

WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT DISTRICT



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Chief's Message..... 1
- Chipping Map..... 2
- Chipping Instructions..... 3
- Defensible Space 4
- Be Prepared..... 5
- Using Mulch..... 6
- CWPP Update 7
- Websites..... 8

Thank you for your support. Since 2006 we've:

Chipped more than 4160 tons of vegetation through our annual chipping program

Cleared 200 miles of roadways through our vegetation road clearance program

Treated 170 acres of flammable vegetation through fuels management projects

Evaluated over 520 properties to assess potential defensible space improvements

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The members of the Santa Barbara Fire Department are dedicated to the safety and well-being of the community through preparedness, prevention and response. This is our mission and we strive every day to deliver our promise to you and your family.

Under the leadership of City Administrator Paul Casey, Mayor Cathy Murillo, the City Council, and all the City Departments, we are committed to reducing community risk from catastrophic wildland and urban fires. We continually work with federal, state, and local partners to implement policies and secure funding to help you, your family, and neighborhood adapt to the threats from our changing climate.

In April of 2019, the City was awarded a \$310,000 grant from CAL FIRE to update our principal planning and risk reduction document, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). We are working expeditiously to update the information to identify and prioritize fuel reduction treatment and other wildfire hazard mitigation activities.

We find our community at the forefront of extreme, climate-driven weather events. We have experienced a dramatic change in the way wildfires burn and when they burn which has reduced the amount of time to prepare charred slopes for winter rains.

One of our core beliefs is a strong community partnership. We are here to provide expert guidance, but we can't do all the work alone. We need your help creating defensible spaces, planting fire-safe landscapes, modifying your homes to survive fire, and having a Ready, Set, Go! Action Plan. Please take advantage of our free services to reduce your risk.

We appreciate your continued commitment to community preparedness and resilience. I look forward to sharing in our responsibility to protect this beautiful and vibrant City.

- Santa Barbara City Fire Chief, Eric Nickel



Did you know...our City has a comprehensive Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to mitigate our ongoing threat of large catastrophic wildfires known as the 2004 Wildland Fire Plan?

Did you know...the WFSAD was established as a result of the policies and actions identified in the original 2004 Wildland Fire Plan?

Did you know...the WFSAD increases public and firefighter safety by providing a method for implementing a wildland fire program for the residents of Santa Barbara's Foothill and Extreme Foothill High Fire Hazard areas?

Did you know...we want you to be a part of ensuring that Santa Barbara remains resilient towards our ongoing threat of devastating wildland fires?

Join us over the next year in the many opportunities to become involved CWPP update process. We encourage all residents to participate in the upcoming community workshops as public input is an important part of the plan. For more information on the CWPP and the date/location of upcoming meetings, turn to **PAGE 7**.

