



WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
FIRESCAPING WORKSHOP



WEST BASIN
Municipal Water District

Firescaping Workshop

Palos Verdes Peninsula
September 19, 2024

www.westbasin.org

PALOS VERDES

Thursday, September 19, 2024 | 6PM-8PM

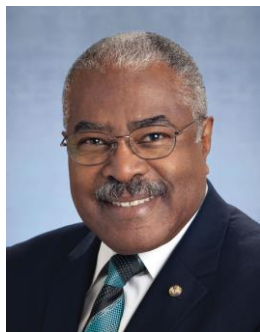
Fred Hesse, Jr. Community Park, McTaggart Hall
29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Mission



Provide a **safe** and **reliable** supply of **high-quality water** to the communities we serve.

Board of Directors



Division I

Harold C. Williams
Vice President



Division II

Gloria D. Gray
Treasurer



Division III

Desi Alvarez
President



Division IV

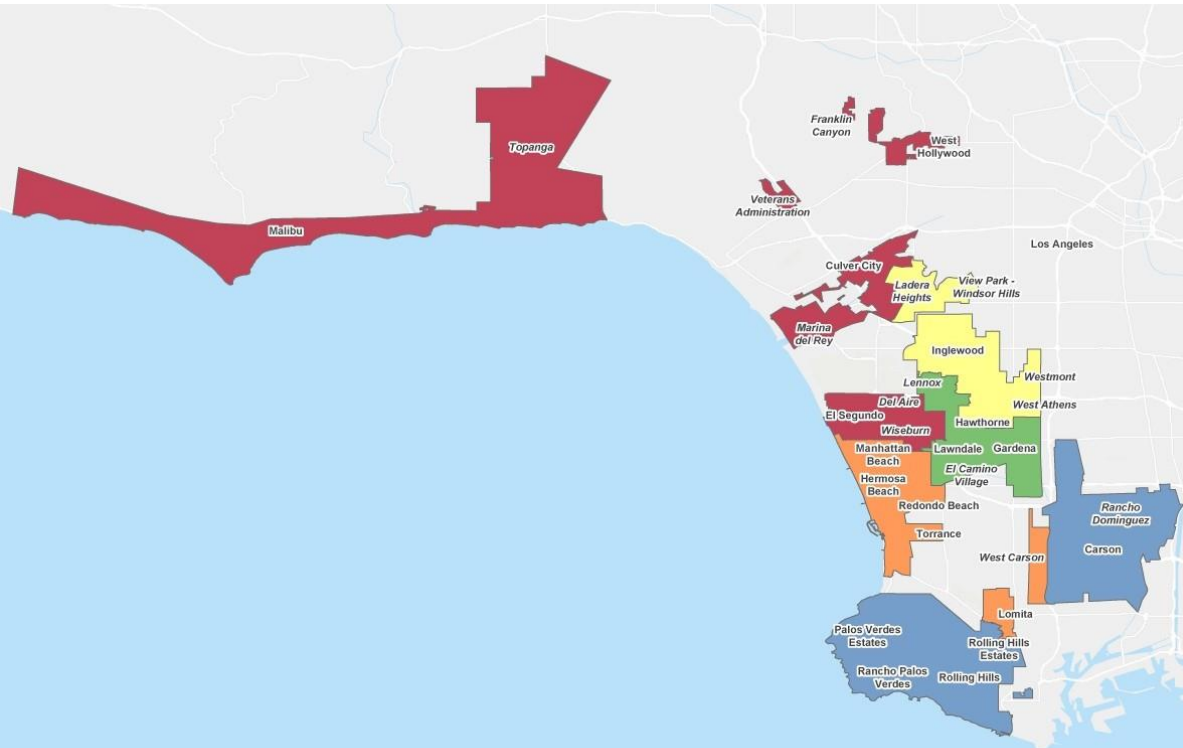
Scott Houston
Immediate Past
President



Division V

Donald L. Dear
Secretary

West Basin's Local Service Area



Division I

Carson, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, and the unincorporated LA County areas of Rancho Dominguez

Division II

Inglewood, portions of the cities of Gardena and Hawthorne, and the unincorporated LA County areas of Ladera Heights, View Park-Windsor Hills, West Athens, and Westmont

Division III

Hermosa Beach, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, a portion of the city of Torrance, and the unincorporated LA County area of West Carson

Division IV

Culver City, El Segundo, Malibu, West Hollywood, a portion of the city of Hawthorne, and the unincorporated LA County areas of Del Aire, Marina del Rey, Topanga, and Wiseburn

Division V

Lawndale, portions of the cities of Gardena and Hawthorne, and the unincorporated LA County area of El Camino Village and Lennox

Residential and Commercial Rebates Still Available

Grass Replacement Rebate Program



Residential Grass Replacement Rebate Program



Get Paid \$3
per Square Foot for
Grass Replaced

*Up to 5,000 square feet for
residents*

Tree rebates available

*Parkway Beautification
Program for qualified
residents*

Residential Grass Replacement Rebate Program \$3 per Sq. Ft.



