Wildfire & Emergency Preparedness Guide

READY, SET, GO!



READY, SET, GO!

A Message from the Fire Chief

Montecito is a truly unique place to call home. Our community is defined by its semi-rural character of narrow, winding roadways, rugged mountainous terrain, picturesque coastline and desirable Mediterranean climate. These features create an environment that is at significant risk of extreme wildfire impacts and irrefutable evacuation challenges.

Yet, the people who live here are what make Montecito special and capable of surviving historic and severe natural disasters. Together with our residents, Montecito Fire Department is committed to preparedness, prevention and resilience.

Recent wildfires, including the Thomas Fire of 2017, the Palisades Fire and Eaton Fire in Los Angeles County in 2025, demonstrated the year-round reality of wildfire risk. Santa Barbara County has a storied fire history. We know wildfire will happen here again.

Montecito Fire Department and our local public safety partners stand ready to respond to any wildfire or natural disaster that may threaten our community. However, our ability to mitigate any wildfire hazard hinges upon every community member's commitment to emergency preparedness. **We cannot do this without you.**

This booklet has been carefully designed and updated with the most recent wildfire prevention and preparedness information. It is incumbent upon you, your family and your neighbors to review this booklet thoroughly. Ensure that you have this on hand when disaster strikes. Store it in your evacuation go-bag, in your vehicle's glove compartment or with your important, irreplaceable documents. Please visit our fire stations to pick up additional copies.

Montecito Fire is here to assist you with creating effective defensible space around your property, providing recommendations to retrofit your home with fire-resistant materials, and developing plans to evacuate quickly and safely during an emergency.

Your individual actions when preparing for wildfire will have exponential benefits for the entirety of our community. Proactive preparation paves a path for survival and recovery from wildfire.

Your Fire Chief,

Brian Fallon
Montecito Fire Department



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2017 Thomas Fire burning into the western portions of Montecito pushed by strong, downslope sundowner winds

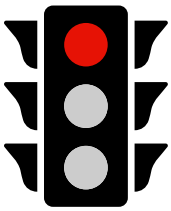


What is **Ready, Set, Go!**

Many Montecito residences are located within the Wildland Urban Interface, meaning homes are located within the natural landscape or directly adjacent to undeveloped land. As a result, property owners are responsible for providing Defensible Space – a 100-foot managed buffer zone that is created by removing excess dry and dead vegetation, and flammable materials around the home. These preventative actions help keep fire away from your home and reduce the risks from flying embers.

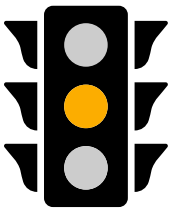
To prepare for a wildfire, remember these three steps: **Ready, Set, Go!**

Keep this guide on hand as a reference for you and your family in the event of a wildfire.



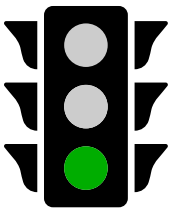
Step 1
Get Ready:

Get ready for wildfires by hardening your home and shaping a safety zone around it.



Step 2
Get Set:

Get set for wildfires by preparing both your home and family for potential evacuation.



Step 3
Go!

Increase your chances of survival by being ready to go at a moment's notice.

Step 1 - Get Ready

What is Defensible Space?

Defensible space is crucial for your home's safety during a wildfire. It is the buffer zone you create between your property and the surrounding natural or "wildland" area. This space is key to slowing or stopping a wildfire from spreading.

Defensible space also protects your home from embers, flame, and radiant heat. Embers carried by powerful winds can destroy homes and even entire neighborhoods far from the main body of the fire.

Additionally, defensible space gives firefighters a safer area to work and defend your property. California state law requires homeowners to provide 100 feet of defensible space.

Three zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space:

