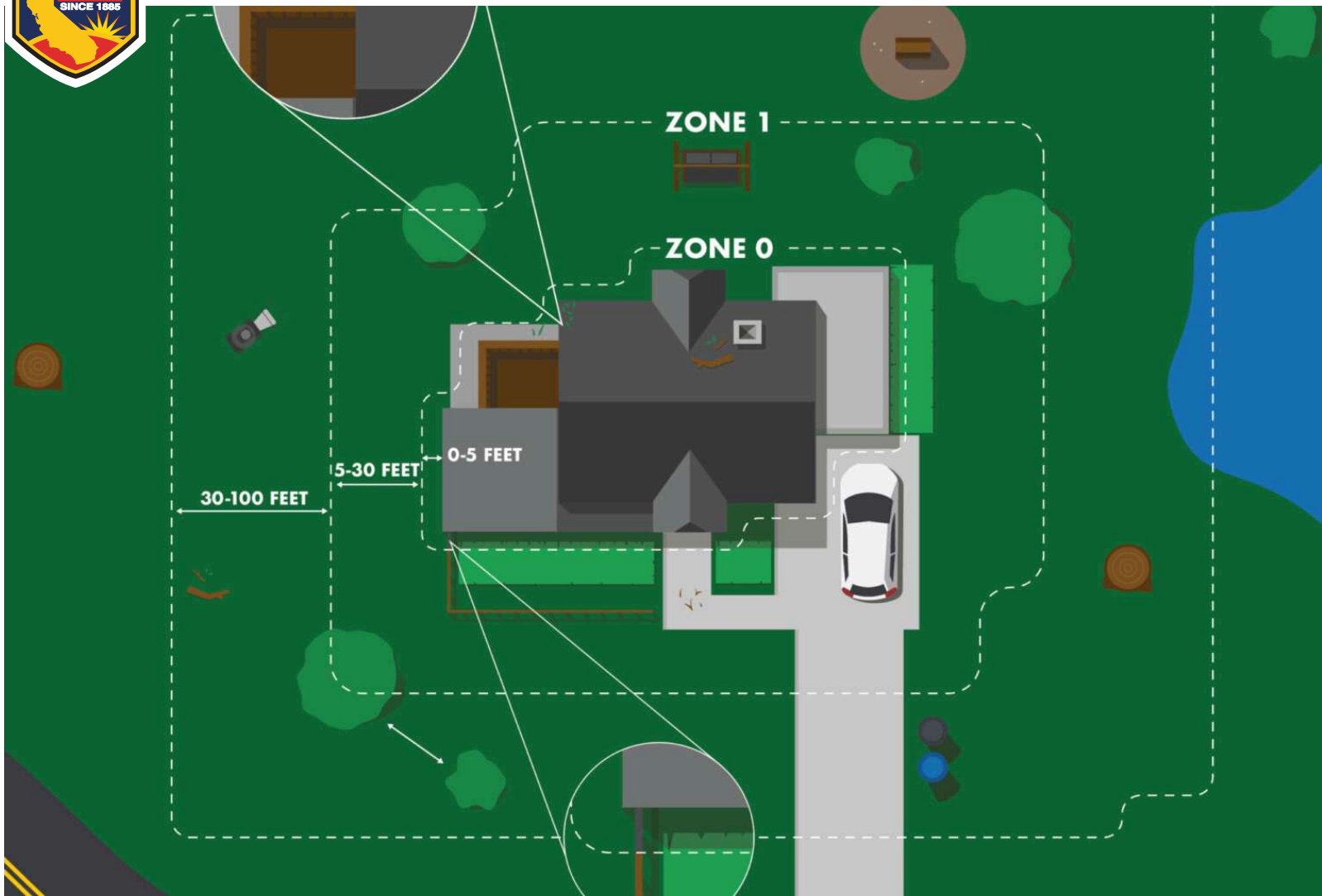
California Office of the State Fire Marshal



Watch on

About defensible space zones

Defensible space is divided into zones, each with specific guidelines.



In each zone, the intensity of vegetation management increases as you get closer to your home. The goal is to start at your house and work outward, reaching up to 100 feet or your property line.

- **Zone 0:** Zone 0 extends 0- 5 feet from your home, focusing on intense fuel reduction to protect against ember attacks.
- **Zones 1 & 2:** These zones cover up to 100 feet around your home. They're required by law and involve varying levels of vegetation management.



Watch on

Defensible zone guide

Discover the rules, regulations, and guidelines for creating a safe space around your home.

Zone 0 – Ember-Resistant Zone



Zone 0 extends 5 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

While not legally required yet, Zone 0 is key for wildfire defense and preventing fires from spreading to your home. Here are the current guidelines:

- Use gravel, pavers, or concrete instead of combustible mulch
- Clear dead weeds, grass, and debris; check roofs, gutters, and outdoor areas
- Keep branches trimmed 10 feet away from chimneys and stovepipes
- Minimize combustible items like furniture and planters on decks
- Move firewood and lumber to Zone 2 for safety
- Replace combustible fencing and gates with fire-resistant materials

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Zone 1 – Lean, Clean, and Green Zone



Zone 2 – Reduce Fuel Zone



Understanding local ordinance



Plant Spacing

Proper spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is key in slowing wildfire spread. This spacing varies based on vegetation type, size, and land slope – larger plants on steeper slopes require more space than smaller vegetation on flat areas.

Vertical spacing



Horizontal spacing



Fire-smart landscaping

Fire-resistant landscaping involves much more than basic yard maintenance. It combines plant selection and upkeep to help stop fire from reaching your home. With smart planning and regular care, you can create a beautiful, water-efficient, and fire-resistant landscape.



Prepare



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