Before

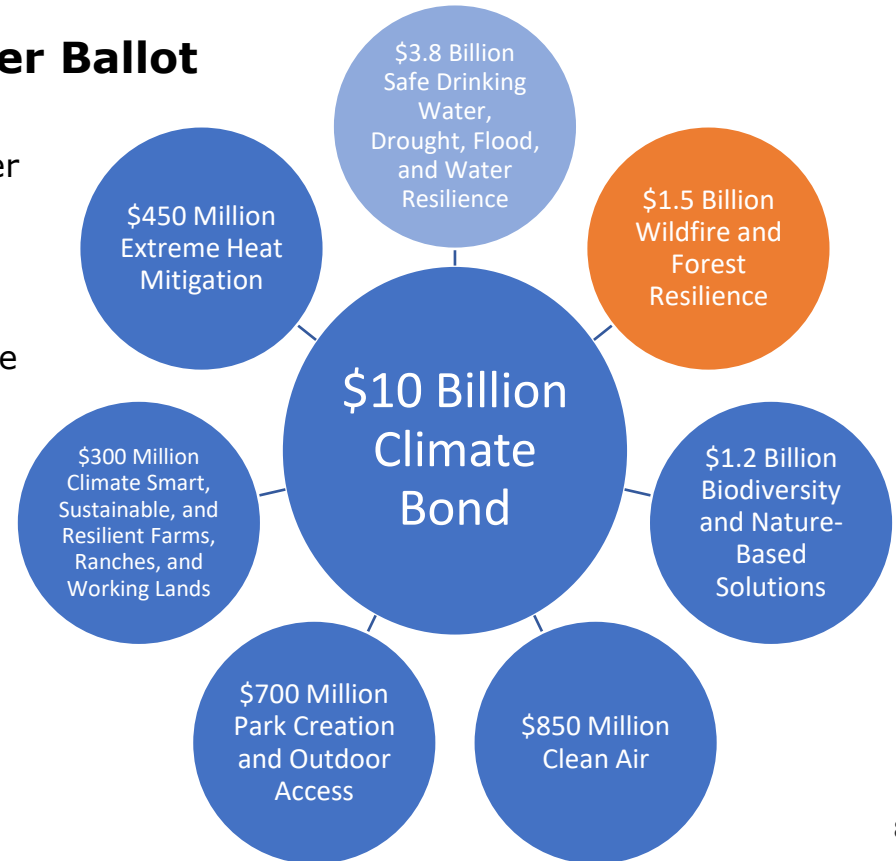


After

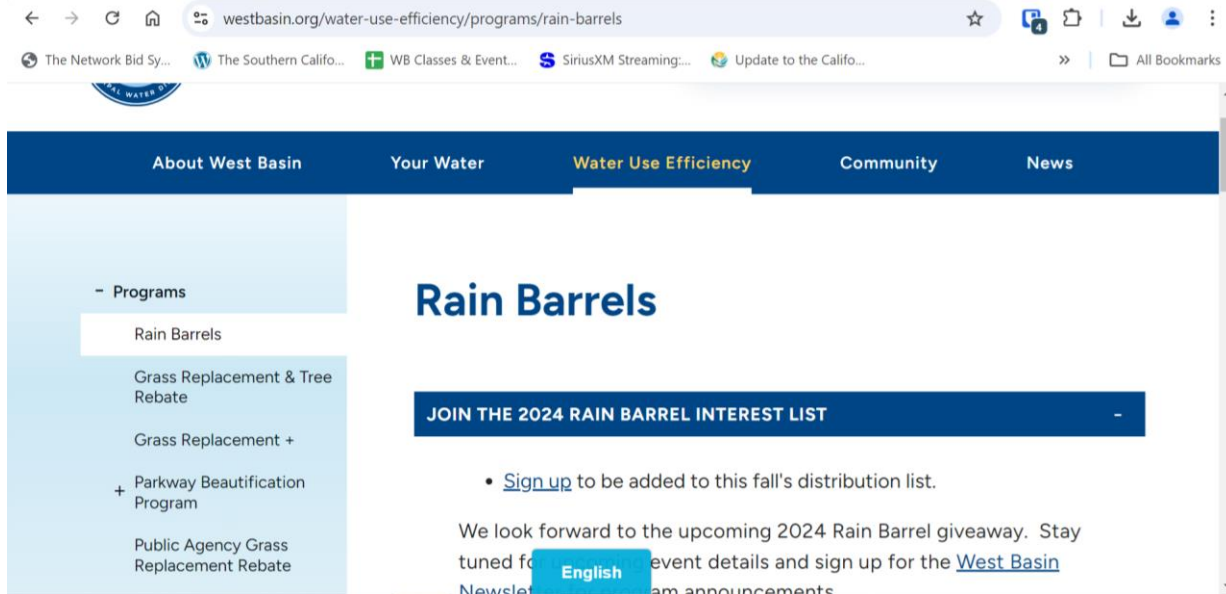
Proposition 4 – Climate Bond

\$10 Billion Climate Bond on November Ballot

- Reduce vulnerability to fire, flood, drought, and other climate change-related events requires a statewide investment to increase climate resilience of communities and natural systems.
- If approved by voters this November, it would be the single largest investment in public funding for climate resilience in State history
- Support from Environmental NGO community
- Focus on communities most impacted by Climate Change
 - Requires >40% of funds for climate vulnerable populations and disadvantaged communities



Free Rain Barrels



Palos Verdes Peninsula High School

- Saturday, January 25, 2025
- 8AM – 11AM
- 300 Rain Barrels
- Up to two (2) free rain barrels

WEST BASIN RECYCLED WATER FILL STATION

Free recycled water to all residential customers in the service area

- ✓ Sustainable conservation resource for landscape purposes
- ✓ Up to 300 gallons per visit
- ✓ No cost for customers
- ✓ Located at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility, El Segundo
- ✓ Open Thursdays 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
- ✓ Closed October 5, 2024
- ✓ Open until October 31, 2024

Visit our website for more information at www.westbasin.org/recycled-water-fill-station



WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