Zone 0: Ember-Resistant Zone

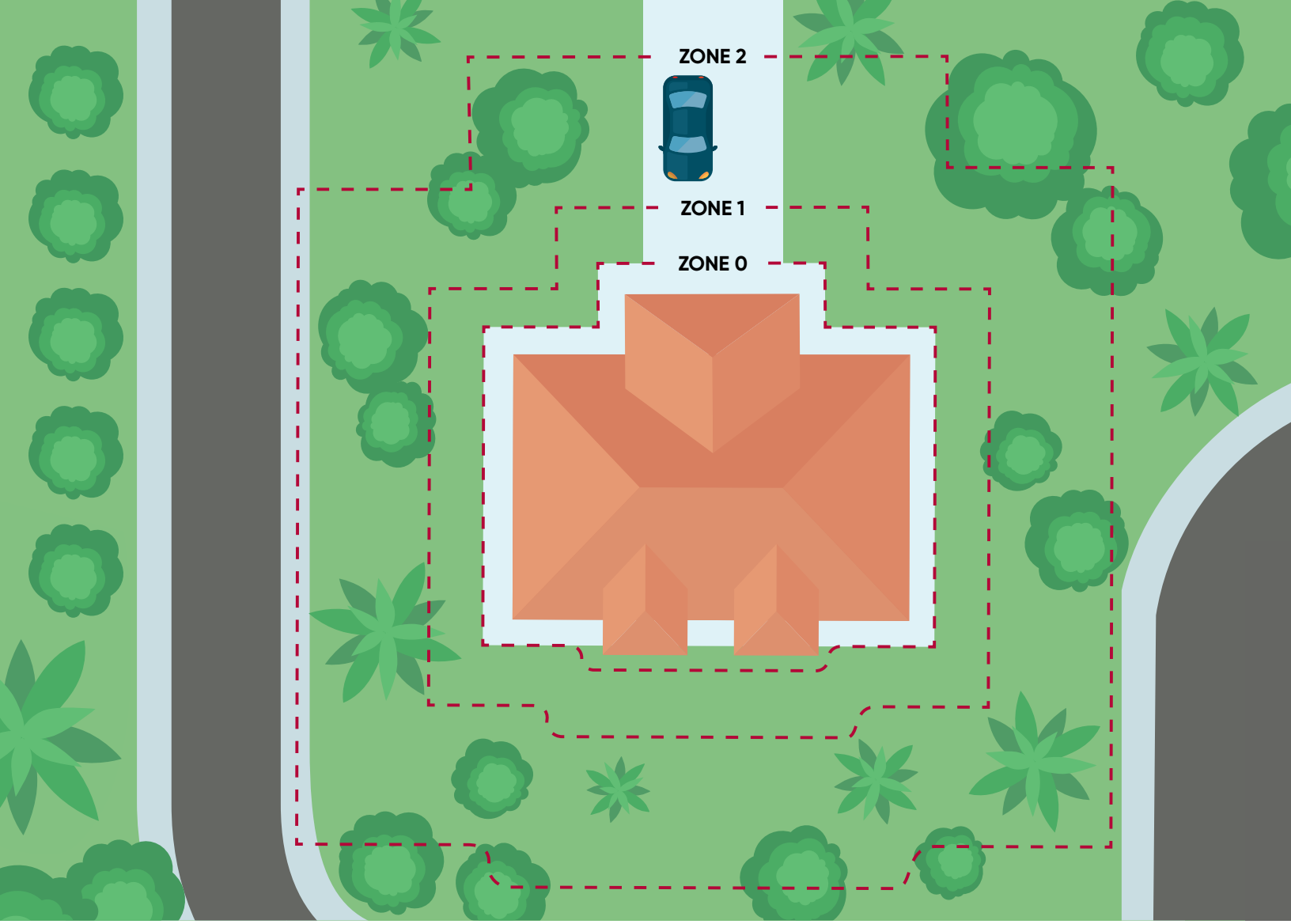
Zone 1: Lean, Clean & Green Zone

Zone 2: Reduce Fuels Zone

Zone 0

0-5 feet from buildings & decks

- Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, or concrete. No combustible bark or mulch.
- Remove all dead and dying plants, weeds, and debris (leaves, needles, etc.) from your roof, gutter, deck, porch, stairways, and under any areas of your home.
- Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet.
- Limit combustible items (like outdoor furniture and planters) on top of decks.
- Relocate firewood and lumber to Zone 2.
- Replace combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attached to the home with noncombustible alternatives.
- Consider relocating garbage and recycling containers outside this zone.
- Consider relocating boats, RVs, vehicles, and other combustible items outside this zone.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Remove plants or shrubs near windows.



Zone 1

5–30 feet from all structures

- Remove all dead plants, grass, and weeds.
- Remove dead or dry leaves & pine needles from your yard, roof & rain gutters.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from eaves, roofline, chimneys, and other trees. Trim lower branches and limbs to 6 feet above the ground wherever possible.
- Relocate exposed woodpiles outside of Zone 1 unless they are completely covered in a fire-resistant material.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs & items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, swing sets, etc.

Zone 2

30–100 feet from all structures

- Cut dry grasses and weeds down to a maximum height of 2 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 4 inches if erosion control is an issue.



Step 1 - Get Ready

Hazard Abatement

Vacant Parcels

Parcels Less Than 1 Acre:

- All grasses mowed to less than 3 inches in height.

Parcels 1 Acre or More:

- Create 30-foot wide fuel breaks around and across the property dividing it into approximately one acre sections. Grasses shall be mowed to less than 3 inches in height.

Other Considerations

- Mow before 10 a.m., but never when it is windy or excessively dry. Lawn mowers, trimmers, chainsaws, grinders, welders, and tractors can all start a wildfire if used during elevated fire risk conditions.
- Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion, especially on steep slopes.
- Remove all dead trees. Dead trees are an extreme hazard as they allow wildfires to spread more rapidly with quick ignition from embers. If you have dead or dying trees on your property, regardless of the cause, the entire tree needs to be removed to reduce wildfire risk.
- Residents living near creek beds, watercourses, oak woodlands or riparian areas should be aware of possible environmentally sensitive habitats.

