

Ready, Set, Go!

*Protecting Lives and Property
through Proactive Planning*



vcfd.org/ReadySetGo



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VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Who We Are

The Ventura County Fire Department is an all-hazards, full-service special district comprised of over 650 dedicated personnel.

Mission

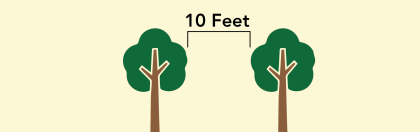
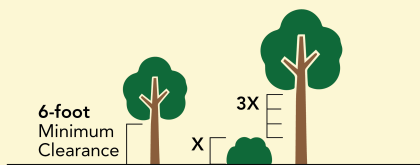
The mission of the Ventura County Fire Department is to anticipate and respond to the dynamic public safety needs of a diverse community of about 840,000 people. This includes not only fire prevention, but also education, response, and communication. Our wide-ranging response area covers 848 square miles and includes all unincorporated areas, along with the cities of Ojai, Port Hueneme, Moorpark, Camarillo, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Thousand Oaks. We aim to equip Ventura County residents with knowledge through education and outreach. We promote a three-step approach: Be Ready with preparedness plans, Be Set with situational awareness, and Go! by taking early action to stay safe when disasters strike. By fostering a culture of readiness, we aim to build a safer, stronger, and more disaster-resilient community for all.

Ready, Set, Go!

The Ready, Set, Go! Program envisions a community that is fully prepared, informed, and resilient against the threats of wildfires, floods, earthquakes and other disasters—empowering residents to take proactive steps to protect their families, properties, and livelihoods.

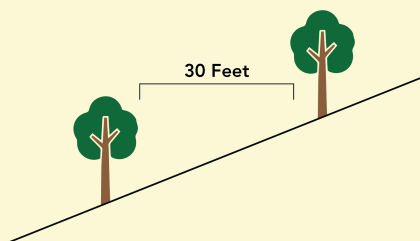
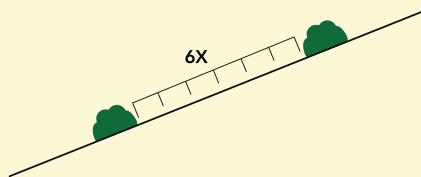
READY FOR WILDFIRE

Horizontal Spacing



Flat to mild slope (<20%)

Vertical Spacing



Moderate to steep slope (<40%)

This space is key to slowing or stopping wildfire spread and protecting your home from embers, flames, and heat. Firefighters can also defend the area more safely.

Wildfires are now a year-round reality in Ventura County. This means that both firefighters and residents need to be prepared against the threat from brush and vegetation fires at all times.

If your home borders, or is within one mile of a natural area, called the Wildland Urban Interface, your property may be at risk from wildfire.

Dry conditions and strong winds can increase the danger of wildfire by carrying embers and spreading fire. **Ready, Set, Go!** promotes defensible space and other home-hardening techniques to help protect your family and your home.

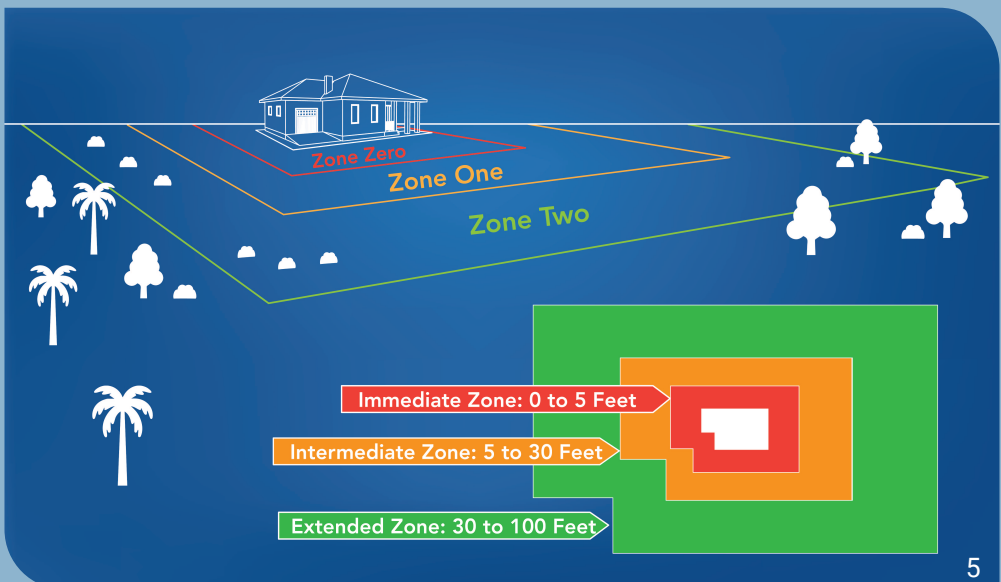
DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Defensible space is crucial for your home's wildfire safety. Maintaining this space minimizes fire pathways to the structure by creating a buffer of reduced fuel loads around your home.

