

Brush Clearance Informational Meeting

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Los Angeles County

Fire Department



Mission – Life, Property & Environment

Objectives – Structural survival, firefighter safety



Frequently asked questions



Why did I receive the Annual Notice?



**Why is this the
first time I've
received the Notice?**



What are Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) and who determines them?



**Where does the
Department get
authority to conduct
defensible space inspections?**



**When will my
property be
inspected and do I
need to be home?**



**Can I call someone
if I need clarity on
requirements?**



Will I receive an inspection report if my property is in compliance?



**What happens if
my property
needs corrections?**



**Do I need to
remove trees?**



Why is there an inspection fee?



**How will I be billed
for the inspection?**



**Have there been State
law changes impacting
the requirements of
defensible space?**



What is AB 3074?

Zone 0, 5' ember resistant zone



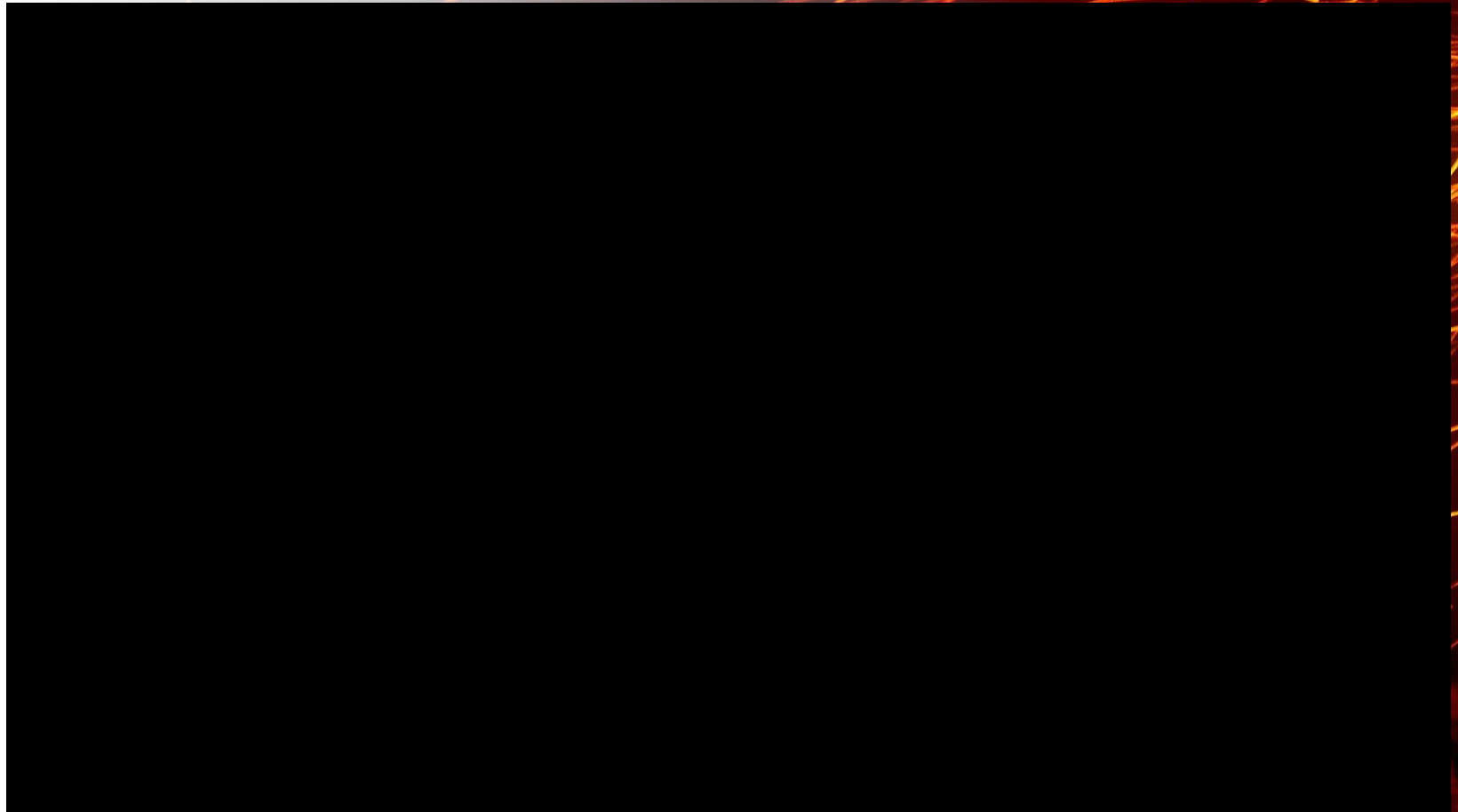
Why Zone 0: 0-5 Feet

Assembly Bill 3074

Passed into law in 2020, requires a new ember-resistant zone (Zone 0) for all homes in the VHFSZ by January 1, 2023.

Research shows the first five feet around the house has the greatest impact on reducing the risk of structure loss.

Leading cause of home loss is due to ember intrusion



Ember Resistant Zone: 0-5 Feet



Currently enforcing

- **Tree branches and other vegetation clear of roof and under eaves (Violation D)**
- **Gutters and roof clear of leaves, needles, other dead vegetation (Violation B)**

**Do I need to
remove plants
within the first 5'
of my structure?**



What is AB 38?

Real Estate Inspections



**Do these inspections
impact fire insurance?**



What to look for: 4 Zones

- **Work from the structure out**
- **Structure Assessment/
Home Hardening**
- **Zone 0** - first five feet against structure (Ember Resistant Zone)
- **Zone 1** - 5-30 ft (Lean, Clean and Green Zone)
- **Zone 2** - 30-100 ft (Reduce Fuel Zone)
- **Zone 3** - 100-200 ft (if necessary)





Zone 0 (0 – 5 Feet): **Examples**



Zone 1 (5 - 30 Feet): Examples



Performing Inspection: Zone 2 (30-100)

- Existing native vegetation can be thinned and ornamental vegetations should be well maintained by removing dead material