WATER Harvest

WATER EDUCATION • TOURS • PRIZES • GAMES • KIDS COSTUME CONTEST

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 5TH, 2024
10AM - 2PM**

FREE FAMILY EVENT!



[f](#) [i](#) [in](#) [v](#)
@WESTBASIN #WATERHARVEST2024
[WESTBASIN.ORG/WATER-HARVEST](https://www.westbasin.org/water-harvest)

LOCATED OUTSIDE

EDWARD C. LITTLE
WATER RECYCLING FACILITY
1935 S. HUGHES WAY
EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245

FREE PARKING & SHUTTLE SERVICE

1960 E. GRAND AVE.
EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245



Contact us
info@westbasin.org

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West Basin Municipal
Water District

Outline

Firescaping: Protecting Your Home and Family

1. Structures
2. First 5 Feet
3. Defensible Space
4. Plants
5. Conclusion





RPV Emergency Preparedness Resources



RPV Emergency Preparedness Division

- Find resources at rpvca.gov/emergency
- Request a presentation from the Emergency Preparedness Committee



Alert SouthBay

- Get emergency alerts via text or email
- Text "alertsb" to 888-777 or go to alertsouthbay.com



Know Your Zone

- Find your zone at PVPready.gov
- Check the zone map in an emergency



Structures



Structures

Your 1st Priority!

Whether firebrands or direct flame contact, your structure must be maintained to withstand an assault of intense heat and flying burning embers.