Zone Zero - Ember-resistant zone, extends 5 feet from the structure and is free of ANY combustibile items and vegetation within 0-5 feet of the home. Use gravel, pavers, or concrete instead of combustibile mulch. Clear plants, grass, and debris; check roofs, gutters, and outdoor areas.

Zone One - Lean and clean zone, extends 30 feet from buildings and requires removal of dead vegetation and trimming of tree canopies. Maintain space between trees, shrubs, and flammable items like patio furniture and wood piles. Trim overhanging branches and keep them 10 feet from your chimney.

Zone Two - Reduced fuel zone, extends from 30 feet to 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc. or to your property line, whichever is closer. Horizontally space out shrubs and trees. Ensure vertical spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees.



HARDEN YOUR HOME

Hardening your home can help protect your property in the event a wildfire is approaching. Taking these steps ahead of time can provide protection from wind-driven flames or embers igniting on or near your home.

Examples of a Hardened Home

Class A-rated Roof



Examples include concrete or clay roof tiles, fiberglass asphalt composition shingles and metal roofs.

Multi-pane windows



Fit dual-paned windows with at least one tempered glass layer to withstand fire-induced breakage

Ember-resistant vents



Examples include a 1/8th inch mesh metal screen, or specialized California State Fire Marshal-approved flame and ember-resistant vents

Non-combustible fencing



Use noncombustible materials for the portion of the fence that connects to the house to prevent fire spread.

Maintaining a Hardened Home



Cleaning your gutters



Sealing off cracked siding



Weather stripping around and under the garage



Keep foundation in good repair

**Courtesy of the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council*

MAINTAINING A HARDENED HOME

READY

- Create a family plan that includes a meeting location.
- Sign up to receive emergency notifications at [VCAalert.org](https://vcalert.org).
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand and learn how to use them.
- Build an emergency kit for home and vehicles.
- Maintain a list of emergency contacts, including an out-of-town contact to coordinate communication.
- Know how to shut off gas, electricity and water if needed.
- Plan several evacuation routes in the event one is blocked. Stay tuned to public safety channels for information.

SET

- Turn on lights for firefighters to see.
- Leave doors unlocked.
- Turn off sprinklers as you leave to save water pressure.
- Stay tuned to public safety channels for information.
- Keep watch for spot fires and embers and extinguish them.

GO!

- Do not wait for evacuation instructions from public safety. If it looks and feels dangerous, GO!
- Stay tuned to vcemergency.com for evacuation instructions and locations.
- Use awareness to select the best evacuation route.
- Don't forget your emergency kit!

If you can't go

- Shelter away from outside walls.
- Fill sinks and tubs with emergency water.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep out smoke and embers.

FARMERS, RANCHERS & GROWERS

READY

- Use strategic grazing and non-combustible landscaping.
- Make sure your property address is clearly marked.
- Create a safe zone for equipment that is clear of vegetation.
- Mark all storage areas used for chemicals or hazardous materials.
- Clearly mark water tanks, etc. available for firefighting.
- Create a livestock evacuation plan or safe area away from vegetation.
- Keep emergency kits in all business vehicles.

SET

- Stay tuned to public safety channels for information.
- Turn on irrigation and open gates for livestock escape.
- Shut off fuel sources.
- Monitor property and extinguish spot fires.

GO!

- Evacuate everyone as early as possible.



AG PASS PROGRAM

Access to evacuated agricultural areas may be necessary to evacuate or care for livestock, perform irrigation of crops or turn on water systems, or to deliver necessary equipment needed to re-establish water supplies or irrigation systems.

To be issued this pass, agriculture operators must submit the required documentation, complete the necessary online training, and complete the online application process.

