



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

AGENDA
Special Fire Fuel Management
Committee Meeting

FIRE FUEL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 10, 2021

CITY OF ROLLING HILLS
6:30 PM

Executive Order

All Committee members will participate in-person wearing masks per Los Angeles County Health Department's Health Officer Order effective Saturday, July 17, 2021. The meeting agenda and live audio will be available on the City's website: <https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/agenda/index.php>

Members of the public may come in to City Hall wearing masks, per the new Health Officer's Order. Zoom teleconference will not be available for this meeting, but members of the public can submit written comments in real-time by emailing the City Clerk's office at cityclerk@cityofrh.net. Your comments will become part of the official meeting record. You must provide your full name, but please do not provide any other personal information that you do not want to be published.

1. PARTICIPANTS

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 2.A. [RECEIVE AND FILE A REPORT ON THE HIRING OF FIRE EXPERTS TO ASSIST WITH REVIEW OF NEW VEGETATION ORDINANCE AND EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY OF VEGETATION ABATEMENT IN THE CANYONS](#)

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File.

[Firewise 2000 Info.pdf](#)

[Proposal from Wildland Res Mgt-City of RH.pdf](#)

- 2.B. [RECEIVE AND FILE A STATUS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW VEGETATION ORDINANCE FOR FUEL ABATEMENT IN THE CANYONS.](#)

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File.

- 2.C. [DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A PROHIBITION OF PLANTING NEW HIGH HAZARD PLANTS AS A CONDITION OF APPROVAL FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS](#)

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss and Consider.

[Ready-set-go_04292021-High-Quality-B.pdf](#)

- 2.D. [DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE THE NEXT FIRE FUEL COMMITTEE MEETING.](#)

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss agenda items and set the date for the next meeting.

3. OPEN AGENDA - PUBLIC COMMENTS WELCOME

This is the appropriate time for members of the public to make comments regarding items not listed on this agenda. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action will take place on any items not on the agenda.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Documents pertaining to an agenda item received after the posting of the agendas are available for review in the City Clerk's office or at the meeting at which the item will be considered.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting due to your disability, please contact the City Clerk at (310) 377-1521 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility and accommodation for your review of this agenda and attendance at this meeting.



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 2.A

Mtg. Date: 11/10/2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: ASHFORD BALL, SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST

THRU: ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND FILE A REPORT ON THE HIRING OF FIRE EXPERTS TO ASSIST WITH REVIEW OF NEW VEGETATION ORDINANCE AND EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY OF VEGETATION ABATEMENT IN THE CANYONS

DATE: November 10, 2021

BACKGROUND:

During the previous Fire Fuel Committee meeting on September 29, 2021 City staff was given direction to reach out to consultants that could provide site visits to residents home to provide education & awareness to residents on fire fuel abatement 200' and beyond from their structure and in their canyons. The Committee also wanted an expert that could assist in providing guidance on the verbiage for the new fire fuel abatement ordinance and the possibility of training our code enforcement officer so the city could internally identify distinction of a qualified "nuisance".

DISCUSSION:

City staff has reached out to multiple consultants who are well versed in vegetation management, fire science, and forestry. Three organizations/consultants are interested in working with the city to meet the city's needs and have provided cost estimates. Wildfire Planning international was willing to provide services to assist in the written portion of the ordinance. Firewise 2000 was willing to assist us in all three endeavors and provided a short business resume of services attached to this report. They contain several individuals who are not just experts in fire but also CEQA standards & regulations, certified arborists, engineers, previous firefighters and foresters. Lastly, Wildland Resource Management (Carol Rice) and retired forester Jay Lopez are interested in providing assistance in development of the ordinance and creating a sustainable home evaluation program for management in the canyons.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Wildfire Planning International:

\$10,000-\$30,000

This is a very broad cost estimate depending on whether a site visit is required to look at existing conditions, how much initial content is required for drafting, and if a final in-person presentation is requested during the final presentation/adoption phase

FireWise 2000

Fire Protection, Fuel Modification and Fuel Managements Plans for Large Projects (Subdivisions over 5 parcels, Commercial, & Industrial Projects) - \$225/hour plus travel expenses

Alternative Means and Methods letters; Fire Protection, Fuel Modification and Fuel Management Plans for Smaller Projects (Single Family Homes, Subdivisions less than 5 parcels) - Flat Rate between from \$4000 - \$10,000

Peer review of wildland fire planning and protection documents and reports - \$225/hour, plus travel expenses.

Expert witness testimony and court preparation - \$350/hour, plus travel expenses.

Wildland Resource Management/ Retired Forrester Jay Lopez

Guidance on new ordinance- Time & Materials: Not to exceed (NTE): \$7,500.00

Canyon Management- Design, BMPs, checklist, site visits, spot checks: \$14,430.00

TOTAL \$21,930.00

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends the Committee to receive and file this report

ATTACHMENTS:

[Firewise 2000 Info.pdf](#)

[Proposal from Wildland Res Mgt-City of RH.pdf](#)

FIREWISE 2000, LLC
Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Planning

Business Resume

Scope of Work

FIREWISE 2000, LLC specializes in the development of professional wildfire risk assessments, Fire Protection Plans, and Fuel Modification Plans for residential and commercial developments, individual homeowners, and public land management agencies. The professional expertise we provide for designing commercial or residential developments to withstand the threat from a wildland fire in high fire hazard areas throughout California. We have been involved in a wide range of projects from single family dwellings to large sub-divisions. We also provide expertise to develop fire management plans for HOAs, private campgrounds and federal/state agencies.

