FIRE-SAFE LANDSCAPING

For residents living in wildfire-prone areas, the threat of fire is always present. Wildfires destroy hundreds of homes every year. Creating defensible space is the duty of every resident living in an area at risk for wildfires.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department has some ways for you to help protect your home from dangerous wildfires.

- Create a defensible space perimeter by thinning trees and ornamental vegetation within 30 feet of your home. Beyond 30 feet, remove dead wood, debris, and low tree branches.

- Store flammable materials, liquids, and solvents in metal containers outside the home at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.

- Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home.

Create Defensible Space

- Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, swimming pools, decks, and roadways.

- Remove dead trees, shrubs, and grasses surrounding your home. Dead vegetation can act as fuel for fire.

- Eliminate small trees and plants growing under larger trees. They allow ground fires to jump into tree crowns.

- Irrigate and maintain ornamental plants to reduce risk of ignition. With proper irrigation and maintenance, plants are less receptive to ignition by embers or radiant heat. Keep plants green during dry season. It serves as a protective "green belt."

- Keep plants and woodchips a minimum of 18 inches away from any structure and provide a three-foot wide walking path around the entire structure.

- Place shrubs at least 20 feet from structures, and prune them regularly.

- Provide at least a 10-foot separation between islands of shrubs and plant groups to effectively break up continuity of vegetation.

- Space trees 30 feet apart and prune to a height of eight to ten feet or up from the 1/3 of their height from the ground.

- Hardwood, maple, poplar, and cherry trees are less flammable than pine and fir trees. If possible, plant less flammable trees around your property.

- Regularly trim annual weeds and grasses up to 100 feet around your home.

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