For more information, visit **ReadyVenturaCounty.org/agriculture**

Trail users

Ventura County offers a paradise of trails—from beach walks to urban paths and back-country routes. Many of these trails are in or near wildland areas, putting users at risk during high fire danger.

READY

- If you are planning a trail excursion, especially an overnight one, you must be prepared for the possibility of a wildfire.
- For more safety tips visit parks.ca.gov/SafetyTips



SET

- It is important to maintain situational awareness because wildfires move very quickly and erratically.



GO!

- Where there is smoke, there is fire. Don't wait until you can see the fire or try to anticipate what it will do. Go! Use your escape route and leave the area immediately.

OIL & NATURAL GAS

The oil industry has been a key part of Ventura County's economy. Protecting these facilities and the employees who work there is a key priority of the Ventura County Fire Department. Defensible space plays a crucial role in protecting oil field infrastructure from wildfires. In these settings, larger defensible space is needed due to flammable materials and complex terrain, but operators must also prepare for wind-driven embers that can ignite fires more than a mile away.

READY

- Create a site-specific Wildfire Plan. Include evacuation routes, safe refuge areas, emergency shut-offs, and communication plans. Ensure all personnel and visitors know the plan.
- Prepare Sites for Emergency Access. Clear vegetation around critical infrastructure, mark addresses, roads, and water sources, and highlight hazardous areas to guide responders.
- Establish Safe Refuge Zones. Set up designated areas for employees to shelter if evacuation isn't possible, ensuring these zones are clear of combustibles and provide defensible space.



SET

- Maintain Situational Awareness. Be aware of weather conditions like heat, dryness, and wind, which increase fire danger. Prepare to act when "red flag" warnings are issued.
- Review Evacuation Plans & Emergency Procedures. Ensure all employees know evacuation routes and procedures. Keep vehicles loaded with emergency supplies and valuables, ready to go if needed.
- Reschedule High-Risk Tasks During Fire Weather. Avoid "hot work" (e.g., welding or grinding) during fire weather. If necessary, have a designated fire watch and use onsite firefighting equipment.



GO!

- Evacuate Early. Most wildfire fatalities occur when people wait too long. Leave immediately to avoid being trapped.
- Follow Company Safety Protocols. Follow all evacuation procedures and safety policies. If the property and personnel are prepared, evacuate ahead of time and let firefighters handle the situation.
- If Trapped, Seek Shelter Indoors. Wear protective clothing, stay hydrated, and remain inside until the fire passes. Call 911 if needed.

EVACUATION INFORMATION

In areas where there is a threat to public safety, law enforcement, fire department or public health officials may issue emergency instructions to protect life and property. These notifications will be made to residents using a variety of methods:

- VC Alert Emergency Notification System (vcalert.org)
- Door-to-Door notifications
- Hi-Lo Siren
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
- Emergency Alert System (Broadcast Television / AM/FM Radio)

If you observe conditions near your residence or location that may jeopardize your safety, please do not wait for official notification from public safety personnel. Take immediate action to leave the area and get to a safe location.



Evacuation Order

Evacuation Orders are issued to indicate that conditions exist that SERIOUSLY IMPERIL or ENDANGER the lives of those in the defined area. Residents and members of the public should leave the area immediately. Once out of the area, unauthorized persons (including residents) will not be permitted to return until it is safe.



Evacuation Warning

Evacuation Warnings are issued to advise residents that an evacuation order may soon be necessary. While danger may not yet be imminent, the potential for rapidly changing conditions to develop into a serious threat exists.



Shelter-in-Place

Shelter-in-Place Orders may be issued when conditions exist that may endanger the lives of those in a defined area. Residents should select an interior room or rooms within their home or business with no or few windows and take refuge there.



Temporary Evacuation Points

Temporary Evacuation Points (TEP) are pre-identified locations where evacuated residents can safely gather during the initial evacuation phase.

EMERGENCY KIT

Build a Kit

During an emergency, utilities and essential services could be interrupted for a while. Build an emergency kit to sustain your family for at least THREE days.