In a Fire Protection Plan, we assess the environmental factors as well structural design of the buildings to ensure fire code compliance. Our extensive understanding of wildland vegetation and fire behavior on the landscape, allows us to provide a professional assessment to reduce the risk of wildland fire to protect property and ensure public safety. The purpose of the FPP is to provide hazardous fuel treatment and construction feature direction for developers, architects, builders, county officials, and individual homeowners to use in making the homes relatively safe from future wildfires.

All **FIREWISE 2000** reports take into account the most recent laws and regulations while being sensitive to open space restrictions, environmental rules, and habitat preservation. The goal is to create an action plan that both satisfies the above restrictions while at the same time protecting and/or minimizing damage from destructive wildfires.

Our *Fire Protection Plan* assessments include analysis of the following:

- Fire history of the project area
- Fuel modeling to determine the projected fire behavior for the surrounding area.
- California Fire and Building Code, and local ordinance compliance as it relates to fire apparatus access, water supply, fuel modification, defensible space, ignition-resistant construction and evacuation plans to ensure public and firefighter safety.
- When necessary develop mitigation measures accepted by local fire authority for code non-compliance to provide the same practical effect to keep the development safe from wildfire.
- Review Landscape Plans for compliance with City or County requirements.
- Establishes both short and long-term fuel modification actions to minimize projected fire hazard and risk and assigns annual maintenance responsibilities for each of the recommended fuel modification actions.

FIREWISE 2000 specialists also conduct on site condition surveys for HOA's and older developments. These surveys result in reports that outline short term and long-term maintenance goals, fuel modification requirements, and priorities for renovation, maintenance and/or re-

vegetation of common areas and homes bordering wildland vegetation. The report may also include wildfire risk assessments for existing homes and outline recommendations to minimize future hazards including landscaping recommendations and proposed CCR language.

Consultant Firm Profile

FIREWISE 2000 has been in business as Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Consultants since 1997 and is certified with the County of San Diego as CEQA Wildland Fire Protection Planning consultants. We have a history of experience working at the international level in Spain, Australia and Israel. The majority of our work is in southern California where we are familiar with the various plant communities and associated fire behavior in coastal sage scrub, grasslands, chaparral, conifer forests, and oak/riparian woodland. Our staff includes expertise as a registered forester, certified arborist, fire prevention specialists, biologist, and fire suppression operations.

Our firm has been used as subject matter specialists for litigation cases in post-fire restoration and recovery claims and can also provide expert witness testimony for insurance claims and lawsuits resulting from wildfires. We are well-versed in the application of both state and local fire codes when projects are proposed in the wildland-urban interface. With over 200 years of combined experience, our team members are recognized experts in the development of reports that detail wildfire risk and associated fire hazards.

FIREWISE 2000, LLC Implementation Team:

Mel Johnson –Owner and Certified CEQA Fire Protection Planning Consultant with County of San Diego; BS in Forestry; 10 years in fire service with U.S. Forest Service & Cal Fire and LA County Fire Department; 8 years Executive Director of the California Urban Forests Council, 17 years as a wildland fire consultant with **FIREWISE 2000**; Certified Arborist; California Teaching Credential, Adjunct Instructor Antelope Valley Community College – 2 years

Monty Kalin –Fire Prevention Specialist with Carlsbad Fire Department; retired Camp Pendleton Fire Department; 14 years as a Fire Consultant with **FIREWISE 2000**.

Michael Rogers – Certified CEQA Fire Protection Planning Consultant with County of San Diego; retired Forester with U.S. Forest Service 30+ years of experience in wildland fire and fuel management programs; Registered Professional Forester #787; Certified Urban Forester #109; BS in Forest Management; 10 years as a Fire Consultant with **FIREWISE 2000**; Serves as Expert Witness in all areas of Fire and Fuels Management

Pete Montgomery – 28 years with Escondido Fire Department, Division and Battalion Chiefs, Fire Engineer; 8 Years Firefighter/Engineer with US Forest Service; BS in Occupational Studies; California Certified Chief Officer, Fire Officer, Fire Instructor, Safety Officer, Division Supervisor, and Strike Team/Task Force Leader; 5 years as a Fire Consultant with **FIREWISE 2000**

Herbert Spitzer - 30 Years with Los Angeles County Fire Department, as Assistant Chief, Forestry Division; 10 years NFPA Rural And Forest Technical Committee. Developed NFPA 1141, 1142 and 1144 and the forerunner to the new NFPA 18 Foam Standard. 32 years - Registered Professional Forester #177; 20 years as a Fire Consultant with **FIREWISE 2000**

Project Workload and Procedures:

FIREWISE 2000 works on average 30-40 fire protection plans per year and has developed Fuel Modification and Fire Protection Plans for hundreds of residential and commercial projects including developments with Lennar Homes, KB HOMES, KHOV, Pulte Homes, Granite Homes, D. H. Horton, Centex Homes, Foremost Communities, individual custom homes, and the US Navy.

These projects are assigned individually to our team associates. Each associate works on their projects which is then peer reviewed, approved, certified by **FIREWISE 2000**. The completed report is sent to the client for submittal with their building plans. Occasionally, we form a team to spread the workload on a larger projects.