- Grasses should be no higher than 3"
- Ensure that all combustible material is a minimum of 30' from structure



Performing Inspection: **Zone 3** (100-200')

- Discretionary Zone, not all properties will require an inspection in zone 3
- Thin brush if necessary
- Same criteria as Zone 2

Door Hanger



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT
DEFENSIBLE SPACE NOTICE**

DATE: _____
ADDRESS: _____

YOUR PROPERTY HAS BEEN INSPECTED AND FOUND TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH COUNTY FIRE CODES PERTAINING TO BRUSH CLEARANCE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

YOUR PROPERTY HAS BEEN INSPECTED AND FOUND TO BE NON-COMPLIANT WITH COUNTY FIRE CODES PERTAINING TO BRUSH CLEARANCE. PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED NOTICE OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION.

YOUR PROPERTY HAS BEEN REINSPECTED AND FOUND TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH COUNTY FIRE CODES PERTAINING TO BRUSH CLEARANCE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

YOUR PROPERTY HAS BEEN REINSPECTED AND FOUND TO BE NON-COMPLIANT WITH COUNTY FIRE CODES PERTAINING TO BRUSH CLEARANCE. AS A RESULT, IT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S BRUSH CLEARANCE UNIT. THE BRUSH CLEARANCE UNIT MAY BE REACHED AT (626) 969-2375.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION AT ()
STATION _____ SHIFT _____
INSPECTOR NAME _____

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT
1201 N. EASTERN AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90063
408

Date: _____
Posted Door Hanger

NOTICE OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION

A fire department representative has inspected your property for fire hazards. You are hereby notified to correct the violation(s) in failure to correct these violations may result in a \$500 Administrative Fine, \$894 Abatement Enforcement Cost and Possible Li

IMPORTANT: All fire code violations in sections A-Q must be addressed/corrected by the owner/tenant with of the inspection date. A reinspection of the property will occur after the 30-day compliance timeframe

OWNER/TENANT:	INSPECTION ADDRESS:		
INSP. NAME/SIGNATURE:	CONTACT NUMBER:	INSPECTION No	NO VIOLATI OBSERVED
		1 2 3	

Zone 0- Ember Resistant/Within 0 to 5 feet of All Structures or to the property line.