Bond Fire, 2020



Woolsey Fire, 2018

Structures: Of Concern to the Peninsula

Topics

Fire-Hardened Structures

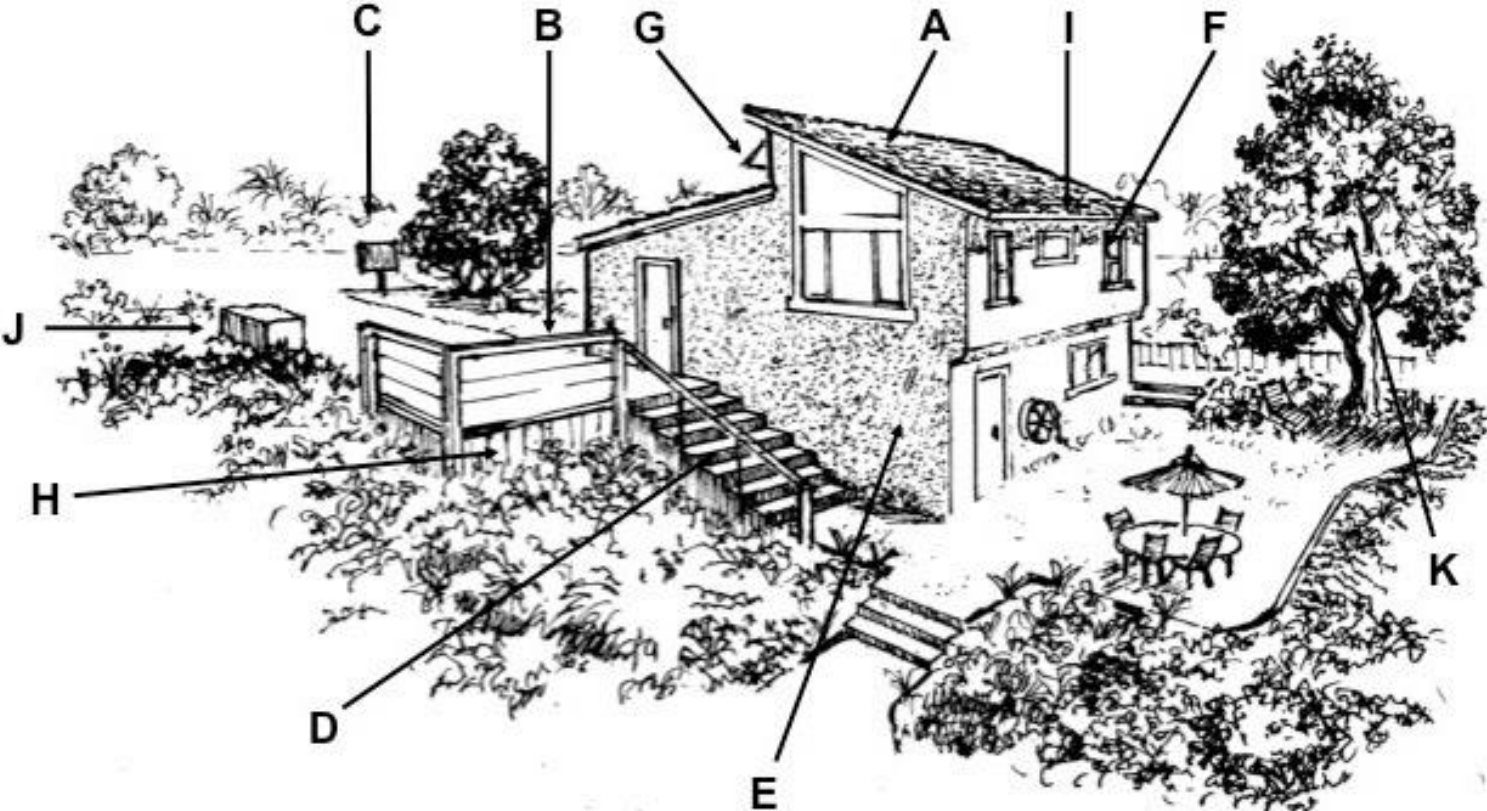
Ridgetop Living

Outbuildings

Small Lots



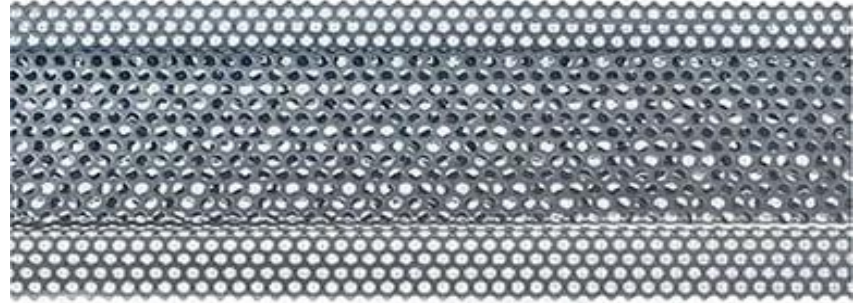
Structures: Characteristics of a Fire-Hardened House



Structures: Ridgetop Living

Problems

- Elongated flames
- Intense heat
- Firebrands propelled by convection



Vulcan Vent: Fire and ember safe

Solutions

- Screens
- Eaves
- Trim
- Siding



Structures: Outbuildings

Needs Attention

- Basic maintenance
- Weatherization
- Check screens



Firebrands can ignite these two outbuildings. The overflowing rain gutters (left) and the big gaps in the door (top) create opportunities and fuel for firebrands.

