

Community Wildfire Mitigation

Objective:
**To Reduce the Destructive Impacts
of Wildland Fire in Orange County**



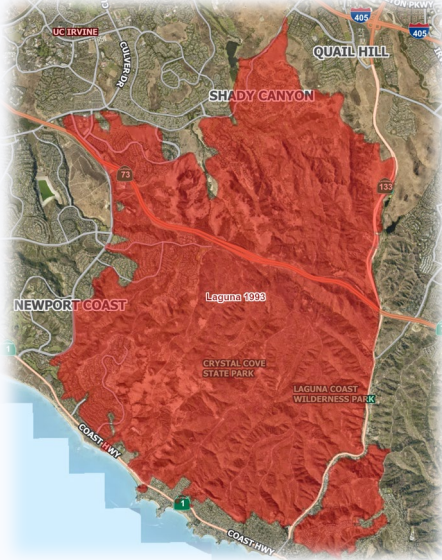
Fire History in Orange County

Laguna Fire

October 27, 1993

14,336 acres

347 structures



Freeway Complex Fire

November 15, 2008

30,305 acres

381 structures

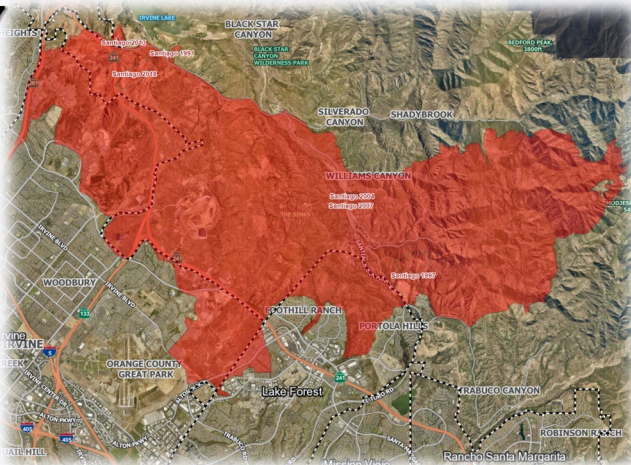


Santiago Fire

October 21, 2007

28,359 acres

56 structures



Silverado Fire