2020 DEFENSIBLE SPACE CHIPPING

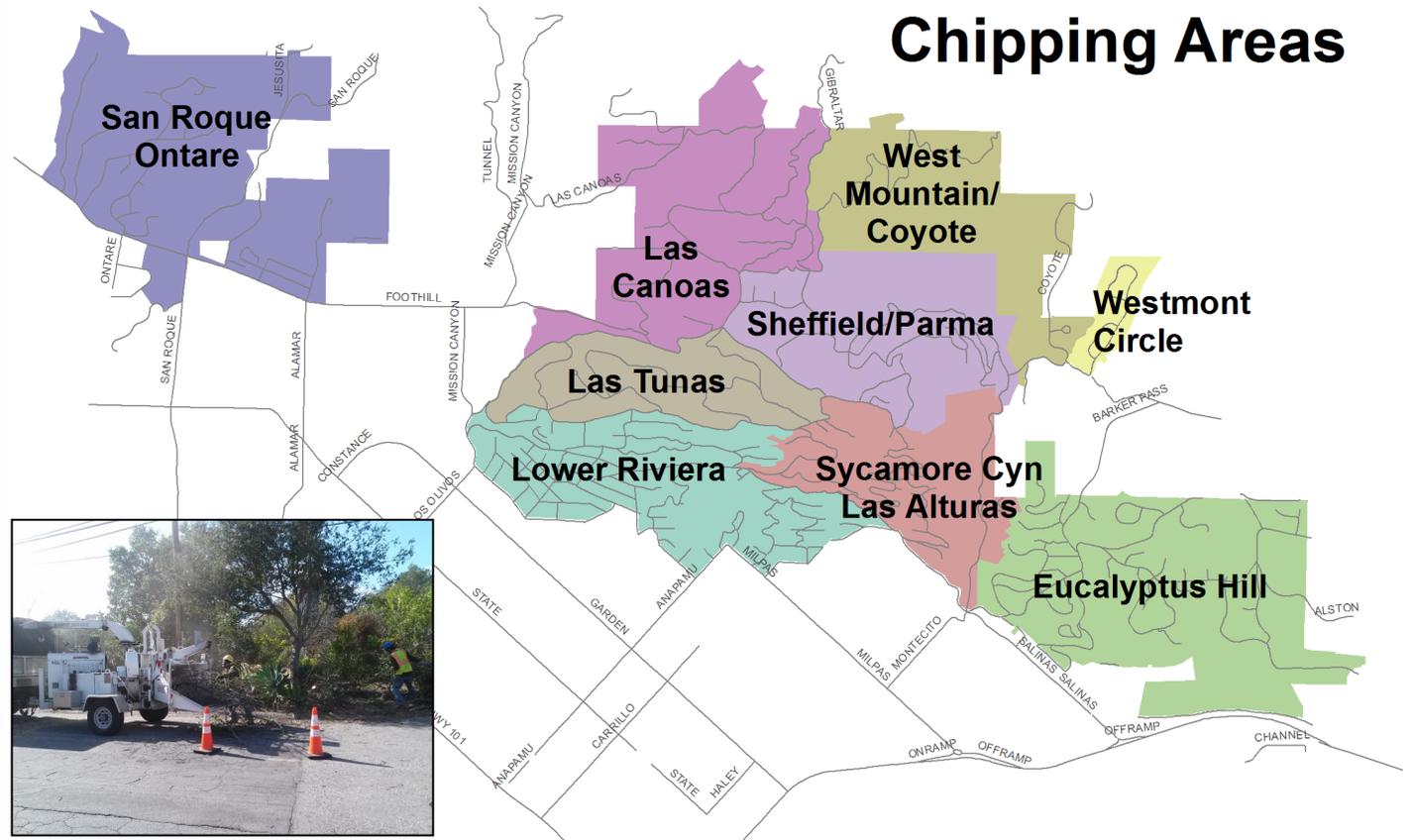
Sheffield/Parma.....	February 24
Las Canoas.....	March 9
Eucalyptus Hill.....	March 23
Sycamore Canyon/Las Alturas.....	April 6
Lower Riviera.....	April 20
San Roque/Ontare.....	April 27
Las Tunas.....	May 11
Circle/Westmont.....	May 26
West Mountain/Coyote.....	June 1

Exotic pest plants that will NOT be chipped include:

- Arundo • All species of ivy •
- Castor bean • Fennel •
- All species of broom • Ice plant
- Tobacco weed
- Any type of grass • Tamarisk
- Any kind of Bamboo

Please put your cut vegetation out on roadways **no sooner than two weeks** and **no later than 7am the morning** your chipping area is scheduled to begin (second passes will not be made).

Please refer to the map of chip areas below. For further detail visit our website at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD or call us at (805) 564-5737



CHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS



Chipping services are provided to encourage property owners to create defensible space and provide a cost effective way to dispose of cut material.

As part of the City's environmental efforts, our goal is to re-use 100% of all chipped material. To achieve this goal we need your help. If you can use chips on your property please contact us at (805) 564-5737. A load of chips is approximately 14 cubic yards. Partial loads are not available.

The chipping instructions (right) outline the specific requirements. Vegetation that does not meet these requirements will not be chipped and will be left on site. The property owner will be responsible for the legal disposal of any material that cannot be chipped.