We utilize our various expertise to resolve project issues that may arise. Approximately 80% of our workload comes from San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties with the remaining projects through the rest of California. **FIREWISE 2000** works with a wide variety of agencies and fire departments. Our specialists attend Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Conferences and workshops to maintain our expertise level and network with those in our profession. In addition **FIREWISE 2000** has conducted peer reviews of Fire Protection and Fuel Modification Plans developed by other companies or consultants.

Our business practices includes the development of a contract agreement with the client who signs the contract as our notice to proceed. We provide a monthly billing invoice to the clients as the project progresses. We request a retainer for all of our projects, however, we will work with clients such as large developers to utilize progress payments in lieu of retainers.

Our Fee Schedule:

Fire Protection, Fuel Modification and Fuel Managements Plans for Large Projects (Subdivisions over 5 parcels, Commercial, & Industrial Projects) - \$225/hour plus travel expenses

Alternative Means and Methods letters; Fire Protection, Fuel Modification and Fuel Management Plans for Smaller Projects (Single Family Homes, Subdivisions less than 5 parcels) - Flat Rate between from \$4000 - \$10,000

Peer review of wildland fire planning and protection documents and reports - \$225/hour, plus travel expenses.

Expert witness testimony and court preparation - \$350/hour, plus travel expenses.

If you have questions about our services, please call or email us.

Mel Johnson, Owner

FIREWISE 2000, LLC

(760) 745-3947 (Southern California Office)

(707) 993-4343 (Northern California Office)

Info@firewise2000.com

www.firewise2000.com

Wildland Res Mgt
316 California Ave. #68, Reno NV 89509

(510) 502-4737
carollrice@aol.com

November 5, 2021

Ashford Ball
Senior Management Analyst
2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

Sent via email to aball@cityofrh.net

Dear Mr. Ball:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a proposal for services that advance the wildland fire safety of the City of Rolling Hills. I appreciate the background provided from our virtual meetings and telephone conversations that builds a foundation of this proposal.

The services will focus on two different types of activities. The first is to guide code and ordinance development, primarily to assist the determination of what constitutes a nuisance. Tasks would include the description of a nuisance in terms of fuel volume, or arrangement of type (include possibly plant species). For this activity we propose an arrangement based on responding to the questions of the city and offering clarification and guidance. The need for clarification regarding CEQA can also be anticipated. Because of the uncertainty involved in this activity, an arrangement based on time and materials (with a set not-to-exceed ceiling of \$7,500) makes the most sense.

The second activity would be to offer consultations regarding canyon management. The overall goals would be to (1) provide guidance to the community about best practices and CEQA, (2) conduct canyon evaluations, and (3) train staff regarding how to evaluate the compliance and fuel management of canyons. Based on the tasks associated with site visits, meetings, and consultation, we estimate a cost of \$14,430,

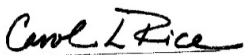
We would be pleased to expand the description of services and deliverables in following discussions.

These services would be provided by Carol Rice, with Wildland Res Mgt and J. Lopez, Los Angeles County Fire Department (retired). Both have been working in the wildland urban interface for decades, and are familiar with the environs and community of the City of Rolling Hills. Both J. and Carol are both natural resource managers and wildland fire managers. Our combined experience enables our ability to offer recommendations that minimize wildland fire hazards and environmental impacts.

The initial work can begin in as soon as agreements are reached.

On the following pages please find a description of services and costs estimated for each task. Please let me know if adjustments should be made so that we can better support the City of Rolling Hills.

Sincerely,



Carol L. Rice



Task	Cost
Guide code development Time and Materials, NTE	\$7,500
Work aimed at determining what constitutes a nuisance	
E.g., fuel volume, fuel arrangement, species	
Discussion of CEQA procedure and local regulations	
Canyon Management	
Identify/select good example of canyon mgt	
Site visit to identify/select canyon where lessons can be learned	\$4,440
Design event and demonstration	\$740
<i>Assumes City videos and produces youtube product</i>	
Develop BMPs for canyon management, considering local regulations	\$1,480
<i>Assumes work done by other entities, per BMP</i>	
Develop a checklist for evaluations	\$2,220
Site visits to inspect 2 canyons, while training others	\$3,700
Spot check other inspections next year	\$1,110
Subtotal (Canyon Management only)	\$14,430



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 2.B

Mtg. Date: 11/10/2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: ASHFORD BALL, SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST

THRU: ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND FILE A STATUS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW VEGETATION ORDINANCE FOR FUEL ABATEMENT IN THE CANYONS.

DATE: November 10, 2021

BACKGROUND:

At the 4th Fire Fuel Committee meeting on June 16, 2021 the Committee discussed programs/projects that would encourage fuel abatement in the canyons. During these discussions the Committee constructed an idea to not only help residents with fuel abatement on their properties and their canyons but also more accountability on completing the abatement. The idea was constructed with the following intentions:

1. Communicate with residents and educate residents on the importance of fire fuel reduction in the canyons to reduce wildfire risks.
2. Designate an area for abatement action using the Fire Departments' priority list.
3. Notify all residents within the designated area that they need to perform fire fuel abatement by a certain date.
4. Property owners within the designated area can (a) perform the abatement work on their own, (b) perform the abatement work with the assistance of the city and render payment upon completion, or (c) do nothing.
5. If property owners elect to do nothing, or fail to authorize the city to work on their property, or fail to remit payment due for remediation work, or does not perform the work on their own by a specified date, the properties would be declared a nuisance and go through the nuisance abatement process.

