



# Home Hardening

Los Angeles County Fire Department – Forestry Division – Fire Plan Unit



# Home Hardening



## Four categories:

1) Roof and Rain gutters

2) Ember Entry Points

3) Hazards within 5 feet (zone zero)

4) Defensible space beyond 5 feet



# Ember Entry Points

- There are many ember entry points we can fortify.
- Windows
- Exterior doors
- Garage doors
- Chimneys
- Open eaves
- Vents

# Roof and Rain Gutters

- Roofs are highly vulnerable to ember cast fires, so ensuring it is in good condition is critical.
- Use Class A materials (asphalt, cement, metal, clay) and check for cracks or gaps where embers could enter.



*\* Regularly clean the roof, gutters, and any debris, and inspect annually, particularly before summer or after wind events.*

# Vents

- Vents – Locate all vents, Dormer and ridge vents (roof) Attic vents, gable vents , under eaves, crawl space.
- No need to remove old screens you can in most cases add to the existing vent cover extra screen or bolt new cover over old one.



# Windows - Doors - Eaves

- Use multi-pane tempered glass windows and keep combustibles 0-5 feet away to prevent ignition.
- Ensure exterior doors are airtight with proper thresholds and weather stripping.
- Seal cracks or gaps in garage doors and eaves to prevent wind infiltration and fire entry.



# The Ember-Resistant Zone (ERZ): 0-5 feet from structure

- Assess how wind impacts your home, especially areas that may "catch" the wind and direct embers toward the structure.
- Consider how embers may collect on or around your home, particularly in areas vulnerable to ignition.
- Remove all combustible materials within the 0-5 foot zone, including firewood, furniture, mulch, and vegetation, to prevent fire spread.



# The Ember-Resistant Zone (ERZ): 0-5 feet from structure

- Keep it lean, clean and green.
- Many plants look green on the outside but have dead material inside and underneath susceptible to embers and can easily ignite.
- Its all about maintenance. If its highly combustible keep out of 0-5
- Attachments to the Home - Fences, Decks, Arbors. Can be a hazard.
- If attached to the home keep clean of vegetation and collect no debris. Keep maintained with calked and sealed and noncombustible.
- Use metal flashing against structures and attachments where embers could land.
- Trees not touching roof, 10 feet from roof line.



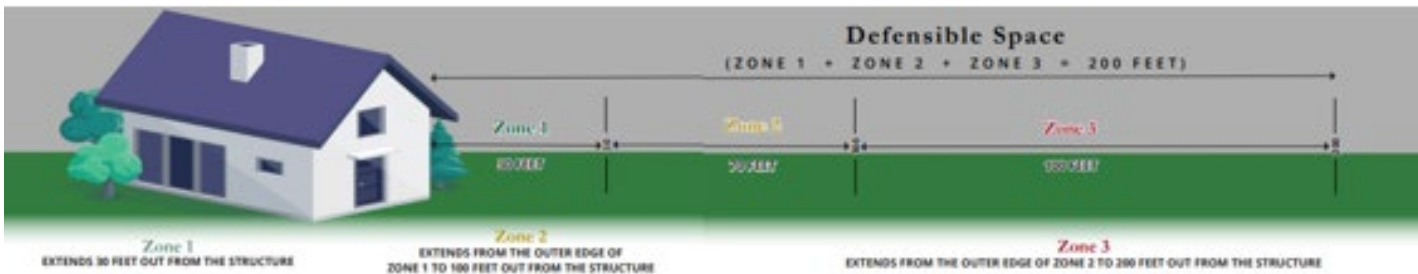
Photo Credit: Fire Safe Marin



# Los Angeles County's Enforced Defensible Space Requirements

- Home inspections via the LACoFD
  - To ensure compliance with LA County brush clearance measures
- ***Zones 1-3 enforced***