- Cut vegetation must be stacked by the first day of the chipping schedule in your area.
- Cut vegetation should be laid out in a pile along the street outside the drivable roadway.
- The cut end of all vegetation must face the street so we can easily handle the material.
- Brush should be left in long lengths (4-7 feet). This makes it is much easier to chip.
- Cut branches should be no greater than 10 inches in diameter.
- Material in plastic bags will not be picked up.
- Twine or string must not be used to tie vegetation.
- Rocks or other debris will not be chipped.
- Long piles OK as long as they are not over 4 feet in height.
- Old dead vegetation that has been lying around for years will not be chipped (this type of vegetation damages chipper blades).
- Pine needles or other leaf litter cannot be chipped.
- Piles pushed or moved by mechanical means, i.e. tractor, will not be chipped.
- Grasses, palm fronds, succulents or agaves will not be chipped.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE EVALUATIONS

WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Defensible Space is the landscaped area around your home maintained to reduce the fire danger to structures and your property. A good defensible space area is key in providing a buffer between an approaching wildfire. It can make the difference between saving or losing your home.

Defensible Space Evaluations are informative and FREE to all residents of the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District



Defensible Space Tips

Reduce Fire Ladders: Separate and space your plants both horizontally and vertically.

Reduce Ignition Sources: Embers may blow miles ahead of the fire. Frequently check and remove leaves and debris from roofs and gutters. Check under decks and porches, deck furniture, play/storage structures, doormats, and potted plants.

Trees: Remove branches from the ground a minimum of 6 feet or 1/3 the total height of the tree. Remove all dead branches.

Brush: Remove dead fuel and limb up 2 feet from the ground. Keep separation between shrubs, brush and trees.

Grass: Mow to 4 inches from the ground.

Debris Piles: Do not pile wood chips or mulch on your property. Spread and maintain them no greater than a 4 to 4 inch depth. Compost should be kept in an appropriate container.

Ornamental Plants: Should be irrigated, maintained and pruned year-round.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN A DEFENSIBLE SPACE EVALUATION?

During a Voluntary Defensible Space Evaluation we meet you on site and walk around your property. We will discuss your current landscaping, exterior building construction, assess its current condition for things that are beneficial as well as any additional interior improvements that can be made.

AVOID FLAMMABLE SPECIES

Many species of ornamental and invasive vegetation should not be planted due to their flammable characteristics within the high fire hazard area. These are some of the species not allowed to be planted within the high fire hazard area:

- Acacia
- Bamboo
- Bottlebrush
- Bougainvillea
- Broom Species
- Camphora
- Cape Plumbago
- Castor Bean
- Coyote Bush
- Cypress
- Cedar
- Douglas Fir
- Eucalyptus
- Fountain Grass
- Honey Suckle
- Ivy
- Juniper
- Madrone
- Manzanita
- Melaleuca
- Palm Trees
- Pampas Grass
- Pepper Trees
- Periwinkle
- Pine Trees
- Sage
- Spruce Trees
- Sumac

For a full list see 'High Fire Hazard Area Landscape Requirements' at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Wildland

FOR A VOLUNTARY DEFENSIBLE SPACE EVALUATION PLEASE CALL (805) 564-5737

ROADWAYS MUST BE MAINTAINED



Flammable vegetation along roadways creates hazardous conditions, especially during an evacuation. Burning vegetation along roads can force the closure of important evacuation routes, impedes the ingress of first responders and the egress of residents evacuating from areas. It is important to maintain your vegetation bordering roadways on your property year round.

VINES

Vines and ivy growing against structures pose a significant threat to homes in high fire hazard areas. Climbing vegetation can act as a fire ladder, causing flames to spread vertically towards eaves and crawl spaces. These types of fires also generate embers that can blow into vents and other openings on the structure. It is strongly recommended that all vines and climbing vegetation are well maintained, irrigated and away from any structures. Additionally, ensure all vents are covered with a 1/8" mesh or State Fire Marshal approved vent to prevent ember intrusion.