Small Properties

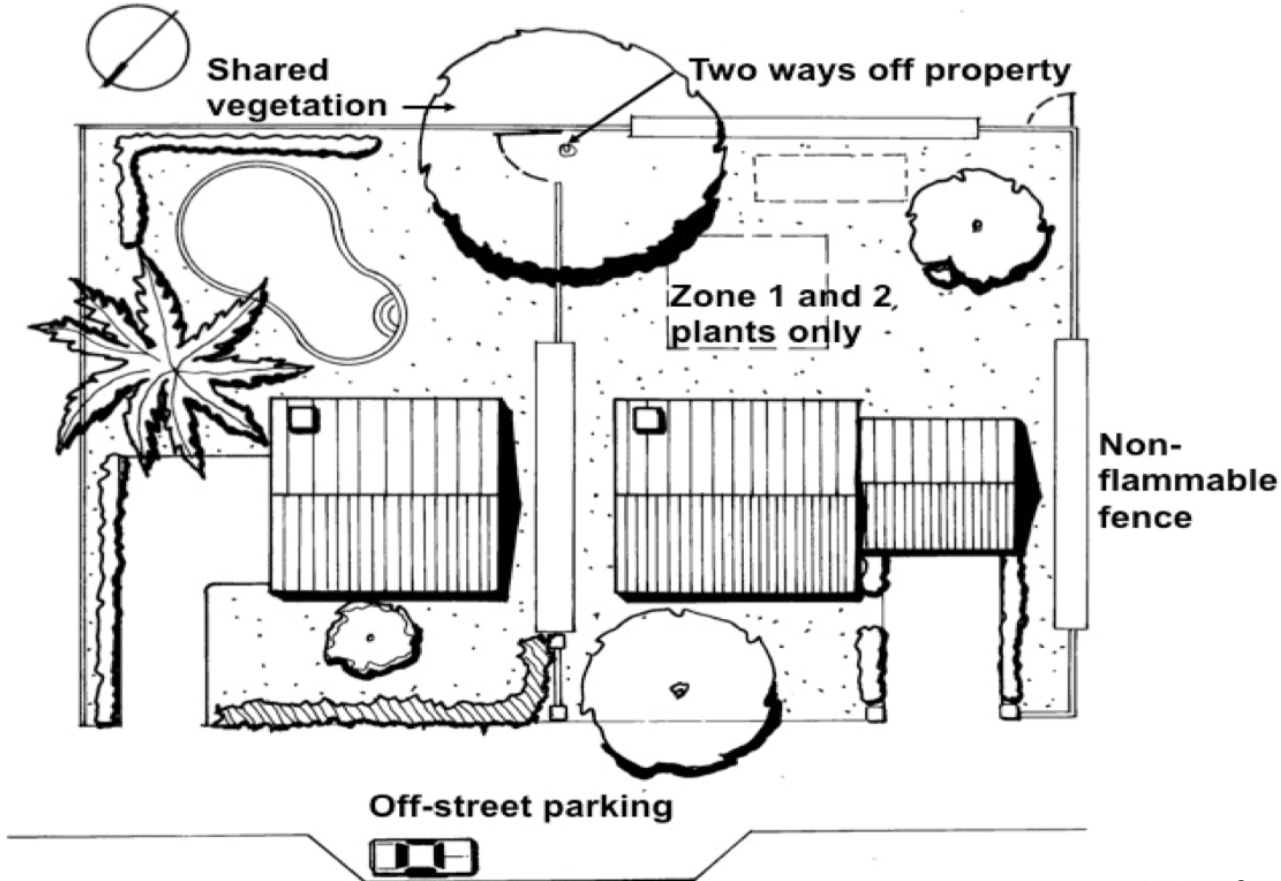
As illustrated by the state's deadliest and most destructive wildfires, small lot neighborhoods are particularly vulnerable to loss. The reason is because there is not enough distance between the homes to buffer the intense heat and a domino effect is created. Homes burn at about 1,110 degrees F.