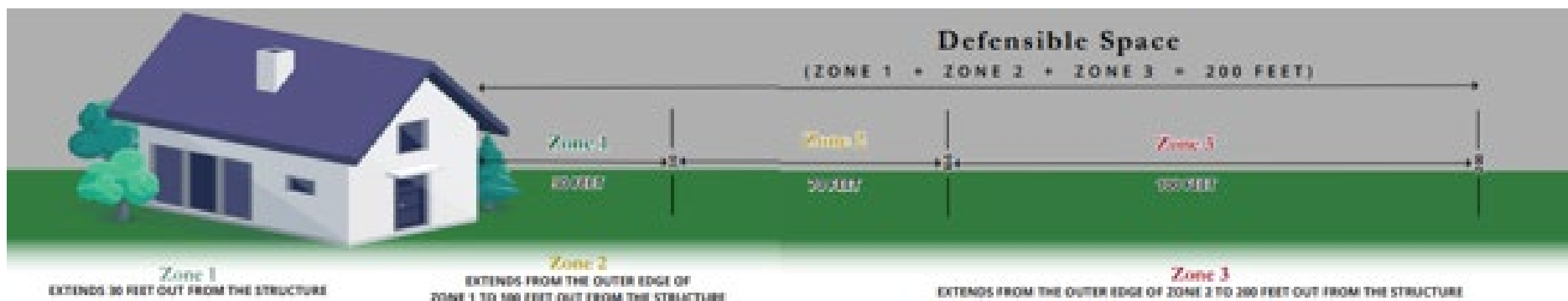
# Zone 1: 0-30 ft



- Creating defensible space improves the chances of your home serving a wildfire.
- Proper spacing on your property creates less fuel continuity and slow the rate of spread of the fire with less flame intensity
- Defensible zone is all about maintenance!

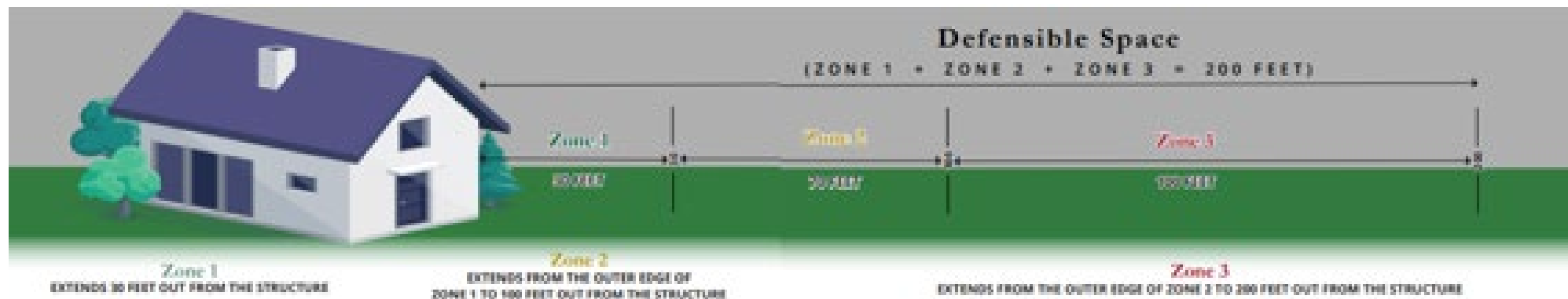
## Zone 2: 0-100 ft

- Cut or mow annual grass to max height of 3”
- Create vertical and horizontal spacing between trees and shrubs



## Zone 3: 100-200ft

- Consists of mostly native plants thinned by 30-50%
- Objective is to reduce vegetation density and overall fuel load
  - Slow rate of fire spread, and reduce flame lengths/intensity



