

Community Wildfire Mitigation

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



Fire History in Orange County

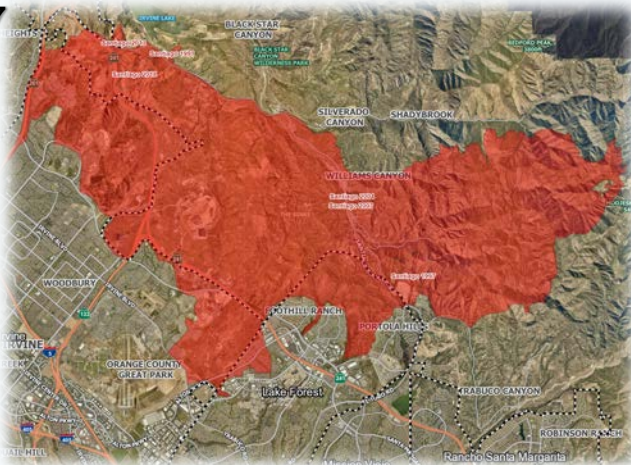
Laguna Fire
October 27, 1993
14,336 acres
347 structures



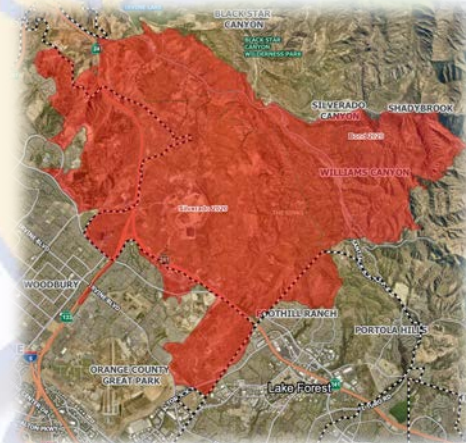
Freeway Complex Fire
November 15, 2008
30,305 acres
381 structures



Santiago Fire
October 21, 2007
28,359 acres
56 structures



Silverado Fire
October 26, 2020
12,465 acres
14 structures
Bond Fire
December 3, 2020
6,680 acres
31 structures



Recent Wildfire in the Area

Aliso Fire

- June 2, 2018
- 175 Acres burned
- Over 500 Firefighters
- 6 Fixed Wing Aircraft



Fire History in Orange County

EMERALD FIRE

February 12, 2022

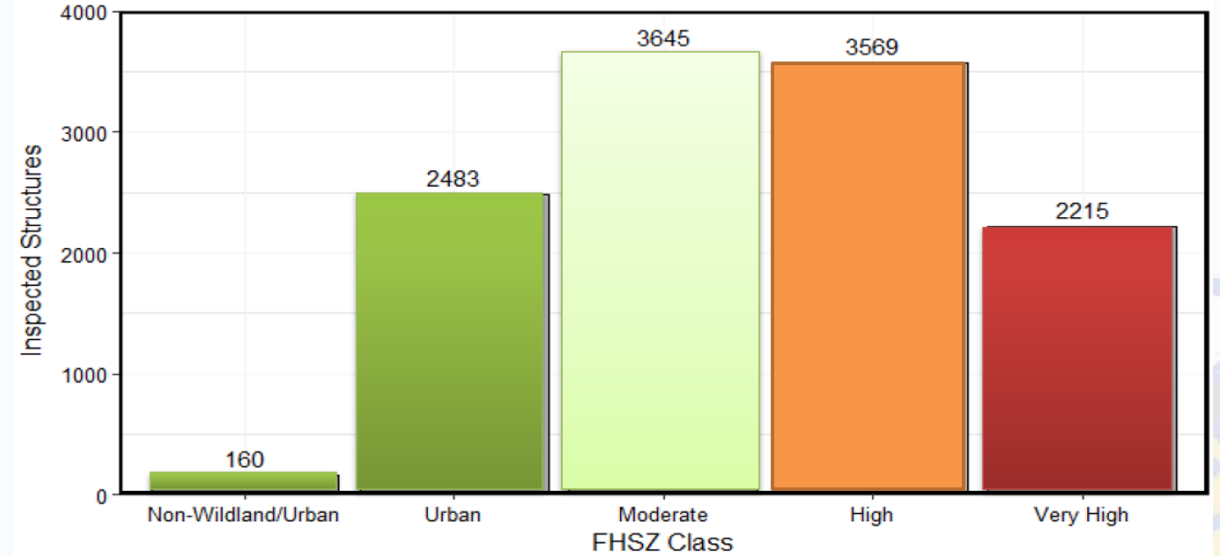
154 Acres



~ Fire season is year-round



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

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

Assembly Bill 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

Assembly Bill 3074

Effective January 2023

- New homes constructed in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
- 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**



- 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.



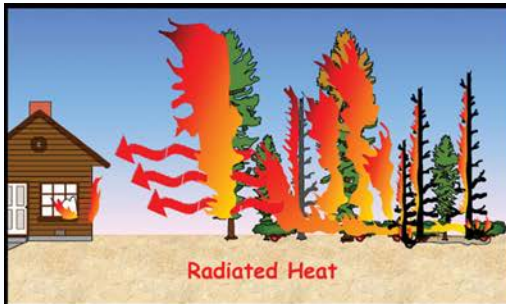
Home Hardening



Construction features that help reduced risk from:

- Radiant heat
- Direct flame
- Ember intrusion

Most homes lost are due to ember intrusion



Radiated Heat



Direct Contact by Flames



Flying Embers & Brands

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



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.



Home Hardening Can Make a Difference

Unmaintained
Vegetation



Combustibles
near structure



Combustible
Accessory Structure



Mulch



Windows
Radiant Heat



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