DISCUSSION:

Since then City Staff and Council-member Mirsch have met with legal counsel in an attempt to construct the proper standards, requirements, and procedures to create the ordinance. City staff has reached out to several consultants to assist with the review, and if adopted by the City Council, the implementation of the ordinance. The expert services would also include awareness and educational campaigns on the procedures to properly manage vegetation in the canyons.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends the committee receive and file this report.

ATTACHMENTS:



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 2.C

Mtg. Date: 11/10/2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: ASHFORD BALL, SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST

THRU: ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A PROHIBITION OF PLANTING NEW HIGH HAZARD PLANTS AS A CONDITION OF APPROVAL FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

DATE: November 10, 2021

BACKGROUND:

In the previous Fire Fuel Committee meeting on September 29, 2021 the Committee entertained the idea of discussing prohibiting high fire hazard plants as a pre-requisite on all proceeding developmental projects to mitigate potential fire risks in the community.

DISCUSSION:

In the Los Angeles County Fire Department Ready! Set! Go! brochure, six high hazard plants are listed as follows:

1. Pine
2. Pampas Grass
3. Palm
4. Juniper
5. Acacia
6. Eucalyptus

These are the plants that are under consideration by the Fire Fuel Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and consider.

ATTACHMENTS:



READY! SET!GO!

YOUR PERSONAL
WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN



fire.lacounty.gov

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY

Dear Residents,

Los Angeles County is one of the most beautiful places to live, but for those living in “wildland urban interface areas,” it does not come without risks. With a year-round fire season and ever-growing number of wildfires, firefighters and residents alike are now constantly on heightened alert for the threat of wildfires.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department, along with our partnering agencies, stand ready to quickly respond to contain wildfires, utilizing our firefighting resources from the air and ground to help protect you and your property from wildfire.



But, we can't do this without your cooperation. Preparation and prevention go hand-in-hand. This *Ready! Set! Go!* brochure was designed to provide you with critical information on creating defensible space around your home, retrofitting your home with fire-resistant materials, and preparing you to safely evacuate well ahead of a wildfire. Please protect yourself, your family, and your property from a devastating wildfire by taking the time to learn about *Ready! Set! Go!*

In Los Angeles County, wildfires will continue to be fueled by a build-up of seasonal dry vegetation and driven by dry conditions and locally strong winds, making them extremely dangerous and challenging for firefighters to control. Yet, many homeowners don't consider how a wildfire could affect them, and very few residents have properly prepared for evacuation until it is too late.

You play the most important role in protecting yourself, family, and property. Through planning and preparation, we can all be ready for the next wildfire. I hope you find the information in this brochure helpful as you prepare your home and family for a wildfire.

As always, if you need additional information about preparing for a wildfire or any other natural disaster, please contact your nearest fire station or visit us at fire.lacounty.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daryl L. Osby".

Daryl L. Osby
Los Angeles County Fire Chief

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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Chair and Supervisor, First District
hildasolis.org



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hahn.lacounty.gov



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KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District
kathrynbarger.lacounty.gov



SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District
supervisor kuehl.com

INSIDE

READY!



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SET!



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GO!



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Preparing for a wildfire starts with three simple steps:



READY!



SET!



GO!

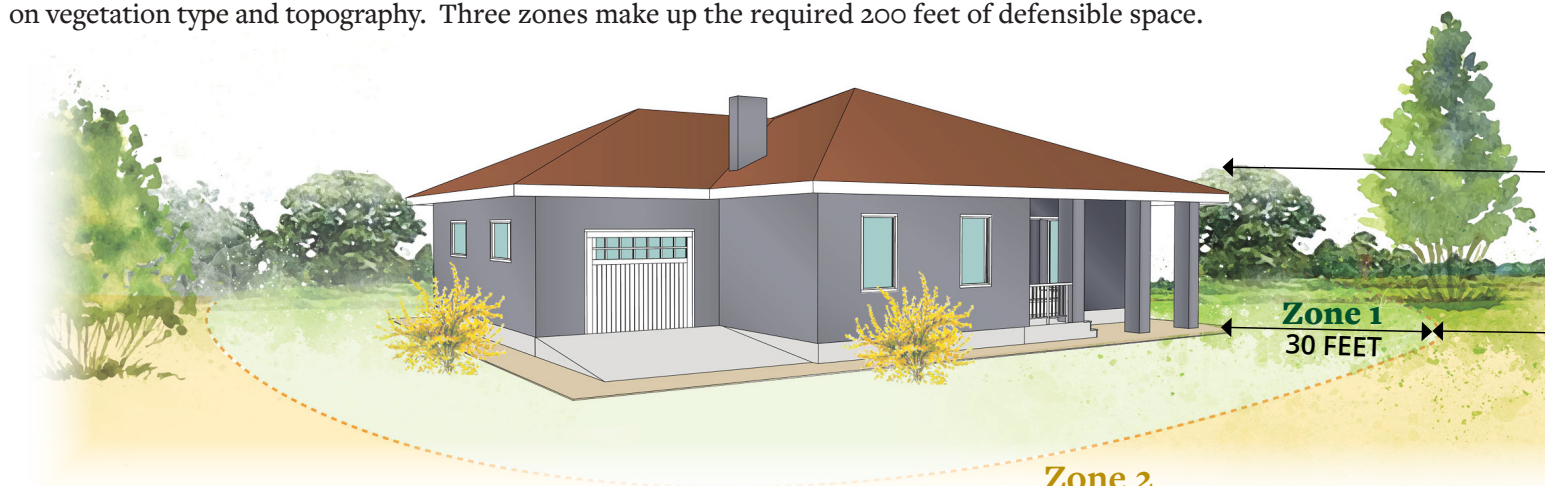
Please keep this plan on hand as a quick reference for helping your family and property be safe in the event of a wildfire.