October 26, 2020

12,465 acres

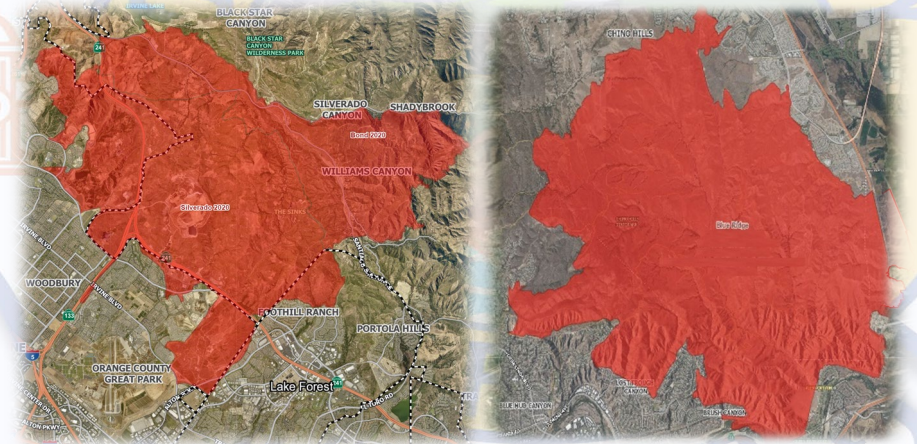
14 structures

Blue Ridge Fire

October 26, 2020

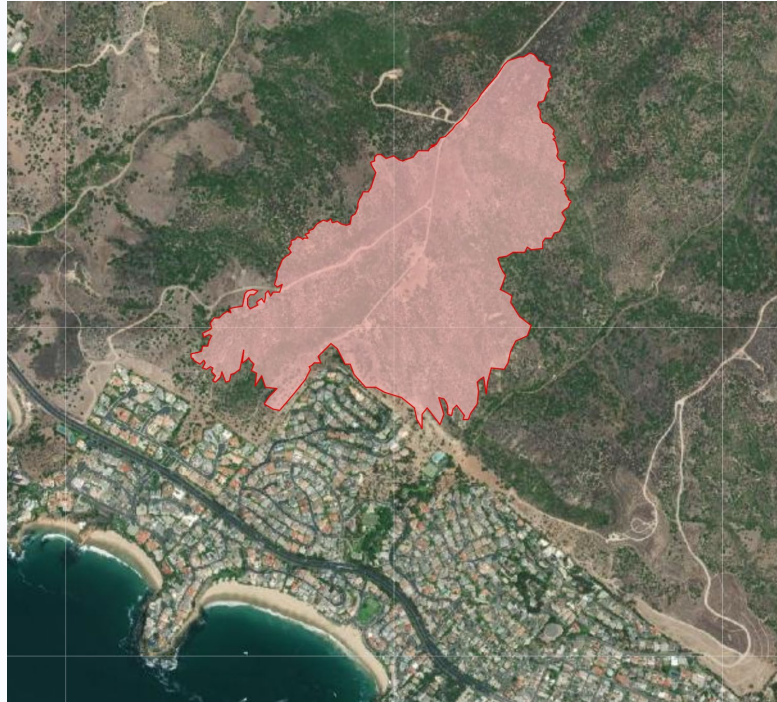
13,964 acres

1 structure

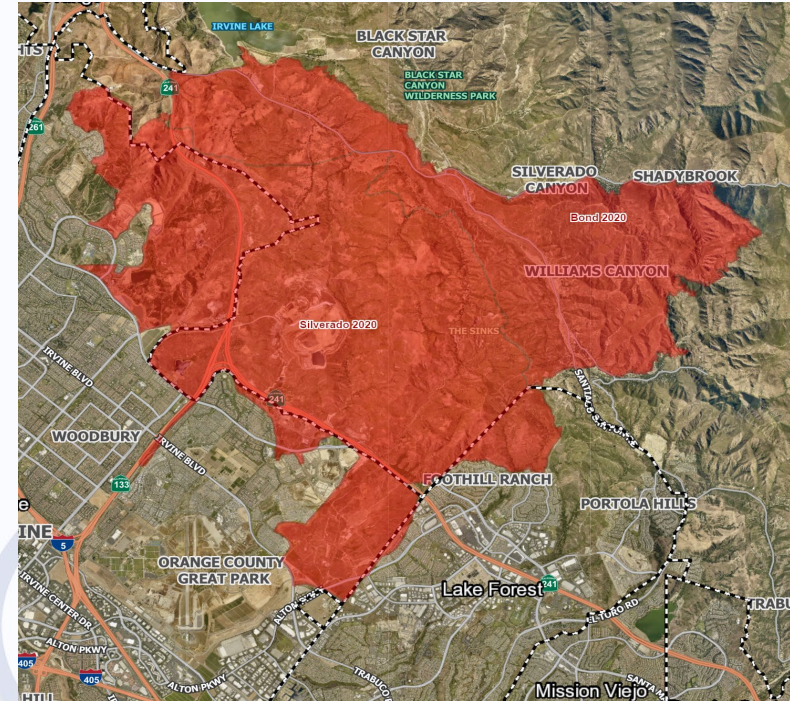


Fire History in Orange County

~ fire season is year-round



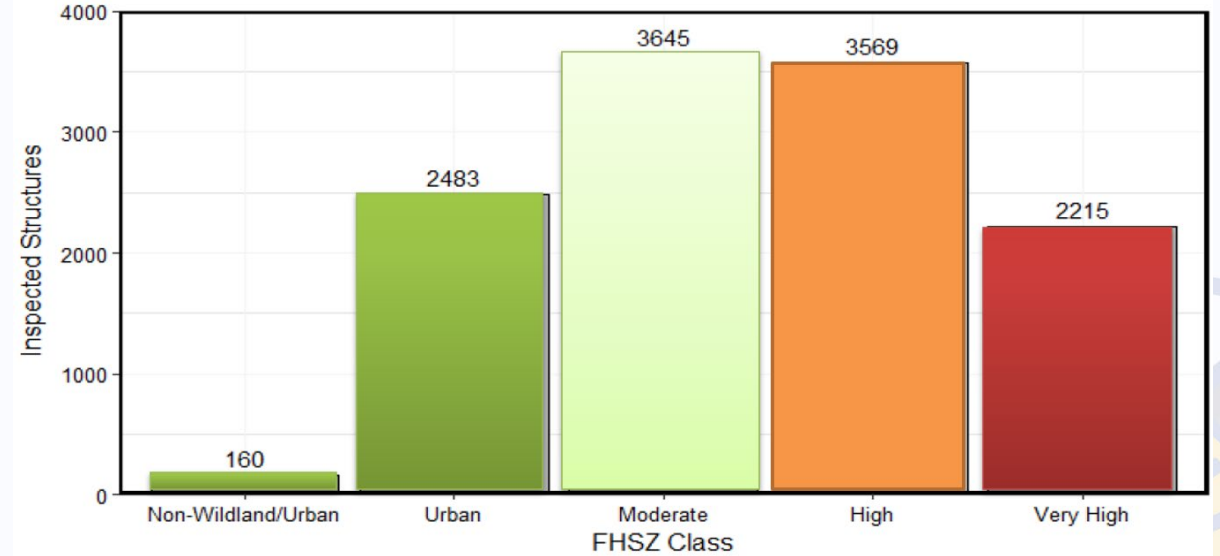
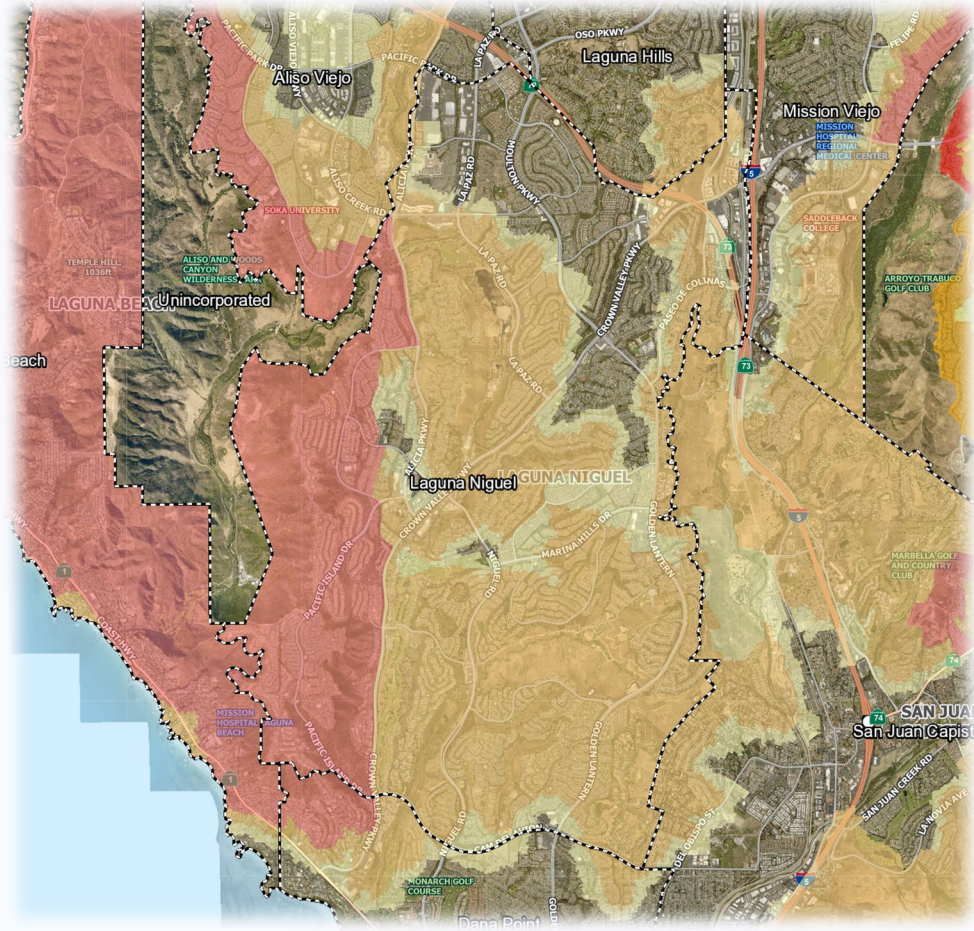
EMERALD FIRE
154 Acres
February 12, 2022



Bond Fire
6,680 Acres
December 3, 2020

An aerial photograph taken at night showing a volcanic eruption. A city, likely Los Angeles, is visible on the left, its lights reflecting on the dark terrain. In the center, a volcano is erupting, with bright orange and red lava flows visible on its slopes. Thick plumes of white smoke or ash rise from the eruption, drifting towards the city. The ocean is visible in the upper right corner, and the sky is a deep blue.