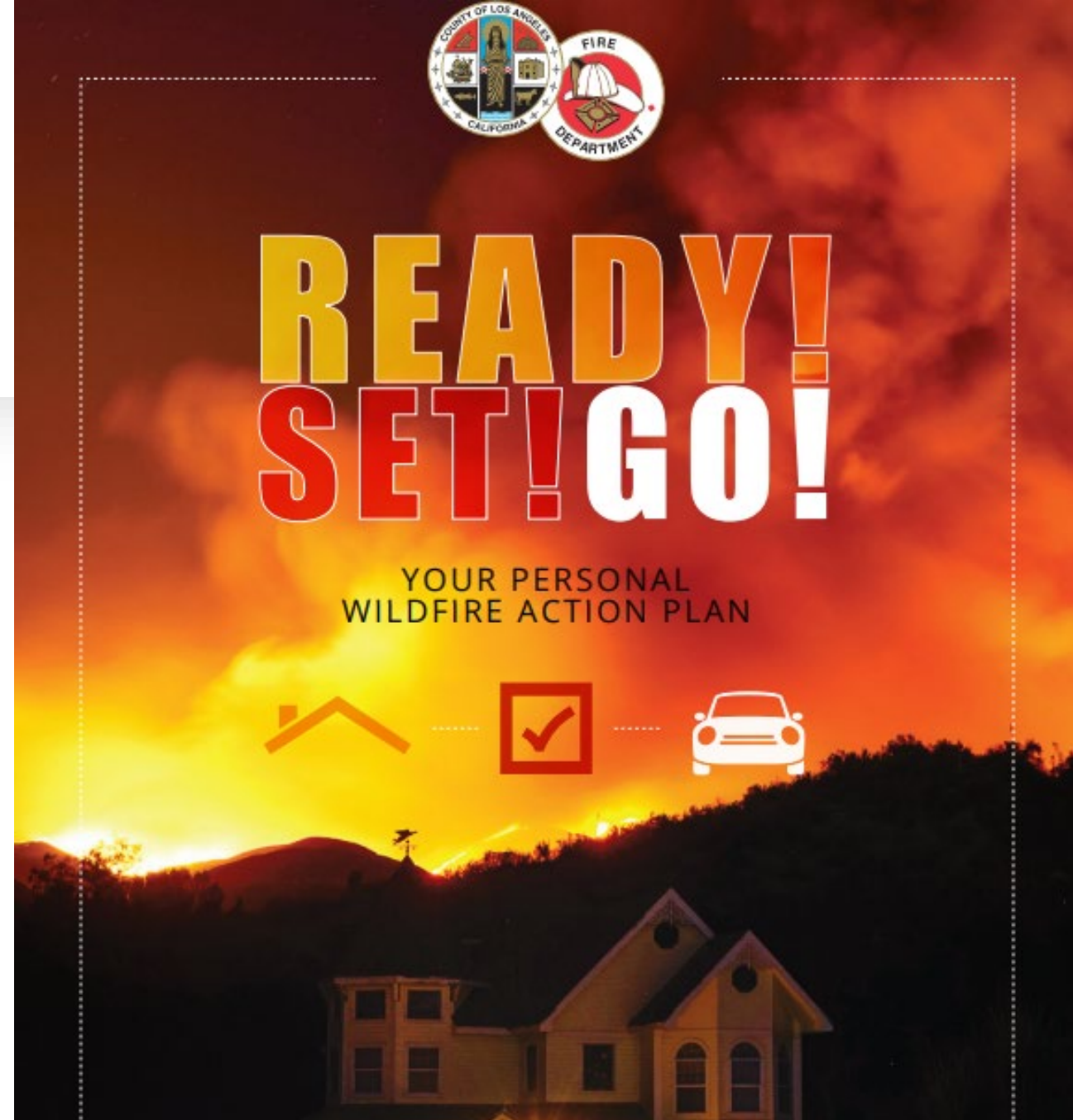
# Focus on Home Hardening

- Focus on hardening of the home then work your way out.
- Roofs and Gutters
- Eaves and Vents
- Window and Doors
- ERZ 0-5 feet
- Then 0-30' and beyond
- The more proactive you are with your hardening of your home and defensible space, the more you improve the chances of your home surviving a wildfire