Living in the Wildland Urban Interface

Ready! Set! Go! begins with a house that firefighters can defend.

Defensible Space

Creating and maintaining defensible space is essential for increasing your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer homeowners are required to create between their structure and the native landscape. This space slows the spread of wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your home. Defensible space composition varies, depending on vegetation type and topography. Three zones make up the required 200 feet of defensible space.



Zone 1

Extends 30 feet out from the structure

- Remove all dead or dying vegetation.
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof, and rain gutters.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Remove dead branches hanging over your roof. And, keep branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Relocate exposed woodpiles outside of Zone 1 unless they are completely contained in a fire-resistant enclosure.
- Remove vines and climbing plants from combustible structures (e.g., bougainvillea, wisteria).
- Remove or prune vegetation near windows (you should be able to see out the windows).
- Remove vegetation and items around and under decks that could catch fire.
- Create separations between trees, shrubs, and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, swing sets, etc.
- Irrigation is recommended to maintain vegetation moisture content.

Zone 2

Extends from the outer edge of Zone 1 to 100 feet from the structure

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of three inches.
- Create vertical and horizontal spacing between trees and shrubs (the distance between trees should be three times the height).
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, a mulch layer may be permitted to a depth of four inches, if erosion control is an issue.
- Irrigation is recommended to maintain vegetation moisture content.



HAZARDOUS ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPE



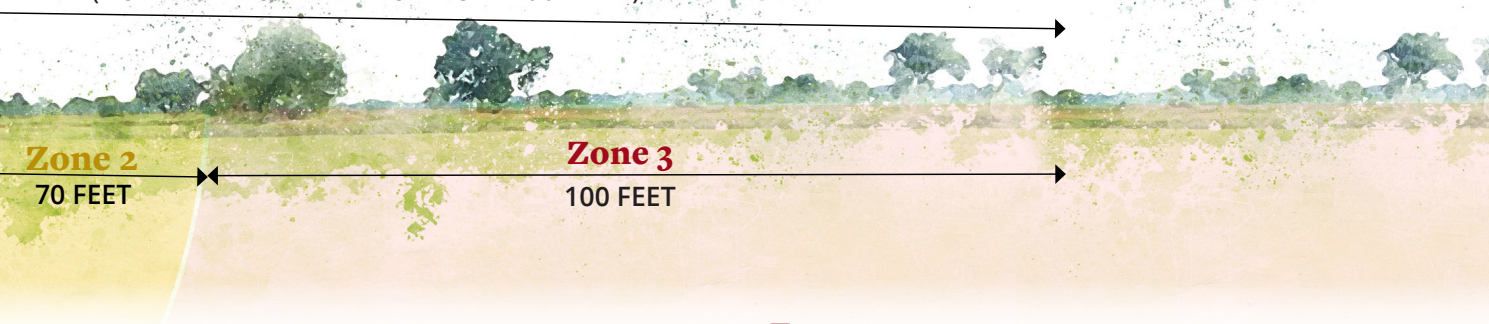
Preventing conditions where fire can travel from adjacent fuels, through an ornamental landscape to your structure, is the key to creating defensible space. Fire spreads through convection, conduction, radiation, or embers. Proper maintenance of ornamental vegetation reduces ember production, fire propagation, intensity, and duration of the approaching flames.



This home provides a good example of defensible space.

Defensible Space

(ZONE 1 + ZONE 2 + ZONE 3 = 200 FEET)



Zone 3

Extends from the outer edge of Zone 2 to 200 feet from the structure

Zone 3 consists of mostly native plants appropriately thinned and spaced by 30 to 50 percent. The objective is to reduce vegetation density and overall fuel load. This slows the rate of fire spread, reducing flame lengths and fire intensity before it reaches irrigated zones or structures.

- Irrigation systems are not required.
- Vegetation consists of modified existing native vegetation.
- Additional ornamental shrubs and trees are generally not recommended due to water conservation goals.
- Existing native vegetation is modified by thinning and removing plants constituting a high fire risk, including, but not limited to, laurel sumac, chamise, ceanothus, sage, sage brush, buckwheat, and California juniper.
- Remove the lower $\frac{1}{3}$ of large shrubs and all dead wood to reduce fuel loads.
- Trees should be limbed up to at least six feet above grade and a minimum of three times the height of underlying plants.
- As the distance from structures increases, native plants may be removed in reduced amounts.
- Spacing for large native shrubs or groups of native shrubs is 15 feet between the edge of their canopies.
- Spacing for existing native trees or small groups of trees is 30 feet between the edge of canopies. This depends on the species, topography, and orientation on the site.