Old Fire, 2003



Structures: Small Lot Design Strategies



Structures: Small Lot Design Strategies

The Roof: Installing and maintaining a fire-retarding roof is possibly the most important aspect to protecting a house on a small lot.



Off-Street Parking: Gridlock is common in high-density neighborhoods, but more so during wildfires. Off-street parking and pullouts will greatly speed travel times.

Escape Routes: Dense neighborhoods need as many escape routes as possible.

Fences: The pursuit of privacy adds an incredible amount of fuel to any property, but it is compounded on small lots. Separate structures with a concrete wall.

Plant Selection: Fire retardant and fire-resistant plants only on small lots.

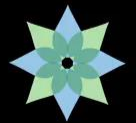
Shared Vegetation: Not every property needs a tree. Oftentimes a homeowner can simply let their neighbor's tree grow over and onto their property.

Pools and Spas: Design your pool or spa so that you or fire fighters have easy access to the water and drain outlets.

Structures: To Do

- Ensure all openings are screened.
- Clean **roof** and gutters.
- Manage **seams** and fill gaps.
- Paint, if not sand, all peeling **paint**.
- Make your **address** visible.





**TOPANGA
SMART**

Save water. Live well.



Questions

Structures

*Palos Verdes Peninsula
Firescaping Workshop*



First Five Feet



First Five Feet: Shade Structures

Problems

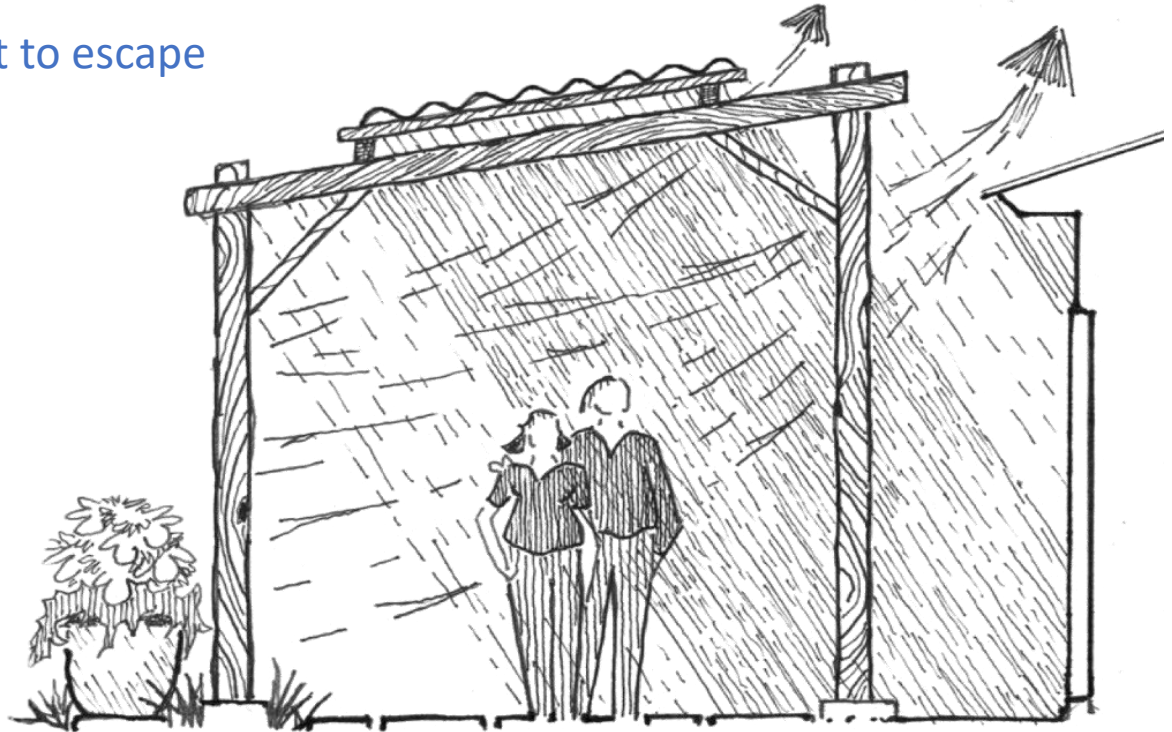
- Poorly maintained
- Attached to structures



First Five Feet: Shade Structures

Solutions

- Detach from structure
- Slant to allow heat to escape
- Care for the wood



First Five Feet: Do you see it?



The wood, containers and tools provide opportunities for ignition and unnecessarily add risk to an otherwise fire-hardened property.



