

Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD)

2025 JOINT WILDFIRE WORKSHOP

Denise Gluhan (Ret. Fire Captain SCCFD)
Community Education & Risk Reduction Manager

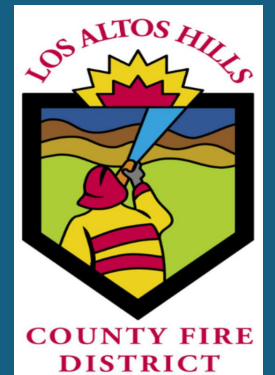
Contact information: dgluhan@lahcfd.org (650) 518-6068

Los Altos Hills County Fire District website:
www.lahcfd.org



Topic Overview

1. LAHCFD Projects & Programs
2. Firewise USA
3. Home Ignition Zones (HIZ)-Preventative Measures Residents Can Take
4. Resources: LAHCFD Tri-fold





LAHCFD Projects & Programs

Community Level Integrated Hazardous Fuel Reduction

- Evacuation Route Projects
- Community Strategic Fuel Break
- I-280



More information at
lahcfd.org/projects

Neighborhood Level Programs

Firewise USA
lahcfd.org/firewise

CERT
lahcfd.org/CERT

Teen CERT
lahcfd.org/TeenCERT

Neighbors Helping
Neighbors
[web coming soon]

Resident / Property Level Programs

Home Ignition Zone
(HIZ) Assessment &
Rebate Program
lahcfd.org/hiz

Defensible Space Brush
Chipping & Debris Removal
lahcfd.org/brushchipping

Defensible Space Fuel
Reduction Monthly Drop Off
lahcfd.org/greenwaste

Emergency Preparedness
Classes & Training
lahcfd.org/classes



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

A recognition program that provides a framework to help residents get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community.



National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

- Global self-funded nonprofit organization, established in 1896, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.
- Codes and standards development through technical committees comprised of subject matter experts
- Public education and outreach and advocacy
- Training and certification

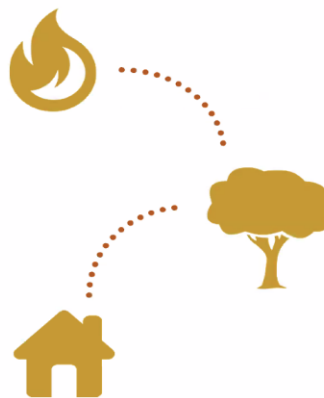


NFPA.ORG | © National Fire Protection Association. All rights reserved.

2

Recommendations based in science

- Research by Dr. Jack Cohen (USFS, retired)
 - Fire does not engulf everything in its path
 - Fire only advances to locations that meet requirements of combustion
 - Altering the type, size, quantity, and spacing of vegetation and other fuels will reduce likelihood of combustion
- Research by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (embers)
 - <https://disastersafety.org/wildfire/protect-your-home-from-wildfire/>



Insurance and Incentives

- Reminder: As a whole, NFPA is not sponsored or funded by the insurance industry. We have specific efforts where we work together
- Firewise USA was not developed for insurance purposes
 - Included in CDI Safer From Wildfires regulation
 - To meet demand for address verification working with data companies that service the industry
 - Data updated twice a year, exploring capacity to deliver more frequently
 - <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/wildfire/firewise-usa/firewise-insurance-discounts-for-california-residents>



NFPA.ORG | © National Fire Protection Association. All rights reserved.