Damage by Fire Hazard Severity Zone



Total structures damaged by fire within Fire Hazard Severity Zones (1-9%, 10-25%, 26-50%, and Destroyed) recorded in 2017

Laws & Regulations

Local Responsibility Areas (LRA)

- Government Code 51175 - 51189

State Responsibility Areas (SRA)

- Public Resources Code Section 4125

Defensible Space Disclosure (AB 38)

As of July 1st, 2021

- The seller of a property located in a High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone needs to disclose to the buyer if the property is compliant with Defensible Space requirements or enter into an agreement with the buyer

Locally Adopted Codes & Ordinances

- California Fire Code Chapters 3 & 49
- C-05 Guideline for Fuel Modification
- Vegetation Management Maintenance *Guideline for Property Owners*
- *Defensible Space Guideline for Home-Owner Association Common Areas*

Immediate Zone 0-5 Feet (AB 3074)

Effective January 2023

- Not in effect statewide until 2025
- OCFA locally adopted this requirement for new fuel modification plans submitted in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone starting January 2023
- Immediate Zone, first five feet around a structure

Vegetation Management

Fuel Modification

- Planned landscape design that reduces the threat of wildfire, by creating a fire-resistant divider between homes that are adjacent to areas of natural plant life/ open space
- An approved plant installation and on-going vegetation **maintenance, twice per year at a minimum.**



- Slows the spread of a wildfire
- Reduces direct flame and radiant heat from approaching fire
- Improves the chances of survival for structures and communities

Vegetation Management

Defensible Space

- Vegetation Management within 100' of a structure or to property line
 - Removal of dead and dying plant material
 - Horizontal and vertical separation of plant material
 - Reduction of ground cover below 2ft in height



A Hardened Home is a Defensible Home

A defensible home is a home that will better survive a wildfire during prevailing wind conditions. Defensible homes are those homes that comply with Defensible Space or Fuel Modification requirements; and have been **hardened** per the California Building Code 7A standards.



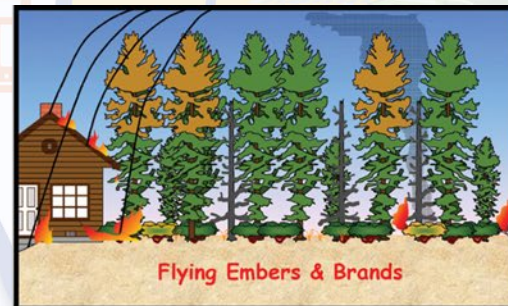
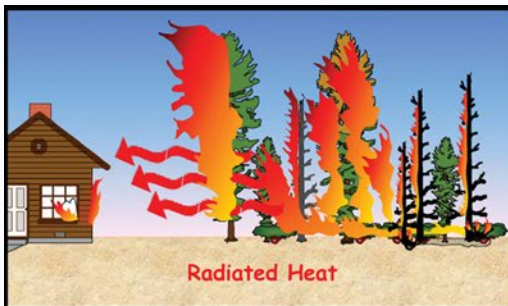
Home Hardening



Construction features that help reduced risk from:

- Radiant heat
- Direct flame
- Ember intrusion

Most homes lost are due to ember intrusion



Home Hardening

California Building Code Chapter 7a Construction

Chapter 7A applies to building materials, systems and / or assemblies used in the exterior design and construction of new buildings located within a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area **and can be used to update existing structures within the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area.**



Home Hardening

Construction Features of a Hardened Home

- Roofs
- Eaves
- Windows
- Decks and patio covers
- Gutters
- Vents
- Exterior
- Fences



Home Hardening Can Make a Difference

Unmaintained
Vegetation



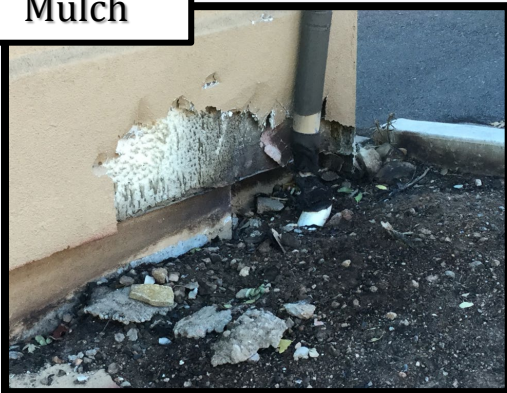
Combustibles
near structure



Combustible
Accessory Structure



Mulch



Windows
Radiant heat



IMMEDIATE ZONE

The Immediate Zone is the First Five Feet Around the Structure

Things to Avoid

- Do not use organic mulch (bark, wood chips)
- Keep vegetation away from the structure
- Avoid placing and storing combustible materials near the home, including patio furniture, wood, trash cans, etc
- No combustible construction (wood, vinyl)

Safer Alternatives

- Hardscape, gravel, pavers, concrete
- Low growing fire-resistant plants (less than two feet, succulents)
- Relocate combustible materials away from home, or cover
- Non-combustible construction, including fences, patio covers, decks, and balconies.



Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IIBHS) Immediate Zone Demonstration



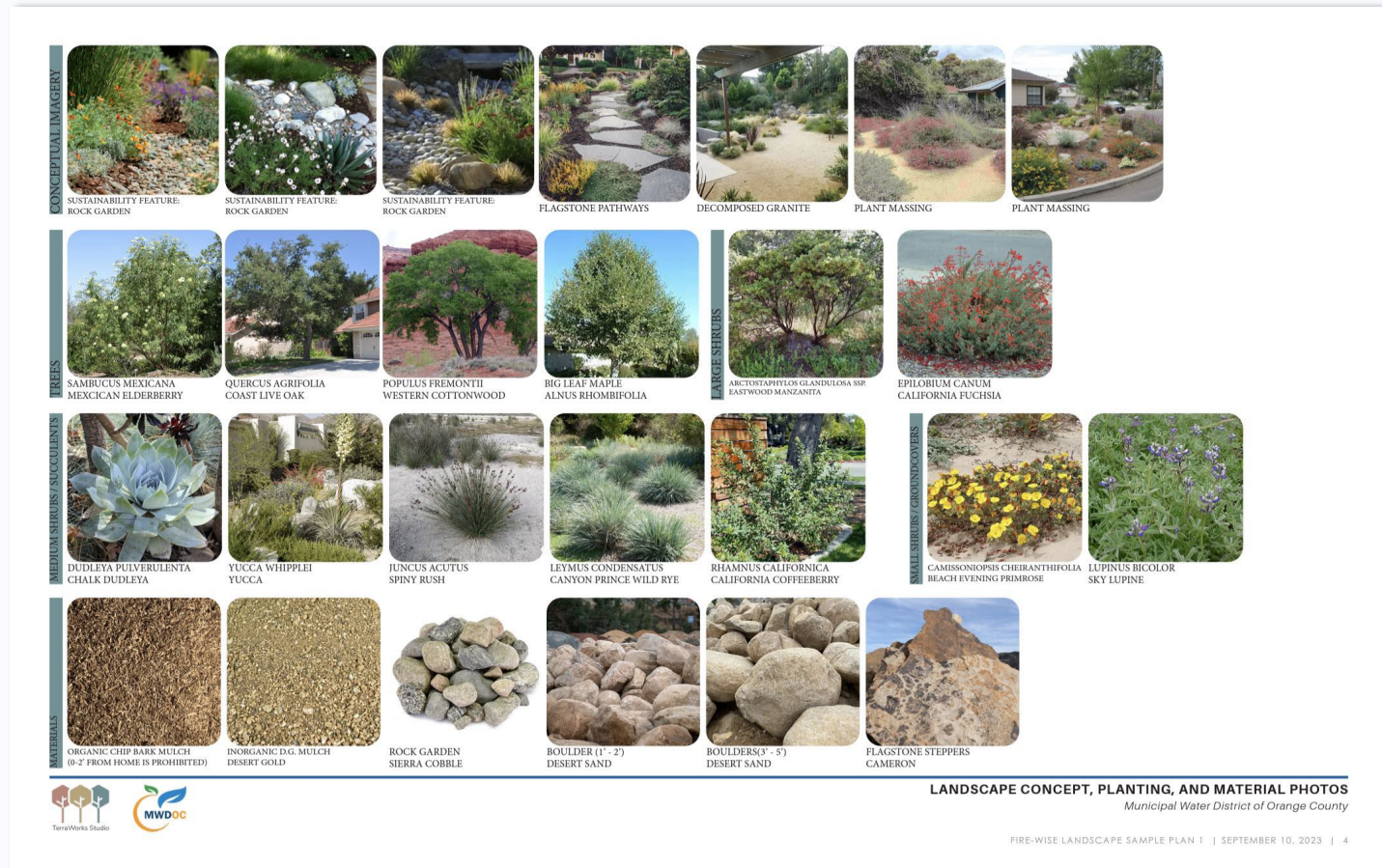
Orange County Fire Authority



Firewise and Waterwise Landscaping

Recommendations

- Inorganic mulch (Decomposed Granite, Gravel)
- Hardscape (Rock Gardens, Boulders)
- Fire resistive native vegetation
- Removal of undesirable/invasive vegetation (OCFA C-05 Attachment 7)
- Limited and strategic use of organic mulch



Home Assessment

Online Home Assessment Tool

www.ocfa.org/RSG/HomeAssessment

rsgoc@ocfa.org

714.573.6774



Thank you.

For more information contact:

www.ocfa.org/RSG

rsgoc@ocfa.org

714.573.6774