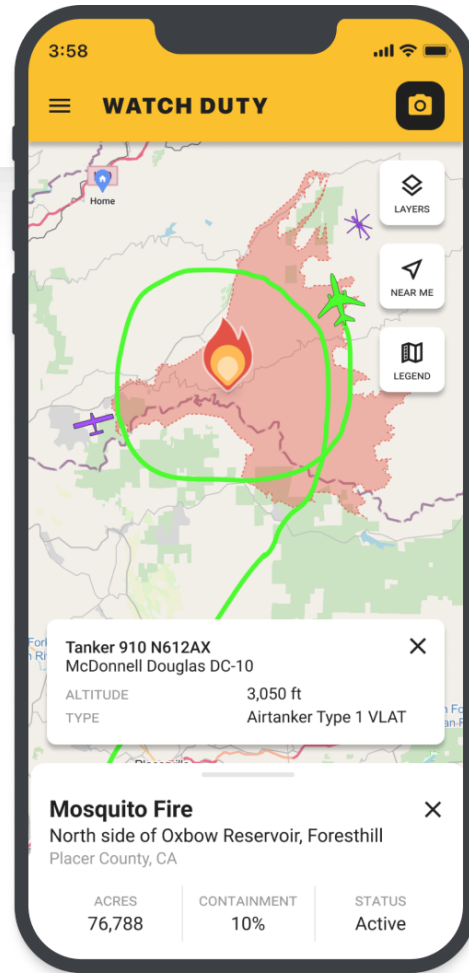
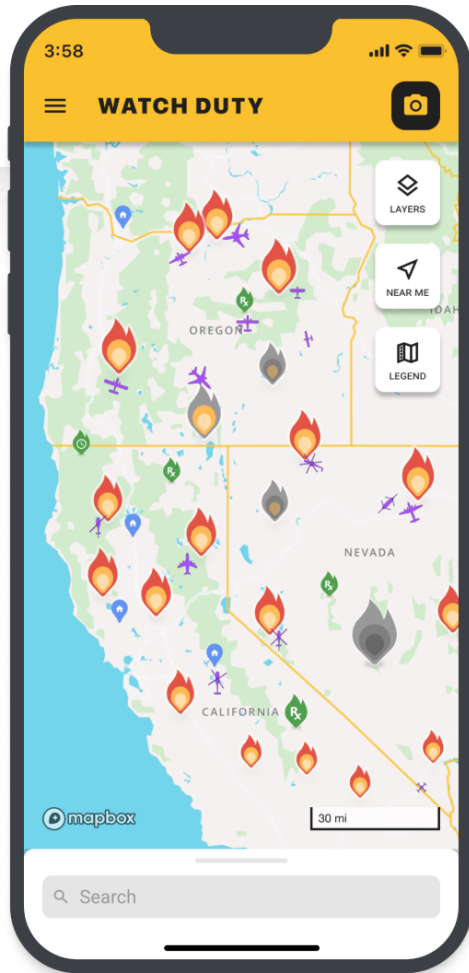


# Ready! Set! Go!

- More detailed info on defensible space at: [Ready! Set! Go!](#)



# Other Resources



## STAY INFORMED BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER AN EVACUATION

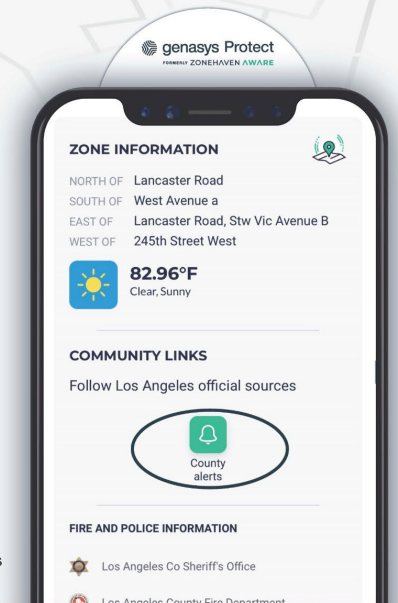
Genasys Protect (formerly Zonehaven) is designed to keep residents informed about the status of a wildland fire threatening their community. Zone maps are updated in real-time, so residents have the most up-to-date information available regarding evacuations, road closures, shelters, etc.

[protect.genasys.com](https://protect.genasys.com)

## KNOW YOUR ZONE in 5 steps

- 1 Type your address in the search bar or use your current location.
- 2 Click on the highlighted zone and locate the NAME listed in the zone description panel.
- 3 Write your zone down and place it somewhere easily accessible by everyone in your house.
- 4 Click Subscribe to Alerts to stay updated by your county/city in case of an emergency.
- 5 Explore the information provided in your zone's description panel and bookmark any useful links provided by your county.

Don't forget to download the GENASYS PROTECT mobile app (iOS and Android) and "follow" your zone to receive alerts when the status of your zone changes.



Find your zone now at  
[protect.genasys.com](https://protect.genasys.com)