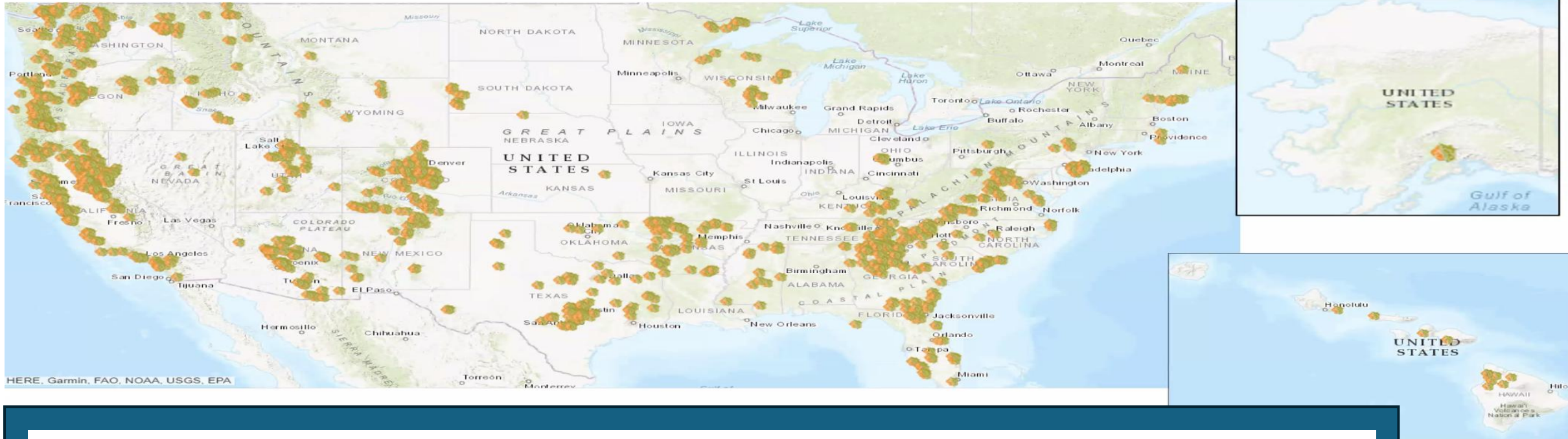
12



NFPA.ORG | © National Fire Protection Association. All rights reserved.

21

2,700+ Sites in 36 States



Firewise USA by the numbers

2024 reporting:

- 2,710 In Good Standing sites; 1,088 in California
- 474 new sites, 317 in California
- \$293 million invested
 - 3.5 million volunteer hours worked
 - \$181 million on chippers, contractors, home improvement costs



LAHCFD Firewise USA Activity & Map

Potential Areas: 21

Active Sites : 16

Firewise USA Recognized: 7

- Saddle Mountain (2022)
- Zone 33 (2023)
- Dawson LAH-015 (2024)
- Fremont Hills (2024)
- Loma Wood (2024)
- Natoma (2024)
- Hidden Villa (1/7/25)