Questions

First Five Feet

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Defensible Space



Defensible Space: First 30 Feet

Additional Topics

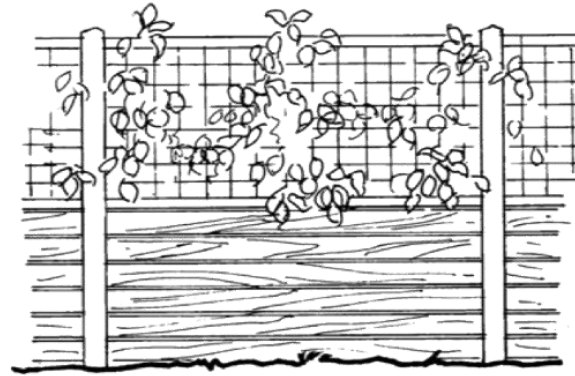
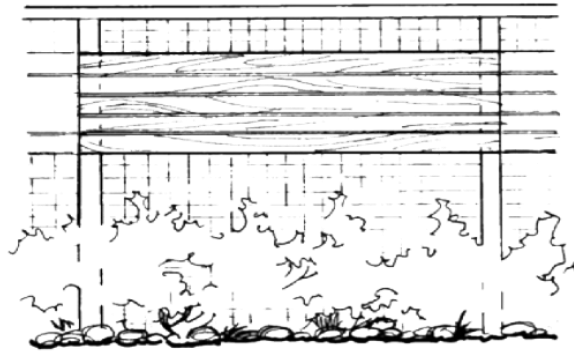
- Shade Structures
- Fencing
- Decks



Defensible Space: Fencing



Defensible Space: Fencing



Defensible Space: Landscape Features

Needs Attention

- Basic maintenance
- Clean and preserve wood
- Remove flammable items from around landscape feature



Defensible Space: To Do

- Remove all flammable items within the first 5 feet!
- Remove dead, **dying** and diseased vegetation.
- Maintain landscape features, such as fences and tree houses.