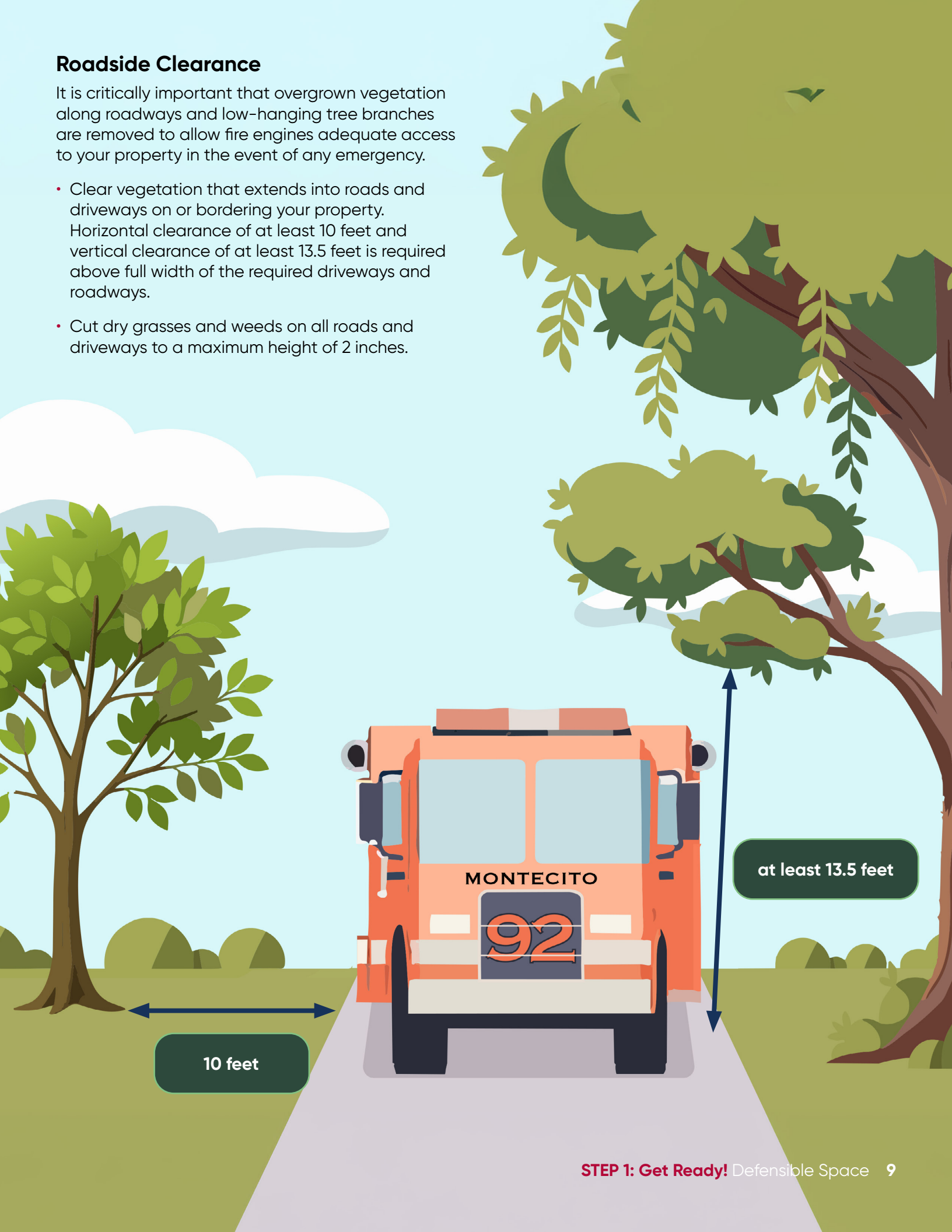
Gate Access

For properties with gates, an approved Knox key switch is required to allow firefighters to securely access your property. Only the Fire Department has the key. Gates must also have an auxiliary backup system. For assistance with Knox compliance, please call 805-969-7762 or email prevention@montecitofire.com.

Roadside Clearance

It is critically important that overgrown vegetation along roadways and low-hanging tree branches are removed to allow fire engines adequate access to your property in the event of any emergency.

- Clear vegetation that extends into roads and driveways on or bordering your property. Horizontal clearance of at least 10 feet and vertical clearance of at least 13.5 feet is required above full width of the required driveways and roadways.
- Cut dry grasses and weeds on all roads and driveways to a maximum height of 2 inches.



Step 1 - Get Ready

Do You Have a "Hardened" Home?

Your home's ability to survive wildfire depends on its construction, surrounding defensible space and exposure to nearby burning materials. Embers, flames and heat can come from vegetation, fences, decks, outbuildings or neighboring homes. Small vulnerabilities can allow fire to enter or ignite your home.

Home hardening and defensible space work together to reduce these risks. Coordinate improvements with neighbors where combustible fences or vegetation connect properties. Designing your home to resist ignition can also help limit a fire's ability to spread throughout your neighborhood.

For personalized recommendations to bolster your home's wildfire resilience, please schedule a property visit with a Montecito Wildland Fire Specialist by calling 805-969-7762 or online at montecitofire.com.