HIGH-HAZARD PLANTS



Pine



Pampas Grass

Note: Special attention should be given to the use and maintenance of ornamental plants known or thought to be high-hazard plants when used in close proximity to structures. Examples include acacia, cedar, cypress, eucalyptus, Italian cypress, juniper, palms (remove all dead fronds), pine (removal within 30 feet of structures), and pampas grass. These plantings should be properly maintained and not allowed to be in mass plantings that could transmit fire from the native growth to any structure.

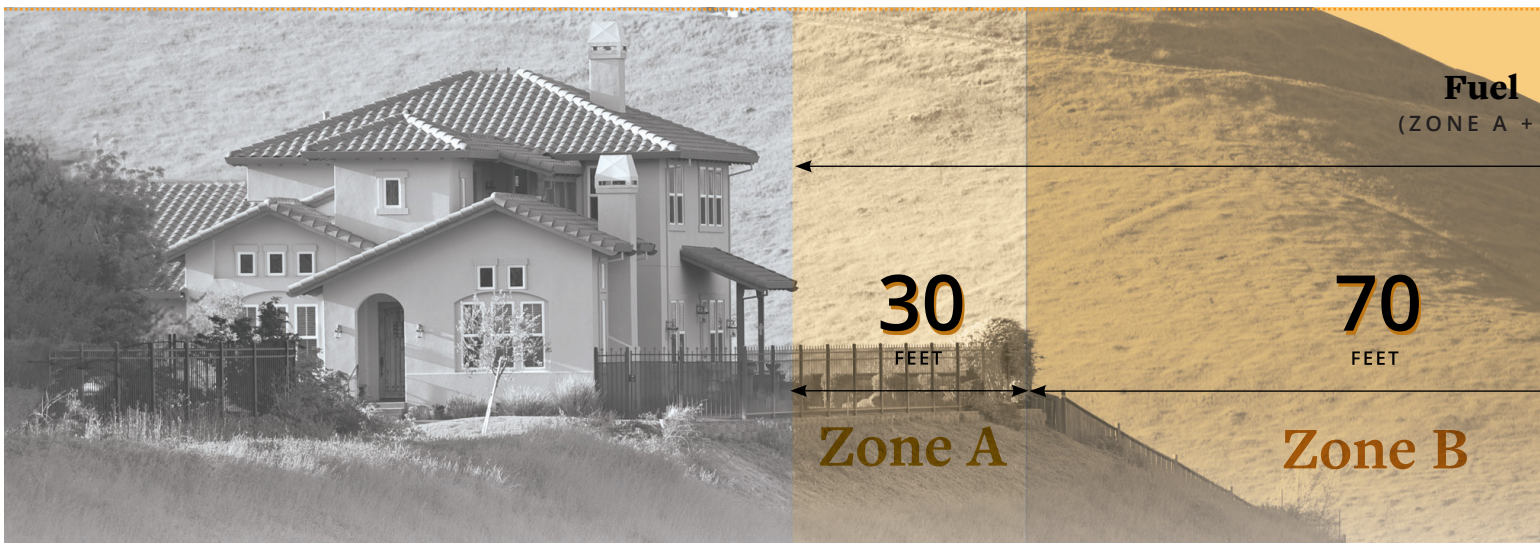
Fuel Modification

What Is Fuel Modification?

The Fuel Modification Plan Review Program affects new structures and developments built in fire hazard severity zones. A Fuel Modification Plan (or landscape plan) identifies defensible space zones and restricts or limits planting around structures.

For further information, please visit bit.ly/fuelmod or call (626) 969-5205.

Fuel Modification Zones



Zone A

EXTENDS 30 FEET FROM THE STRUCTURE

Ideal Fuel Modification Landscape:

Limited woody plant material, high moisture content, adequate spacing, and inorganic mulch throughout Zone A.

- Irrigated area consisting of low-growing, small herbaceous plants with high-moisture content immediately around structures.
- Hedges shall not be within five feet of any structures.
- Occasional accents of woody shrubs or small patio trees 10 feet from structures. Single plants and/or groups of plants are widely spaced (the distance between plants is three times the height).
- Cut annual grasses to three inches and remove leaf litter.
- Vines and climbing plants are not allowed on combustible structures.
- Use rock or non-combustible mulch within five feet of structures.





READY!

Create a Defensible Home

A home with defensible space has the greatest potential of surviving a wildfire. Defensible homes are compliant with the Los Angeles County Fire Department's brush clearance requirements. Homes built after January 1, 1996, have been through the Fire Department's Fuel Modification Program, where strict planting requirements and construction standards improve fire safety in the high and very high fire hazard severity zones.



Zone B

**EXTENDS FROM THE OUTER EDGE OF
ZONE A TO 100 FEET FROM THE STRUCTURE**

- Irrigated with slightly denser planting than Zone A. Avoid woody plants larger than three feet in height at maturity under tree canopies.
- Has zone-appropriate shade trees with adequate spacing.
- Minimize continuous canopy coverage to reduce fire transmission.
- Screening plants may be used; however, continuous hedges are discouraged as this promotes accumulation of dead litter inside the live hedge and creates a continuous fuel ladder to the structure.

Zone C

**EXTENDS FROM THE OUTER EDGE OF ZONE B
TO 200 FEET FROM THE STRUCTURE**

- Thin to remove dead vegetation and prevent overgrowth.
- Thin native species to slow the fire's progress and reduce its intensity by decreasing availability of continuous fuels.
- Native vegetation is thinned 30 to 50 percent in Zone C.