Questions

Defensible Space

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Plants



Plants: Less Flammable

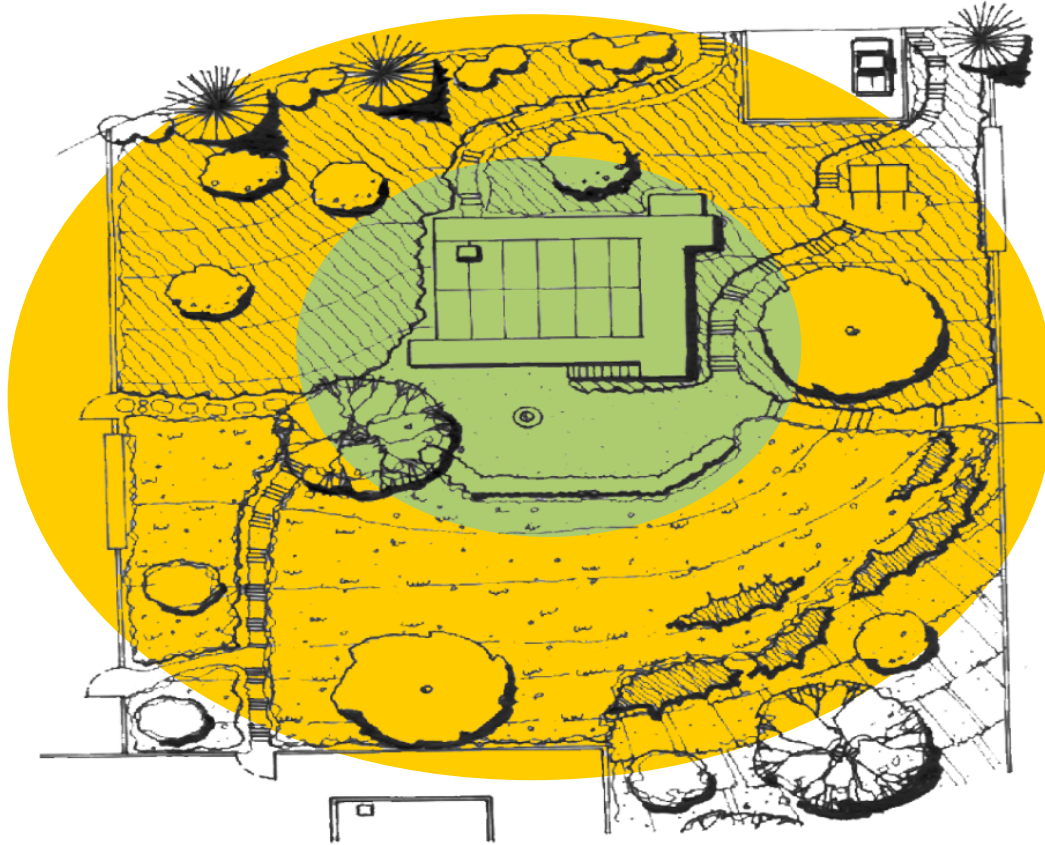


Coral bells (*Heuchera*) and *Carex pansa* have many ideal attributes.

Knowing Traits is More Important than Lists

- Broadleaf plants
- Moist and easily bent leaves
- Thick leaves
- Low amount of litter
- Sap that looks more like water
- Plants without fragrance
- Plants with silver or gray leaves
- Plant leaves without hair

Plants: Less Flammable



**FIRE
RESISTANT**



**FIRE
RETARDANT**

Plants: Less Flammable



Fire Retardant

Agapanthus	Grape
Cercis – Redbud	Liquidambar
Crape Myrtle	Philodendron
Fescue	Photinia
Flax	Succulents
Gazania	



Fire Resistant

Artemisia ‘Silver King’
Ceanothus
Cistus – Rockrose
Coast Live Oak
Cotoneaster
Lemonade Berry
Mallow
Native Verbena
Toyon
Yarrow
Yucca

Plants: Less Flammable - Lists



Citrus is notoriously good at resisting the effects of fire and intense heat.

Fire Resistant

- **Bird**
- **Food**
- **Lawn Alternatives**
- **Medicine**
- **Native**
 - Chaparral
 - Desert
 - Woodland Understory
- **Succulents**
- **Temperate**
- **Tropical**

Plants: The Problem with Lists



- Too Old
- Diseased
- Injured
- Pest Infested
- Not Healthy

Maintenance is the Fulcrum of Fire Safety

Plants: To Do

- ➔ Remove dead, **dying** and diseased vegetation.
- ➔ **Replace** vegetation before it becomes an economic liability and fire risk.
- ➔ Do not let your plants **dry** out.





Questions

Plants

*Palos Verdes Peninsula
Firescaping Workshop*

Resources for the Palos Verdes Peninsula

State Approved Air Vents for Fire Protection

- Brandguard Vents, San Clemente, CA
<https://www.brandguardvents.com/>
- Embers Out LLC, Yorba Linda, CA
<https://www.embersout.com/>
- Vulcan Technologies, San Rafael, CA
<http://www.vulcantechnologies.com/>

Flame Retardant Paints

All the companies below provide Class A paints, the most fire retarding and state approved.

- BanFire
- FireTech
- FlameOFF
- INSL-X
- Krylon
- Master Flame
- Zero Flame

Nursery Centers with Experience in Fire Protection

- Armstrong Nurseries, Torrance
- Elwood Nursery, Rolling Hills Estates
- South Coast Botanic Gardens, Palo Verdes Estates

Qualified Landscape Contractors

California Landscape Contractors Association, “Find a Contractor”

<https://member-clca.org/max/4DCGI/directory/contractor/index.html>



Contacts

West Basin Municipal Water District

www.westbasin.org

City of Rancho Palos Verdes

www.rpvca.gov

California Water Service Company

www.calwater.com

Douglas Kent MS, MLA

newair@mindspring.com

www.anfractus.com

Alert Southbay

<https://alertsouthbay.com>

PVP Ready

<https://www.pvpready.gov>

County of Los Angeles – Fire Dept.

www.fire.lacounty.gov

<https://fire.lacounty.gov/fire-hazard-reduction-programs/>

Wen Wang – Forestry Assistant

Forestry Division – Defensible Space Unit

Wen.wang@fire.lacounty.gov

Grant Dinson – Forestry Assistant

Forestry Division – Fuel Modification Unit

Grant.Dinson@fire.lacounty.gov

Contacts

Christian Torres

Key Accounts, Advisor

Customer Engagement Division (CED), Local Government & Public Sector

Southern California Edison

Office: 909-942-8306 Cell: 626-513-6792

CHRISTIAN.TORRES@SCE.COM

[The Outage Center](#) | **24 Hour Outage Hotline 855-683-9067 or scepoc@sce.com**



Final Questions