Eaves

Embers gather under open eaves and ignite exposed wood or other combustible material.

Balconies & Decks

Embers collect in or on combustible surfaces or undersides of decks and balconies, ignite the material, and enter the home through walls or windows.

Roof

A roof is the most vulnerable surface for embers to land, lodge, and start a fire; this includes roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles, and rain gutters.

Walls

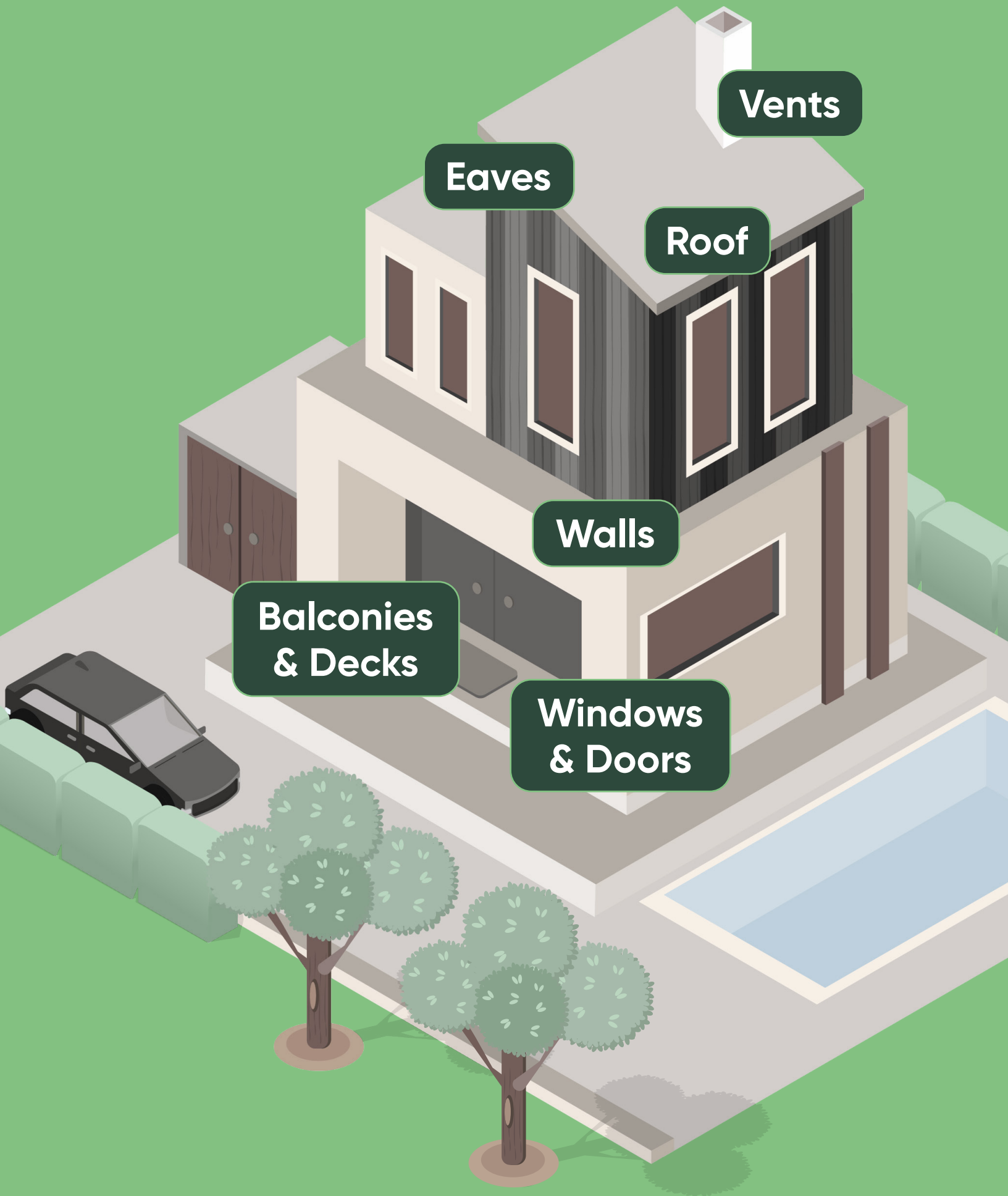
Combustible siding or other combustible or overlapping materials provide a surface and crevice for embers to nestle and ignite.

Vents

Embers enter the attic or other concealed space and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents. Install ember-resistant vents or ensure the vents include a 1/8-inch gauge metal screen.

Windows & Doors

Embers enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Plants or combustible storage near windows can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames. Install dual-pane/tempered glass. Vinyl cladding is NOT recommended.


Vents
Eaves
Roof
Walls
Balconies
& Decks
Windows
& Doors

Tour a Wildfire Ready Home

1. Home Site and Yard:

- Ensure that you have at least a 100-foot radius of defensible space (cleared vegetation) around your home. Additional clearance may be needed for homes in severe hazard areas. This means looking beyond your property lines to determine the impact a common slope or neighbor's yard will have on your property during a wildfire.
- Cut dry weeds and grass before 10 a.m. when temperatures are cooler to reduce the chance of sparking a fire.
- Landscape with low-growing, fire-resistant plants with high moisture content such as succulents and cacti.
- Keep woodpiles, propane tanks, and combustible materials away from your home and other structures, such as garages, barns, and sheds.