In Application Process: 2

- LAH-009, SCC-001

In-Planning Process: 4

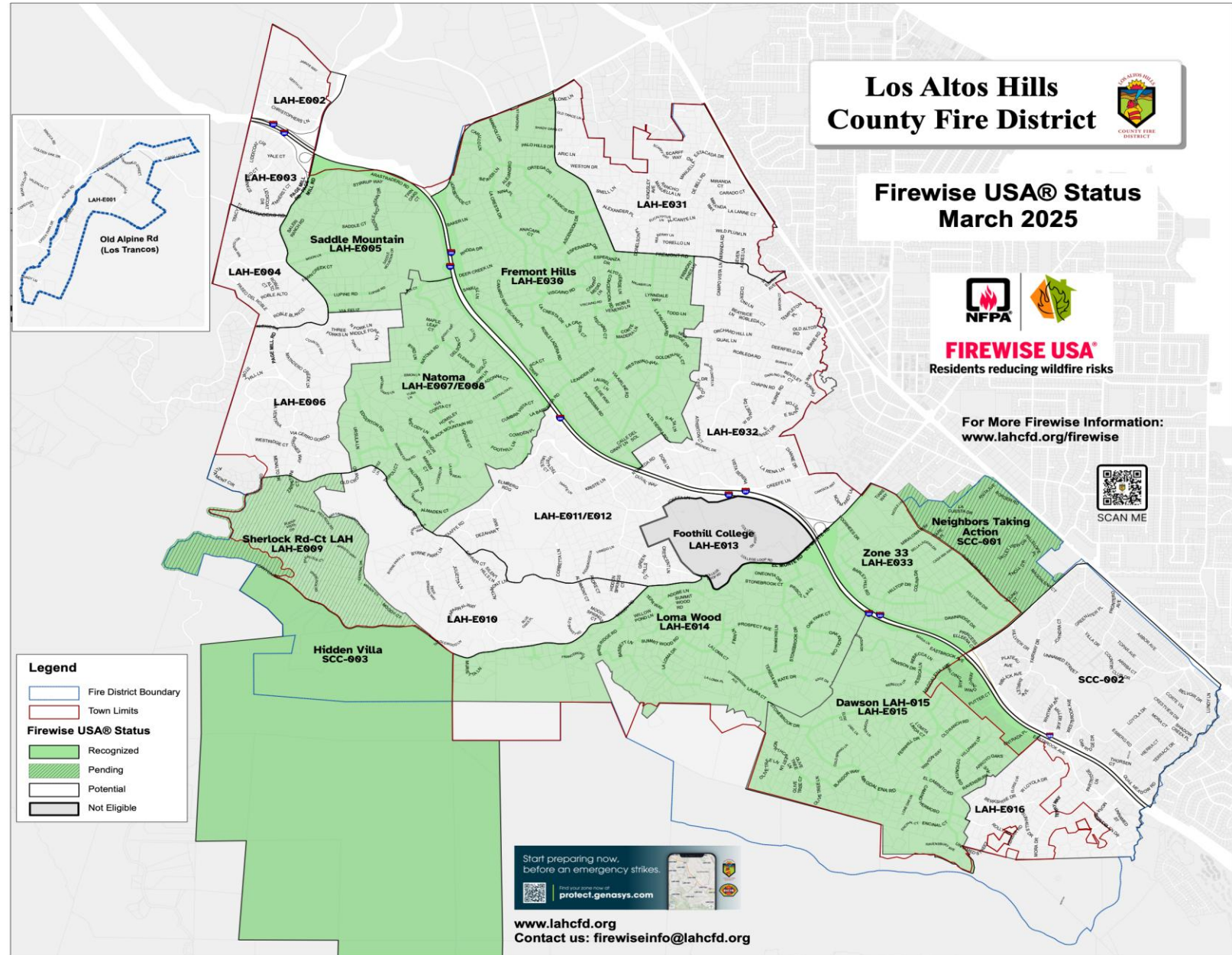
- LAH-E011 & LAH-E012, LAH-001, LAH-006

In Pipeline: 3

- LAH-010, LAH-E031, LAH-E032

Future Recruitment Zones: 5

- LAH-002, LAH-003, LAH-004, LAH-016, SCC-002





Firewise USA Data: Fire District Residents Taking Action!

2024 FIREWISE USA in the Fire District- Community Participation

Saddle Mountain (Annual renewal)	Risk Reduction Hours: 1,755	Risk Reduction Investments: \$658,175	Vegetation Removal: 2,158
LAH Zone 33 (Annual renewal)	Risk Reduction Hours: 8,750	Risk Reduction Investments: \$278,250	Vegetation Removal: 3,894
Dawson LAH-015 (Application)	Risk Reduction Hours: 0	Risk Reduction Investments: \$71,900	Vegetation Removal: 336
Fremont Hills (Application)	Risk Reduction Hours: 154.5	Risk Reduction Investments: \$32,070.99	Vegetation Removal: 120
Loma Wood (Application)	Risk Reduction Hours: 44	Risk Reduction Investments: \$6,399.20	Vegetation Removal: 413
Natoma (Application)	Risk Reduction Hours: 0	Risk Reduction Investments: \$20,500	Vegetation Removal: 60
Hidden Villa (2025 Application)	Risk Reduction Hours: 240	Risk Reduction Investments: \$56,414.33.	Vegetation Removal: 2,386
Totals	Risk Reduction Hours: 10,943	Risk Reduction Investments: \$ 1,123,709.52	Vegetation Removal: 9,367