- A. Establish a 5 foot Ember Resistant Zone around all structures. Eliminate vegetation and materials that could be ignited by embers from
- B. Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation from roofs, gutters, decks and any other attaching structures. (F.C. 325.2.1(2) (6)).

Zone 1/Within 5-30 feet of All Structures or to the property line.

- C. Establish defensible space 30 feet around structures). This includes cutting annual vegetation to a maximum height of 4 inches, limb shrubs off the ground, and removing shrubs to reduce vegetation density leading to structure. (F.C. 325.2.1(2), 325.2.2).
- D. Remove all dead and dying trees, branches and shrubs, or plant material adjacent to or overhanging any building (F.C. 325.2.1(2) 5)).

Zone 2/Within 30 to 100 feet of All Structures or to the property line.

- E. Establish defensible space 100 feet around structures). This includes cutting annual vegetation to a maximum height of 4 inches, limb shrubs off the ground, and removing shrubs to reduce vegetation density leading to structure. (F.C. 325.2.1(2), 325.2.2).
- F. Remove Combustible Materials: Place or store firewood, manure, compost or other combustible materials a minimum of thirty (30) feet from structure (F.C. 325.2.1(1)).

Zone 3/ Extra Hazard Area Up to 200 feet of All Structures or to the property line.

- G. Establish defensible space 200 feet around structures). This includes cutting annual vegetation to a maximum height of 4 inches, limb and shrubs off the ground, and removing shrubs to reduce vegetation density leading to structure. (F.C. 325.2.2)

Access Roads

- H. Remove and clear all flammable vegetation for a minimum of 10 feet on each side of every roadway whether public or private. (F.C. 32
- I. Remove all overhanging tree branches and shrubs to ensure vertical clearance, clear to the sky for fire department vehicle access. (F.C.
- J. Remove all vegetation to provide a minimum of 20 feet wide distance to allow fire department vehicle access. (F.C. 503.1.1 - 503.6)

Other Requirements

- K. LP Gas Storage Tanks: Remove weeds, grass, brush, trash and other combustible materials a minimum of 10 feet from LP-gas tanks or (F.C. 3807.3)
- L. Spark Arrestor Required: Place spark arrestor on any fireplace, barbecue, incinerator, or any heating appliance. Must be constructed of mesh or other noncombustible material with opening not to exceed one-half inch (F.C. 326.1.2.2).
- M. Add Address Identification: Structure(s) need to have address numbers or building numbers legible and visible from the street. Numb minimum of 4 inches in height (F.C. 505.1).
- N. Remove Illegal Dumping: No person shall place, deposit, or dump any garbage, cans, bottles, papers, ashes, refuse, trash, rubbish, or waste material in or upon any hazardous fire area.
- O. Add Fire Department Key System: Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured openings or where is necessary for life-saving or firefighting purposes, the fire code official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an approved 506.1)
- P. Remove combustible vegetation that could create a fire hazard around tents) or membrane structure a minimum of 50 feet. (F.C. 310)
- Q. Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney (F.C. 325.2.1(2) (4)).

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Form 410-B Rev. 4/28



Inspection Report

Brush Resources/ Tools

Items Needed to Conduct Inspections

Summary

- Inspections start April (desert), May (inland areas) and June (coast)
- Start work closest to the house
- Limb your trees up
- Remove dead or dying vegetation.
- Cut all grasses down to 3"
- All property owners get at least 30 days to comply with initial inspection report
- If you need additional clarity on your inspection report, call your inspector.