Visit www.montecitofire.com for a list of plants and planting criteria.

2. Hedges:

- Do not use flammable vegetation for privacy screening. Non-combustible fencing or walls are much safer, have minimal maintenance, and require no watering.
- Remove the bottom 12 inches of the hedge and keep the area beneath it free of dead material.

3. Roof:

- Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home because it can easily catch fire from wind-blown embers. Homes with wood-shake or shingle roofs are at a higher risk of being destroyed during a wildfire than homes with fire-resistant roofs.
- Build your roof or re-roof with fire-resistant materials that include composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent ember intrusion.
- Clear pine needles, leaves, and other debris from your roof and gutters.
- Cut any tree branches within 10 feet of your roof.

4. Vents:

- Vents on homes are particularly vulnerable to flying embers.
- All vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because it can melt and burn.
- Attic vents in eaves or cornices should be baffled or otherwise prevent ember intrusion (mesh is not enough).

5. Windows:

- Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start internal fires. Single-pane and large windows are particularly vulnerable.
- Install dual-pane with the exterior pane of tempered glass windows to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire.
- Vinyl cladding is not recommended.

6. Inside:

- Keep working fire extinguishers on hand.
- Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and near bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.

7. Address:

- Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road. (At least 4" with a contrasting background.)

8. Non-Combustible Fencing:

- Make sure to use non-combustible fencing to protect your home during a wildfire.

9. Garage:

- Have a fire extinguisher and tools such as a shovel, rake, bucket, and hoe available for fire emergencies.
- Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage. Install weather stripping around and under the doors to prevent ember intrusion.
- Store all combustibles and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.

10. Water Supply:

- Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach any area of your home and other structures on your property.

11. Driveways, Gates & Access Roads:

- Driveways should be designed to allow fire and emergency vehicles and equipment to reach your house.
- Ensure that all gates open inward and are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment.
- Access roads should have a minimum 10-foot clearance on either side of the traveled section of the roadway and should allow for two-way traffic.
- Trim trees and shrubs overhanging the road to a minimum of 13.5 feet clearance to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

12. Chimney:

- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a non-flammable screen of 1/4-inch wire mesh or smaller to prevent embers from escaping and igniting a fire. Make sure that your chimney is at least 10 feet away from any tree branches.

13. Eaves & Gutters:

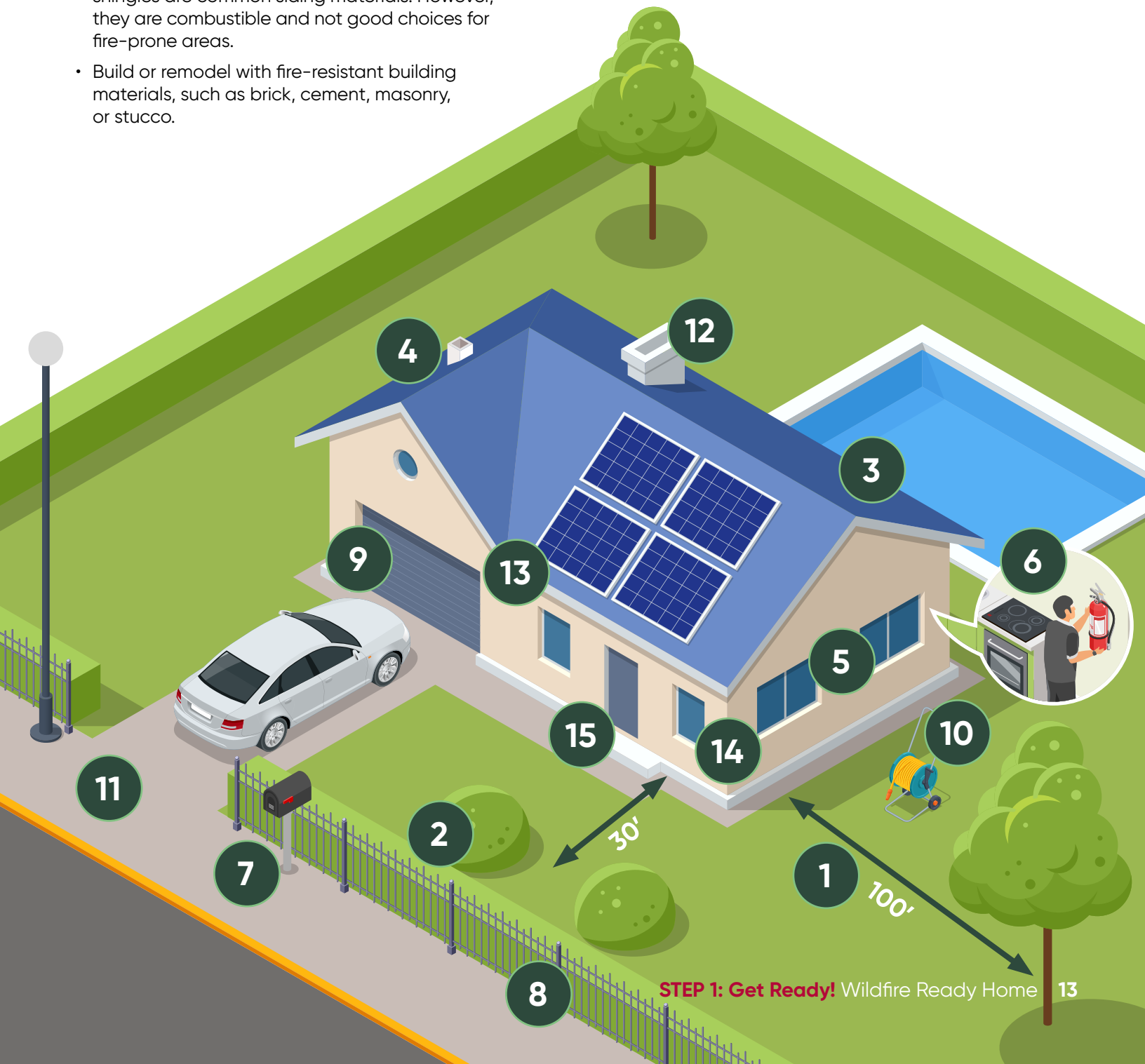
- Box in eaves with non-combustible materials to prevent accumulation of embers.
- Screen or enclose rain-gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

14. Walls:

- Wood products, such as boards, panels or shingles are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas.
- Build or remodel with fire-resistant building materials, such as brick, cement, masonry, or stucco.

15. Deck/Patio Cover:

- Use ignition-resistant construction material for decks and patio covers.
- Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials to prevent embers from blowing underneath, lodging, and starting a fire.
- Keep your deck clear of combustible items, such as baskets, dried flower arrangements, and other debris.
- Do not store combustible items underneath your deck.



Defensible Space Surveys

Each year, Montecito Fire Department conducts approximately 200 Defensible Space Surveys with private property owners.

Our Wildland Fire Specialists can help you harden your home now, before a fire starts by recommending ember-resistant building materials and proper landscaping techniques. Property visits are offered at no cost to Montecito residents and are in no way punitive or required.

The surveys focus on vegetated or landscaped zones around structures, the structures themselves, emergency access to the property and evacuation routes, and the existing topography in the area.

A Wildland Fire Specialist will walk the entire property with the homeowner and document their findings. After the property visit, a Defensible Space & Hazard Assessment Report is provided to the homeowner explaining the property's vulnerabilities and specific recommendations to increase resilience to wildfire impacts.

To schedule a property visit with a Wildland Fire Specialist, please call (805) 969-7762 or schedule online at montecitofire.com.

Firewise Montecito

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recognizes Montecito as a Firewise Community. If you live in Montecito, your property is certified as Firewise! Residents of Firewise Community are less likely to receive "non-renewal" insurance notices and may even receive a discounted rate from their insurer. Contact your provider to see what benefits you may be eligible to receive. Access your Firewise certificate and learn more about Firewise Montecito via the QR code and at montecitofire.com/firewise-montecito.

NFPA | FIREWISE USA® RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Scan QR code to access your Firewise certificate and learn more about Firewise Montecito

Step 2: Get Set!

Create Your Own Wildfire Action Plan

Your Wildfire Action Plan must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a fire. Use these checklists to help you prepare your Wildfire Action Plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on their situation. Once you finish your plan, practice it regularly with your family and keep it in a safe and accessible place for quick implementation.



- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans, and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals, such as horses.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan several different escape routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside of the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an evacuation go-bag to sustain you and your family for the first few days of an evacuation.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so that you can communicate with family members who have relocated.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers and keep a copy in your evacuation go-bag.
- Keep an extra go-bag in your car in case you cannot get to your home because of fire.
- Have a portable radio so that you can stay updated on the fire.
- Review your insurance policy: Do you have adequate coverage?
- Inventory your home: take photos and include the inside of closets, cupboards and drawers.

Evacuation Go-Bag Checklist

After an emergency, you may need to be away from your home for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for 24-72 hours. An Evacuation Go-Bag is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency happens, it is ideal to prepare supplies for home, work and vehicles.

Pack these essential items so you can leave quickly and safely if an evacuation is ordered.

Important Documents

TIP: Upload essential files, photos, documents to a secure cloud-based storage system. Keep printed copies of your important documents (not necessarily originals) in your go-bag.

- ☐ Identification (driver's license, passport)
- ☐ Insurance policies
- ☐ Medical records and prescriptions
- ☐ Emergency contact list
- ☐ Copies of important legal documents
- ☐ Cash and credit/debit cards

Health & Medical Supplies

- ☐ Prescription medications
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Eyeglasses or contact lenses
- ☐ N95 masks for smoke protection
- ☐ Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes

Communication & Electronics

- ☐ Cell phone and charger
- ☐ Portable battery pack/power bank
- ☐ Laptop or tablet and charger
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio

Clothing & Personal Items

- ☐ Change of clothes (1-3 days)
- ☐ Sturdy shoes and socks
- ☐ Jacket or sweatshirt
- ☐ Toiletries and personal hygiene items

Food & Water

- ☐ Bottled water
- ☐ Nonperishable snacks and food

Pets

- ☐ Pet food and water plus bowls
- ☐ Leash, carrier, and supplies
- ☐ Medications

Before You Leave

- ☐ Take your go-bag
- ☐ Bring cell phone and charger
- ☐ Gather family members and pets
- ☐ Tune to **AM 1610** for local emergency information
- ☐ Follow evacuation alerts immediately

Special Considerations:

- Keep your go-bag in an easy-to-access location and review its contents at least twice a year.
- If you have young children, make a reunification plan in case your family is separated during an evacuation. Appoint several trusted adults to pick up your children if you cannot. Make sure your child's school knows those individuals are authorized to take your child in an emergency.
- Pack a mini go-bag for children to have during Extreme Fire Danger days in case of an evacuation while at school or other activities.

Red Flag Warning & Extreme Fire Danger

A **Red Flag Warning** is an alert issued by the National Weather Service when **critical wildfire conditions are occurring or are expected to occur soon.** It does not mean a wildfire is currently burning. Instead, it means that weather and vegetation conditions are favorable for a fire to start easily, spread rapidly, and become difficult to control.



Red Flag Warnings are typically issued when several factors occur together:

- **Strong winds** that can push flames quickly across the landscape.
- **Low relative humidity** (dry air), which removes moisture from vegetation.
- **Dry fuels,** such as grasses, brush, leaves, and trees that are already stressed by drought or hot weather.
- **High temperatures,** dry thunderstorms, or unstable atmospheric conditions that increase fire behavior.

When a Red Flag Warning is in effect, even a small ignition source can lead to a dangerous wildfire. Common causes include:

- Equipment use that creates sparks
- Campfires or outdoor burning
- Cigarettes
- Vehicle exhaust contacting dry vegetation
- Downed power lines

How Montecito Fire Responds to Red Flag

- Increased Staffing: Extra firefighters are brought in to provide greater emergency response capabilities.
- Trailhead Parking Restrictions: No parking at the Hot Springs Trailhead.

How to Prepare for Extreme Fire Danger

- ☐ Keep cell phones and electronics charged.
- ☐ Go home with a full tank of gas.
- ☐ Think through your evacuation routes. Know at least two reliable ways to leave.
- ☐ Review your predesignated place where you will reunite with loved ones after an evacuation, keeping in mind that you may not be able to communicate with them if phone, internet, and electricity are down.
- ☐ Consider using satellite communication devices and backup power units with 110 volts.
- ☐ Organize important documents in a centralized place that is easy to take with you.
- ☐ If you have pets, gather any necessary supplies for them.
- ☐ If you have large animals, review your plan for them and be ready to activate it. Consult with Santa Barbara Equine Evac for best practices.
- ☐ If you park in a garage, consider that power may be out when you need to leave. If you cannot open your garage door manually, park outside.
- ☐ Back into your driveway so you can leave quickly without attempting to back out and avoid potential hazards during a wildfire scenario.
- ☐ Avoid all activities that would create a spark.

Emergency Protective Actions

Protective Actions are issued to provide for life safety during emergency incidents. Residents will be notified of protective actions by the County Office of Emergency Management and compliance with protective actions is enforced by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office. Please review the three protective actions used in Santa Barbara County.

one COUNTY one FUTURE

READYSBC.org

SIGN-UP • PLAN • UNDERSTAND

Shelter in Place

Go Indoors!

A Shelter in Place means there is a hazard in the area that poses a potential threat to life and/or property. A Shelter in Place may be used for areas where people have not evacuated or it may be used without any evacuation warnings or orders beforehand.

What Actions Should Be Taken:

- Stay where you are and move to an innermost room or the highest floor of the building
- If you are outside, seek shelter immediately
- Anticipate sheltering until further notice





Evacuation Warning

Prepare to Leave!

An Evacuation Warning means there is a hazard in the area that poses a potential threat to life and/or property and you may need to evacuate.

What Actions Should Be Taken:

- People with disabilities, access and functional needs should leave now
- People with large animals should leave now
- People who may need extra time to evacuate for any reason, such as people with mobility limitations or disabilities, families with small children, people with many pets or large animals, should leave now
- Residents should remain alert, prepare essential items, and be ready to leave
- **If you feel unsafe, leave. Do not wait for an evacuation order.**

Evacuation Order

Leave NOW!

An Evacuation Order means there is a hazard in the area that poses an immediate threat to life.

What Actions Should Be Taken:

- Anyone in the area should leave **NOW,** do not wait
- Find information about evacuation centers by visiting ReadySBC.org
- Residents who do not evacuate may be isolated for unknown periods of time. Do not expect first responders to come to your aid







Step 3: Go!

Go Early!

By leaving early, you will give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion and enabling them to move more freely and do their job.

Grab Your Go-Bag:

- Keep a pair of sturdy shoes and a flashlight handy for a night evacuation.
- Quickly review the 6 "P's" for an immediate evacuation:
  1. People and pets
  2. Papers, phone numbers, and important documents
  3. Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses
  4. Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
  5. Personal computer (Important files, photos, documents should be uploaded to a secure cloud-based storage system)
  6. "Plastic" (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

When to leave:

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. Do not wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, do not hesitate!

Where to go:

Leave to a predetermined location in a low-risk area, such as a friend or relative's home, an evacuation shelter, a hotel, etc.

How to get there:

Know at least two routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles and equipment. Choose an escape route away from the fire.

Alert Family & Neighbors:

Contact your neighbors to make sure they know about the evacuation. Provide help when possible. Let trusted friends and relatives know you are evacuating and enlist their help, especially if your family has been separated during the evacuation.

Wildfire Evacuation Checklist

Indoor Checklist

- ☐ Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- ☐ Shut off air conditioning and heating units.
- ☐ Close fireplace doors and damper.
- ☐ Remove flammable window shades, lightweight curtains, and close metal shutters.
- ☐ Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.

Outdoor Checklist

- ☐ Move flammable items (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, doormats, etc.) far away from the exterior of the house. Or, bring those items inside or place them in your pool.
- ☐ Turn off outdoor propane tanks.
- ☐ Connect garden hoses to outside taps.
- ☐ Do not leave sprinklers on or water running – they can waste critical water pressure.
- ☐ Leave exterior lights on.
- ☐ Back your car into the garage or park it on the driveway facing outward. Shut doors and windows.
- ☐ Keep the garage door closed until you are ready to leave.
- ☐ Disconnect electric garage door(s) from the motor.
- ☐ Disconnect motor on automatic gates. Leave gates open and unlocked.
- ☐ Have a ladder available.
- ☐ Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.

As You Are Leaving

- Dress in appropriate clothing (and sturdy shoes). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Take your go-bag and ample drinking water.
- Stay tuned to Montecito Fire AM 1610 radio, other local radio stations, or check www.montecitofire.com for updates.

If You Are Trapped: Survival Tips

- Close all exterior doors.
- Shelter away from outside walls, opposite the approaching fire.
- Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks, or embers.
- Check inside the attic for hidden embers.
- Patrol your property and extinguish small fires.

If there are spot fires that you cannot extinguish yourself, call 911.

Emergency Information Sources

Utilize multiple methods to access information about wildfires and emergency incidents in your area.

AwareCA App – California's Official Public Safety App

AwareCA is California's official mobile platform for authoritative, near real-time emergency information. This free app provides official wildfire alerts and incident information, delivered directly from first responders.

Download AwareCA in the App Store/Google Play Store.

Watch Wildfire Cameras

The Montecito front country is monitored around the clock by a network of wildfire detection cameras provided by the ALERTWest - Camera System.

Locally, cameras are in place at:

Ortega Ridge | Gibraltar Peak | TV Hill | UCSB

Watch ALERTWest Cameras

Follow Montecito Fire on Social Media

@montecitofire facebook.com/MontecitoFire @montecitofire

In an emergency, dial 911

To report a non-emergency matter, call the Santa Barbara County Regional Fire Communications Center business line: 805-347-3911

This number is intended for non-emergency calls during regular business hours. Please do not report emergencies to this number.

READYSBC.org
SIGN-UP • PLAN • UNDERSTAND

Register for ReadySBC Alerts

ReadySBC Alerts is the County of Santa Barbara's central alerting tool used to send warnings and information to residents through text message, email, cellular phone (voice), landline, and TTY/TTD.

How do I get these alerts?

Sign up to receive alerts at readysbc.org.

If you are already signed up, log in at least annually to verify that all your contact information is accurate.

You must register at least one address and one way for the County to reach you (text, email, cell, landline).

You can register to be alerted to emergencies at up to five (5) locations within Santa Barbara County. You may organize multiple notification methods in the order you prefer to be reached (i.e. text first, call second, email last).

It is critical that residents register to receive local emergency alerts. If we can't reach you, we can't alert you.

PLEASE REGISTER AT:
readysbc.org

Montecito Fire AM 1610 Information Radio

Stay Informed During Wildfires and Other Emergencies

The Montecito Fire Department's **AM 1610 Information Radio Station** provides timely local updates before, during, and after emergencies. Tune in for information about **wildfires, Red Flag Warnings, evacuations, road closures, severe weather, floods, and community events.**

How to Listen

- Tune any AM radio to 1610 AM.
- Vehicle radios often provide the best reception TIP: Set a preset on your car's radio to AM 1610 so you can find the station quickly when an emergency is occurring.

Stream the broadcast online here

Add AM 1610 to your wildfire preparedness plan and tune in when emergencies threaten our community.



2017 Thomas Fire in Montecito

595 San Ysidro Road,
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
montecitofire.com