For more information on Firewise USA: <https://www.lahcfd.org/community-programs/firewise-usa/>

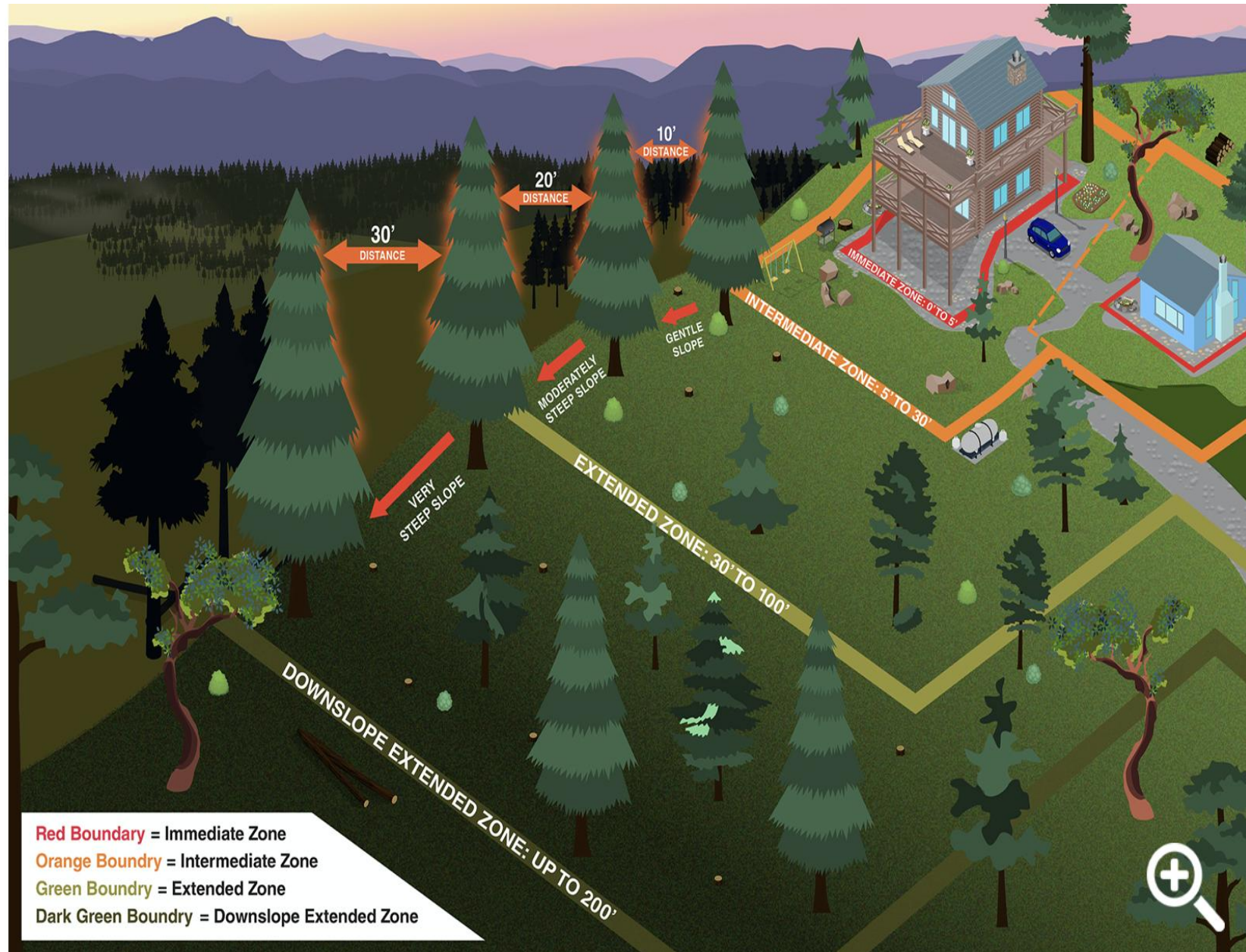
Defensible Space, Home Ignition Zone & Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Defensible Space is:

- The buffer between your structure(s) and the surrounding area
- Includes structure(s) and vegetation
- Provides a space for firefighters to defend home
- Includes all structures on the property
- Property hygiene is an essential practice

Home Ignition Zones (HIZ):


- Immediate Zone 0' to 5'
- Intermediate Zone 5' to 30'
- Extended Zone 30' to 100'
- Downslope Extended Zone 100' to 200'+





Defensible Space: Zone 0: Ember Resistive Zone

Zone 0: extends 0 to 5 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc., and is key for wildfire defense and preventing fires from spreading to your home

- Here are the current guidelines:
 - Use gravel, pavers, or concrete instead of combustible mulch
 - Keep branches trimmed 10 feet away from chimneys and stovepipes
 - Replace combustible fencing and gates with fire-resistant materials
- 



Defensible Space: Zone O: Ember Resistive Zone

- Clear dead weeds, grass, & debris; check roofs, gutters, & outdoor areas
- Minimize combustible items like furniture & planters on decks
- Move firewood & lumber to Zone 2 for safety
- Shift garbage & recycling containers to a safer area outside this zone
- Relocate boats, RVs, & vehicles away from this zone to reduce fire risks

Defensible Space: Zone 1- Lean, Green, & Clean Zone

Zone 1:

Extends 5 to 30 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc. or to your property line, or whichever is closer

- Regularly trim trees to maintain a 10-foot gap from others
- Prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows
- Clear flammable vegetation & items from under decks, balconies, stairs, & from roof & gutters
- Maintain space between trees, shrubs, flammable items like patio furniture & wood piles



Defensible Space: Zone 2- Reduced Fuel Zone

Zone 2:

Extends from 30 feet to 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc. or to your property line, whichever is closer

- Trim annual grass to a maximum height of 4”
- Space out shrubs & trees horizontally
- Ensure vertical spacing between grass, shrubs, & trees
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, & small branches, but can leave up to 3”
- Keep exposed wood piles at least 10’ clear from surroundings, down to the soil
- Ensure outbuildings & LPG tanks have 10’ of clear space to bare soil & no flammable vegetation within an additional 10’ around them



Wildfire Preparedness Priorities

Fire Science & Wildland Fires



Ember Stimulation o

Structure Survival Priorities for Wildland Fire :

① Roof / Edge

② Vents

Exposure from embers that may have been blown a mile or more. Embers can also ignite near-home vegetation and debris.

③ Vegetation/Defensible Space and STUFF

④ Windows

⑤ Decks

⑥ Siding

Ember, radiant, and/or flame impingement exposures from near-home vegetation, other structures, and wildfire



LAHCFD Information & Resources

Programs to Make Your Property Safer from Wildfire

Defensible Space Brush Chipping and Removal Program
Register for our monthly Brush Chipping Service.
lahcfd.org/BrushChipping

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment and Rebate Program

Get a personalized wildfire risk assessment of your property. You may qualify for up to \$3,000 in matching funds for rebate-eligible improvements. lahcfcd.org/HIZ

Defensible Space Vegetation Monthly Drop Off Program

Dispose of hazardous fire fuels, such as pruned limbs, brush, and branches, associated with property hygiene activities. Third Saturday of every month @ Foothill College Parking Lot 1
lahcfd.org/GreenWaste

Become a Firewise USA® Community

Learn how your neighbors are adapting to living with wildfire using National Fire Protection Association's Firewise USA program.
lahcfd.org/firewise
firewiseinfo@lahcfd.org

Los Altos Hills County Fire District
PO Box 1766
Los Altos, CA 94023-1766
650-949-1044
info@lahcfd.org

Visit our website
www.lahcfd.org

Be in the know!
Get the latest emergency preparedness and wildfire mitigation tips, District updates, events, and more. Subscribe: bit.ly/LAHCFDNewsletter

Find us on

In partnership with these trusted messaging resources:
Santa Clara County FireSafe Council www.sccfiresafe.org
Santa Clara County Fire Department www.sccfd.org
CAL FIRE www.fire.ca.gov
Office of the Sheriff countysheriff.sccgov.org/home
Town of Los Altos Hills www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR FIRE DISTRICT
The Mission of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District is to protect lives, property and the environment from fires, disasters, medical emergencies or other incidents through education, prevention, protection and emergency response services.

The Fire District has been serving the Town of Los Altos Hills and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County, known as Loyola, Los Trancos, and San Antonio Hills since 1939.

Defensible Brush Chipping-

- Sign-up online or postal
- Year-round participation

DEFENSIBLE SPACE BRUSH CHIPPING AND DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM
Preparing for Services
Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) utilizes techniques of brush and debris removal to protect your property hygiene, LAHCFD and the environment from wildfire vegetation.

For more information, visit www.lahcfd.org

Monthly Vegetation Removal Drop-off -

- Third Saturday
- Foothill College

Defensible Space Vegetation Removal Monthly Drop Off Program
2025 DROP OFF SCHEDULE

LOCATION: Foothill College Campus Parking Lot 1

3rd Saturday of every month

- January 18, 2025
- February 15, 2025
- March 15, 2025
- April 19, 2025
- May 17, 2025
- June 21, 2025
- July 19, 2025
- August 16, 2025
- September 20, 2025
- October 18, 2025

TIME: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment & Rebate Program

You are invited to participate in the new Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment & Rebate Program, brought to you by the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and Santa Clara County FireSafe Council.

Participants receive:
Personalized on-site property assessment with a trained assessor.
Recommendations on how to create defensible space around your home and structures to lower fire risk.
Rebate for property hygiene rebates for completing HIZ assessment and recommendations (up to \$3,000).

Additional Information:
HIZ Assessment recommendations must be within the 100-ft defensible zone and completed by a licensed contractor to be eligible for the rebate.
Tree removal and some exclusions do not qualify for a rebate.
Please read the Program Advisory on the registration page for more details.

Register today!
More fire safety and emergency preparedness information visit us at www.lahcfd.org or call (650) 949-1044.

Home Ignition Zone Survey & Rebate-

- Sign-up online
- No cost to Fire District Residents
- Rebate available
- Over 100 sign-ups in January 2025!

Are you prepared for a disaster?
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
CERT
Learn how to prepare yourself, your family and your neighborhood through the Community Emergency Response Team Program presented by Santa Clara County Fire Department. Skills taught during the Academy include organizing resources, medical operations, basic search and rescue, how to use a fire extinguisher and damage assessment.

For more information:
Phone: (408) 378-4010
cert@scfd.org
lahcfd.org/CERT

Reducing Flammable Vegetation
Learn about past, present, and future projects on our Community Projects page:
lahcfd.org/community-projects

Evacuation Route Projects
We clear roadsides of flammable vegetation to improve their safety in the event the road must be used to evacuate during an emergency.

Fire Station 8 Staffing to Protect the Hills
We provide funding to ensure that areas of the District around Foothills Park are protected during high fire season.
bit.ly/FireStation8

Goat Grazing
Each year, we coordinate prescriptive goat grazing services in Byrne Preserve to mitigate vegetation and manage hazardous fire fuel. Watch this video to learn more:
bit.ly/LAHCFDGoats

Know Your Evacuation Zone
Genasys Protect (formerly ZoneHaven) provides real-time evacuation information for your area. Download the mobile app or find your zone at protect.genasys.com

3 Ways to Prepare Now
Sign Up for AlertSCC
AlertSCC is the County of Santa Clara's official emergency alert and warning system.
AlertSCC.org

Make a Go Bag
An emergency supply kit for when you have to leave your home.
PrepareSCC.org

Know Two Ways Out
of every room in your home, and know two routes out of your neighborhood.

TEEN CERT
Teens are welcome! Join our Teen CERT Program (ages 13-18) to gain valuable skills and earn volunteer hours!
lahcfd.org/TeenCERT

Get a personalized assessment report highlighting eligible items for rebates.

REGISTER TODAY

5. Tree requires limbing to raise canopy (Rebate Eligible)

Register today



LAHCFD Upcoming Event

Second Annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day May 3rd, 2025



The Los Altos Hills County Fire District
 Invites You to Our 2nd Annual
**WILDFIRE COMMUNITY
 PREPAREDNESS DAY**
SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025
 Gardner Bullis Elementary School
 25890 Fremont Rd, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

Event Schedule:

[Click Here to Register Now: lahcfd.org/may3](https://lahcfd.org/may3)

This event satisfies the annual Firewise USA education requirement

9:45 AM	Doors Open (Event Concludes at 3:00 PM)
10:00 AM	Welcome, Introductions & Firewise USA Updates
10:30 AM	Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) FAQs with Ryan Cronin, LAHCFD
11:00 AM	Homeowners Insurance Updates with Joel Laucher, United Policyholders
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	“Wildfire & Climate Change in California: Lessons From Los Angeles & Other Recent Disasters” with Daniel L. Swain, Stanford University Ph.D., Earth System Science
2:00 PM	Immediate Zone: 0 to 5 Feet & Ember Awareness with Amanda Brenner Cannon, SCC FireSafe Council

THE SPEAKER LINEUP

Denise Gluhan



Denise retired from the Santa Clara County Fire Department in December 2018 and joined the Los Altos Hills County Fire District in 2019. She provides community education and information to the residents of Los Altos Hills, including emergency preparedness, wildfire preparedness, and the Firewise USA program.

Ryan Cronin



Ryan Cronin joined the Los Altos Hills County Fire District in September 2022. He retired in October 2021 from Santa Clara County Fire Department after two decades of public service as a rescue firefighter, hazardous materials fire captain and arson investigator acting chief. Ryan Cronin is a project manager for evacuation route hardening projects and conducts Home Ignition Zone assessments.

Joel Laucher



Joel works for United Policyholders, a nonprofit that helps consumers with an array of insurance issues. Previously he worked for the Department of Insurance for 35 years, including serving as the Deputy Commissioner of Rate Regulation and ultimately as Chief Deputy Commissioner. Before his tenure at the Department of Insurance, he was a commercial insurance underwriter.

Daniel Swain, PHD

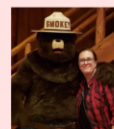


Daniel Swain, Ph.D., is a climate scientist focused on the dynamics and impacts of extreme events—including droughts, floods, storms, and wildfires—on a warming planet. Dr. Swain is an alumnus of the University of California, Davis (B.S., Atmospheric Science) and of Stanford University (Ph.D., Earth System Science), and completed his postdoctoral work at UCLA. He also authors the widely-read Weather West blog (weatherwest.com), which provides real-time perspectives on California weather and climate and can be found on Twitter (@Weather_West), Bluesky (@WeatherWest) and YouTube (@WeatherWest).

Scan for full curriculum vitae



Amanda Brenner Cannon



Amanda is an environmental scientist and educator with a passion for working with communities to become more resilient to wildfire. She has worked across the West, from Colorado to Oregon and California. As the program director for the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, Amanda is dedicated to sharing knowledge so we can protect our communities and forests from the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

Please RSVP for In-Person Attendance by April 29, 2025

LOS ALTOS HILLS



COUNTY FIRE
DISTRICT

Thank You!