BE PREPARED

In addition to preparing your defensible space it is important to utilize services that can provide critical information in the event of a wildfire or other natural disaster. Signing up for **Aware & Prepare** will register your cellular and/or land-line phone to be notified via a reverse 911 call during a local emergency. This service provides critical evacuation and safety information during developing incidents. Registration only takes a minute and can be found at:

www.AwareAndPrepare.org



READY, SET, GO! is a national campaign that provides a wildland fire action plan for homeowners and information critical in preparing for a wildfire. The guide covers defensible space strategies, fire-wise landscape management tips and provides a personal wildfire action plan to prepare before having to evacuate. They have also created an app you can access on your phone to keep your plan up to date and ready to use at a moments notice. Information can be found at:

www.ReadyForWildfire.org

If you would like a physical copy of the Ready, Set, Go! guide, please contact Chris Braden, Fire Services Specialist at :

(805) 564-5737

MULCH AND WOOD CHIPS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

After multiple years of drought effecting the Santa Barbara area, there has been an increase in the amount of homes utilizing mulch and woodchips in waterwise landscaping. While woodchips and mulch provide excellent ground cover and retain moisture in soil, it is important to avoid creating a potential wildfire hazard by applying them improperly. The follow are answers to questions frequently asked by homeowners regarding wood chip and mulch use in High Fire Hazard Areas:

Where should I put mulch around my home?

With both mulch and woodchips it is important to avoid spreading them too close to structures as they will provide a source of fuel during a wildfire. We recommend placing woodchips and mulch at least 30 feet from any structures.

How much should I use ?

Wood chips and mulch should not be deeper than 4 inches from the top soil.

Should I replace my lawn with wood chips?

When converting lawns into more water-wise landscapes it is important to evaluate the size of the area and its proximity to the home. We recommend using fire resistant mulches such as lava rock, gravel or synthetic fire resistant alternatives in areas adjacent to structures.

Should I use leaf litter from my trees as mulch or should I remove all of it?

Many of our native tree species deposit leaf litter throughout the year that acts as a natural mulch, breaking down over time and becoming soil. Removing all leaf litter around the home can reduce fire danger, but it will also remove important nutrients from being deposited back into the soil, We recommend reducing leaf litter near the home and in areas that have built up more than 4 inches in depth. It is also important to reduce litter buildup from resinous species such as pine and eucalyptus.

Does the Fire Department deliver wood chips?

During our Annual Chipping program we are able to provide wood chips to residents of the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District at no additional cost on a first-come, first-serve basis. The chips provided are from a variety of both native and non-native vegetation and range in size and quality. The trucks used require ample room to unload and deliver approximately 4 cubic yards of wood chips. We will not deliver partial loads of wood chips. If you would like to request wood chips, please contact us at the number below.



INTERESTED IN RECEIVING WOOD CHIPS? CALL (805)564-5737



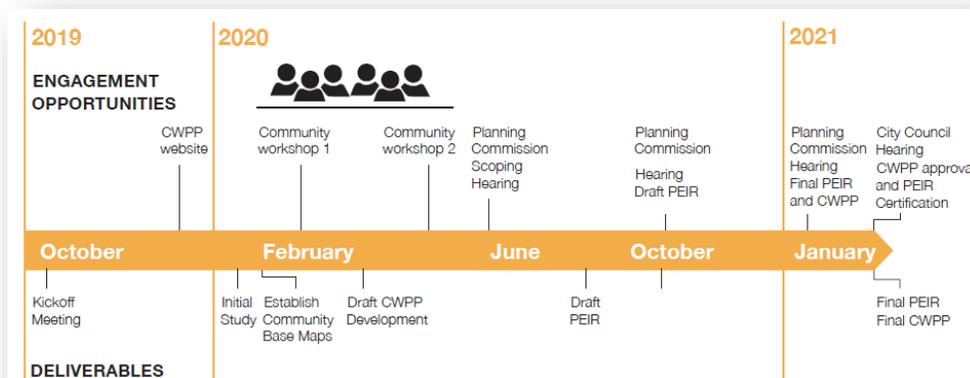
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PROTECTION PLAN