Safeguard or “Harden” Your Home

The ability of your home to survive a wildfire depends on the materials your home is constructed of and the quality of the “defensible space” surrounding it. Windblown embers from a wildfire will find the weak link in your home’s fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked, or seemingly inconsequential factor. However, there are measures you can take to safeguard your home from wildfire. While you may not be able to accomplish all of the measures listed below, each will increase your home’s - and possibly your family’s - safety and survival.

Tour a Wildfire-Ready Home



Address 1

- Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road. The address needs to be a contrasting color to the surface that it is mounted on, so it can be seen.

Chimney 2

- Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a non-flammable screen of 1/8-inch wire mesh or smaller to prevent embers from escaping and igniting a fire.
- Tree branches must be removed within 10 feet of any chimney (exception: oak trees).

Deck/Patio Cover 3

- Use heavy timber or non-flammable construction material for decks and patio covers, especially within the first 10 feet of the home.
- Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials to prevent embers from blowing underneath.
- Keep your deck clear of combustible items, such as baskets, dried flower arrangements, and other debris.

Driveways and Access Roads 4

- Driveways should be designed to allow fire and emergency vehicles and equipment to reach your home (current fire code requirement is 15 feet wide).
- 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.
- Locked or electric gates should have a disconnect or a lock box.

- Ensure that all gates open inward and are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment.

- Trim trees and shrubs above all roads clear to the sky, with the exception of Oak trees which only need to be cleared to a height of 13½ (or 13.5) feet.

Garage 5

- 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.
- Keep the garage closed whenever possible.

Home Site and Yard 6

- Ensure you have up to a 200-foot radius of defensible space (cleared vegetation) around your home. If the 200-foot distance is on adjacent property, contact your local fire station for assistance in obtaining adequate clearance.
- Cut dry weeds and grass before noon when temperatures are cooler to reduce the chance of sparking a fire when using metal tools.
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants that are low-growing with high-moisture content.
- Keep woodpiles, propane tanks, and combustible materials away from your home and other structures, such as garages, barns, and sheds (recommended 30 feet).
- Ensure trees and branches are at least four feet away from power lines. Notify your power company if this condition exists; they will complete required work.

Inside

- Keep a working fire extinguisher on hand and train your family how to use it. Store in an easily accessible location (check expiration date regularly).
- Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and adjacent to the bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.



Non-Combustible Boxed-In (Soffit) Eaves

- Box-in eaves with non-combustible materials to prevent accumulation of embers.



Non-Combustible Fencing 7

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

Rain Gutters

- Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.



Roof 8

- Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home because it can easily catch fire from windblown embers.
- Homes with wood shake or shingle roofs are at a higher risk of being destroyed during a wildfire.
- 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.



Vents

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

Walls 9

- 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.
- Be sure to extend materials from foundation to roof.

Water Supply 10



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

Windows 11

- 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-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable.
- Install dual-paned windows with an exterior pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire.
- Limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation.

Utilities

- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are and how to safely shut them down in an emergency.



SET!

Create Your Own Wildfire Action Plan

Now that you have done everything you can to protect your home, it's time to prepare your family. **Your Wildfire Action Plan must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire.** Each family's plan will be different, depending on their situation. Once you finish your plan, practice it regularly with your family, and post it in a safe and accessible place for quick implementation.



1 Important Phone Numbers

- ☐ A family communication plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point-of-contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation.
- ☐ Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your Emergency Supply Kit (see page 12 in this guide).

2 What to Take

- ☐ Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit (see page 12 in this guide).
- ☐ Keep an extra Emergency Supply Kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire.
- ☐ Have a portable radio or scanner, so that you can stay updated on the fire.

3 Prepare to Evacuate

- ☐ Designate an emergency meeting location, outside the fire or hazard area. It is critical to determine who has safely evacuated from the affected area.
- ☐ Have several different travel routes from your home and community identified. Practice these often, so everyone in your family is familiar in case of emergency.
- ☐ Have all of the necessary supplies and/or boarding options for your pets and large animals identified and/or packed. If trailers are necessary for larger animals, have a plan that is tested and ready to implement.



Your Personal WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN



During High Fire Danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information on wildfires and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildfire.

1 IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name

()

Phone

Name

()

Phone

SCHOOLS

Name

()

Phone

Name

()

Phone

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Name

()

Phone

Name

()

Phone

2 WHAT TO TAKE



Insurance
Papers



Photos



Emergency
Supply Kit



Prescriptions



Important
Documents

☐ _____

3 EVACUATION

WHEN TO GO

WHERE TO GO

HOW TO GET THERE

DESTINATION

WHO TO TELL (BEFORE AND AFTER)

ANIMAL SHELTER

Name

()

Phone



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY, CALL 9-1-1

Public Information Office: (323) 881-2411
fire.lacounty.gov

SET!

Assemble Your Emergency Supply Kit

Put together your emergency supply kit long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs, and keep it easily accessible, so you can take it with you when you have to evacuate. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have a readily accessible emergency supply kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items (except for food and water) and are easy to grab. Storing food and water in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport. Keep it light to be able to easily lift it into your vehicle.

Essential Supplies

- ☐ Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person
- ☐ Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- ☐ Prescriptions or special medications
- ☐ Change of clothing and closed-toe shoes
- ☐ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- ☐ An extra set of car keys, credit cards, and cash
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- ☐ Sanitation supplies
- ☐ Copies of important documents (e.g., birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- ☐ Don't forget food and water for your pets!