Emergency Kit Checklist

- ✓ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ✓ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and extra batteries
- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Whistle to signal for help local maps
- ✓ Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- ✓ Duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal windows and doors during shelter-in-place orders
- ✓ Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ✓ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ✓ Can opener for canned food
- ✓ Cell phone with chargers, inverter, or solar charger

To view or download a complete Emergency Kit Checklist, visit: [readyventuracounty.org/prepare](https://www.readyventuracounty.org/prepare)



EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: **Call 911**

Family

School

Work

Animal Shelter

Other

Evacuation Routes

Meeting
Location(s)

Emergency Supply
Kit Location

What to Take

☐ Emergency
Supply Kit

☐ Keys, Cash,
Credit Cards

☐ Photos

☐ Extra Clothes

☐ Insurance
Papers

☐ Computer

☐ Prescriptions

☐ Important
Documents

☐ Cell Phone
and Charger

Notes

Complete your Emergency Action Plan and post it in a location where it can be easily seen. Review with your household monthly.

FLOODS

Floods are the most common natural disaster in the U.S., causing hundreds of billions of dollars in annual property damage.

In Ventura County, heavy rains from winter storms can lead to flooding, with past incidents resulting in significant damage and nine federal disaster declarations. Flooding can occur unexpectedly due to rainfall intensity, duration, and factors like topography and vegetation loss after wildfires.

To prepare, residents are encouraged to plan ahead using the Ready, Set, Go! approach.



Sandbags

Sandbags can effectively redirect water, mud, and debris but won't completely seal out water. They are suitable for low-flow protection up to two feet.

Homeowners are encouraged to purchase sandbags and sand early as part of their emergency supplies.

When filling sandbags, use local soil if sand isn't available, fill them half-full, and place them in a staggered pattern to redirect water flow.



It's important to remove debris from the area and not place bags directly against building walls to avoid foundation pressure.

Plan ahead, as constructing a sandbag barrier takes time.

FLOODS

READY

- **Prepare Your Property.** Conduct home maintenance by clearing leaves and debris from gutters, checking for roof leaks, and ensuring drain areas are clear to prevent flooding.
- **Gather Flood Prevention Supplies.** Stock up on sandbags, plastic sheeting, plywood, and tarps. Consider constructing permanent drainage systems or retaining walls if you live in a flood-prone area.
- **Assemble an Emergency Kit and Stay Informed.** Create an emergency supply kit, register for alerts at vcalert.org, and consider flood insurance. Make a list of essential items to take if you need to evacuate.

SET

- **Stay Informed.** Monitor news and social media for weather updates and maintain situational awareness during heavy rain.
- **Prepare for Evacuation.** Gather emergency supplies, review evacuation routes, fill vehicle gas tanks, and move valuables to higher ground.
- **Act Quickly.** If flash flooding is possible, move to higher ground immediately.

GO!

- **Stay Home if Safe.** If your home isn't affected, remain there; evacuate immediately if instructed, heading to higher ground or an evacuation center.
- **Evacuate Quickly and Safely.** If water rises suddenly, move to higher floors or the roof, taking emergency supplies and valuables with you. Avoid floodwaters and never attempt to walk, swim, or drive through moving water.
- **Monitor Conditions and Plan Routes.** Stay updated on weather and emergency news, and be aware of areas prone to flash floods. Use secondary evacuation routes if your primary route is blocked.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

VC Alert – Emergency Information

In Case of Emergency: Call 9-1-1



Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

- Website: vcalert.org
- Email: vc.alert@ventura.org
- Phone: (805) 648-9283

Ventura County delivers emergency alerts in English and Spanish to areas where there is a threat to health and safety. Alerts may include:

- Evacuation warnings or orders
- Missing at-risk persons
- Police activity
- Severe weather advisories
- Public health alerts

Stay Prepared

- Ready Ventura County: readyventuracounty.org

Learn how to prepare for any emergency and stay connected to other disaster partner agencies.

- VC Emergency: vcemergency.com

Get real-time incident updates about impacts, road closures, evacuations, shelters and more.

- Disaster Hotline: (805) 465-6650

Social Media

- Facebook: [@venturacountyfire](https://www.facebook.com/venturacountyfire)
- X (formerly Twitter): [@vcfd](https://twitter.com/vcfd) | [@vcfd_PIO](https://twitter.com/vcfd_PIO)
- Instagram: [@venturacountyfire](https://www.instagram.com/venturacountyfire)

Ventura County Fire Department Contact Information

- 📍 2400 Conejo Spectrum St., Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
- Headquarters: (805) 389-9710
- Emergency Information: (805) 388-4276
- Fire Prevention: (805) 389-9738
- Fire/EMS Dispatch (Non-Emergency): (805) 384-1500