The existing Community Wildfire Protection Plan, (CWPP) also known as the Wildland Fire Plan, was adopted by City Council in 2004, along with the programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Recent California fires that have devastated urban communities have heightened our community's perception of our vulnerability to wildfire. Recognizing the need to update both the CWPP and the EIR, in 2018 City staff began to research funding options and subsequently applied for a grant from CAL FIRE. In April, CAL FIRE awarded the City a grant for \$310,000. The grant assumes matching in-kind contributions of \$142,399 from the City Planning Department and Fire Prevention staff for time spent on the collaborative analysis of the consultant's finding and final draft of the CWPP and EIR.

On July 25, 2019, the Fire Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to professional consultants for the CWPP and EIR update. The notification of the RFP was sent to over 600 potential bidders. On September 4, 2019 staff selected Dudek as the company qualified for the project. Dudek is a company with almost 40 years of experience in engineering and environmental consulting and are very familiar with the needs of a comprehensive CWPP and EIR. In 2014, they completed the City's current Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan.

Both the CWPP and EIR are scheduled to be completed by spring 2021 in accordance with the timeframes required to maintain grant funding. There are many steps involved in these processes. The first part of the project will be to conduct a hazard and risk assessment to complete a draft CWPP. Once the framework for the CWPP is established it will be followed by certification of a programmatic EIR.



Over the coming months we will begin a public outreach campaign as a successful CWPP includes input, involvement and continued participation from the community as a whole. The updated CWPP and EIR will serve as a framework for a comprehensive long-term resiliency plan used to prioritize future wildfire hazard protection projects and foster a collaborative approach with adjacent neighborhoods and jurisdictions. This update will enhance the current plan to identify and prioritize fuel reduction treatments and other wildfire hazard mitigation activities and provide a methodology for monitoring progress and accomplishments.

Join us for the first of two Community Workshops:

February 20th @ 6pm
Adams Elementary School
2701 Las Positas Road

For more information about this project and to subscribe to our electronic newsletter visit:

<https://CWPP.SantaBarbaraCA.gov>



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE DEPARTMENT

SBFD Website

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/FIRE

CWPP Website

<https://cwpp.santabarbaraca.gov>

WFSAD Website

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD

SBFD Facebook

Facebook.com/SantaBarbaraCityFire

Visit our Blog!

WFSAD.blogspot.com

City of Santa Barbara
Fire Department
925 Chapala Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**SIGN UP FOR A FREE
DEFENSIBLE SPACE EVALUATION**



Just snap the above QR code with your smartphone and it will take you to our sign up form. You will be contacted to set up an appointment within 1-2 business days. You can also visit:

www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WFSAD

Look for Defensible Space Evaluations under the Services tab.

YOUR ASSESSMENT DOLLARS PROVIDE FOR:

**Vegetation Management Projects • Defensible Space Evaluations • Vegetation Chipping
Public Education & Outreach • Vegetation Road Clearance**

**Santa Barbara County
Fire History**

Year	Fire Name	Acres	Homes Lost
1955	Refugio	84,770	Several
1964	Coyote	67,000	100+
1971	Romero	14,538	4
1977	Sycamore	805	234
1977	Hondo	10,000	0
1979	Eagle	4,530	5
1990	Painted Cave	4,900	524
1993	Marre	43,864	0
2002	Sudden	7,160	0
2004	Gaviota	7,440	1
2007	Zaca	240,207	0
2008	Gap	9,445	0
2008	Tea	1,940	238
2009	Jesusita	8,733	80
2016	Sherpa	7,474	0
2016	Rey	32,606	0
2016	Canyon	12,518	0
2017	Alamo	28,687	1
2017	Whittier	18,430	16
2017	Thomas	281,893	1,063
2019	Holiday	113	24
2019	Cave	3,126	0