If Time Allows

- ☐ Easy-to-carry valuables
- ☐ Family photos and other irreplaceable items
- ☐ Personal computer data on hard drives/flash drives
- ☐ Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Pre-Evacuation Preparation Steps

When an evacuation is anticipated and if time permits, follow these checklists to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire:

Animals

- ☐ Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- ☐ Prepare large animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.
- ☐ Turn off propane tanks. Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- ☐ Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters.

Inside

- ☐ Shut all windows and doors.
- ☐ Remove flammable window shades, lightweight curtains, and close metal shutters.
- ☐ Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- ☐ Leave your lights on, so firefighters can see your home under smoky conditions.
- ☐ Shut off the air conditioning.
- ☐ Shut off the gas meter and all pilot lights.
- ☐ Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They can affect critical water pressure.
- ☐ Leave exterior lights on.
- ☐ Put your emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
- ☐ Back your loaded vehicle into the driveway with all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- ☐ Have a ladder available in a conspicuous location for firefighter use.
- ☐ Seal attic and ground vents with a non-combustible material or commercial seals, if time permits.

Outside

- ☐ Gather flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, doormats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- ☐ Monitor your property and your wildfire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order, if you feel threatened and need to, leave.
- ☐ Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.



⚠️ TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY WHEN WILDFIRE STRIKES ⚠️

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, enabling them to move more freely throughout the neighborhood and do their job.

When to Go

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. Don't 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, don't hesitate!

The terms "Voluntary" and "Mandatory" are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as "Precautionary" and "Immediate Threat." These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. All evacuation instructions provided by emergency personnel should be followed immediately for your safety.

Where to Go

Leave for a pre-determined location. It should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.

How to Get There

Have several evacuation routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles and equipment. Choose an evacuation route away from the fire.



Follow these steps as soon as possible to get ready to GO!

- Review your Wildfire Action Plan evacuation checklist.

- Ensure your Emergency Supply Kit is in your vehicle.



- Cover up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, a long-sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, a cap, dry bandana (for face cover), goggles, or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.



- Locate your pets and take them with you.





Survival Tips if You Become Trapped

In Your Home

- ☐ Stay calm and keep your family together.
- ☐ Call 9-1-1 and inform authorities of your location.
- ☐ Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- ☐ Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked.
- ☐ Remove curtains from the windows.
- ☐ Turn your interior and exterior lights on.
- ☐ Stay inside your home.
- ☐ Shelter away from outside walls.



In Your Vehicle

- ☐ Stay calm.
- ☐ Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- ☐ Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- ☐ Cover yourself with a wool or cotton blanket or jacket.
- ☐ Lie on the vehicle floor.
- ☐ Use your cell phone and call 9-1-1 to inform authorities of your location.



On Foot

- ☐ Stay calm.
- ☐ Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression on level ground, if possible.
- ☐ Lie face down and cover up your body.
- ☐ Use your cell phone and call 9-1-1 to inform authorities of your location.



Returning Home After a Wildfire

Do not return home until emergency officials determine it is safe. You will receive proper notification to do so as soon as it is possible, considering safety and accessibility.

When You Return Home

- ☐ Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
- ☐ Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
- ☐ Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.



Remember the Six P's

People and Pets



Prescriptions,
vitamins, and
eyeglasses



Plastic

(e.g., credit cards, ATM cards)
and cash



Papers, phone numbers,
and important documents



P

Pictures and
irreplaceable memorabilia



Personal computer

hard drives
and flash drives



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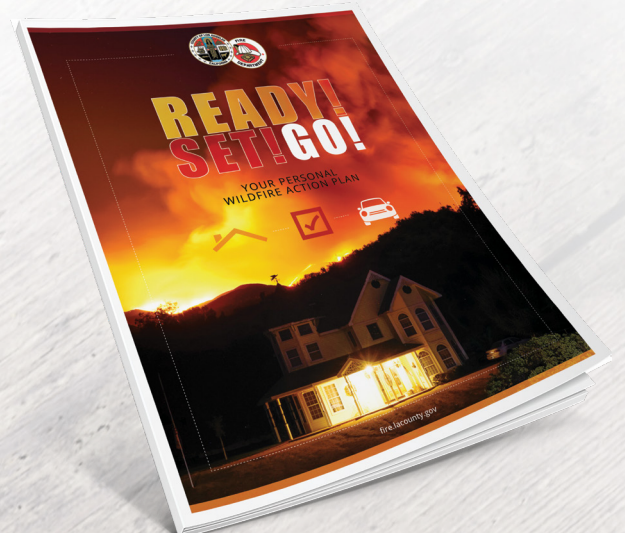
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Download the
Ready! Set! Go!
Wildfire Action Plan at
fire.lacounty.gov/rsg
or by scanning this
QR code with your
smart phone.



READY!



SET!



GO!



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Public Information Office

1320 N. Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90063
323-881-2411
fire.lacounty.gov

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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT FOUNDATION**

1320 N. Eastern Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90063
323-793-FIRE
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or donate by texting F-I-R-E-S to 44321.*



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 2.D

Mtg. Date: 11/10/2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: ASHFORD BALL, SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST

THRU: ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE THE NEXT FIRE FUEL COMMITTEE MEETING.

DATE: November 10, 2021

BACKGROUND:

None.

DISCUSSION:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss agenda items and set the date for the next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS: