Photo: Institute for Business and Home Safety

Zone 0

Guidance, interpretation, and regulations for enhanced defensible space as directed by AB 3074 (2020) and SB 504 (2024)

Presentation outline

Part 1

- Problem statement
- Details of AB 3074 (2020) and SB 504 (2024)
- A few images from LA's 2025 Fires
- A brief overview of what is in today's draft
- Transition from Zone 0 to Zone 1

2015-2025 Wildfire Trends in California

In the last 10 years

- 1 of every 7 acres has burned (14 million acres)
- 188 lives have been lost
- Over 57,502 structures have been destroyed

- Embers contribute to building ignition

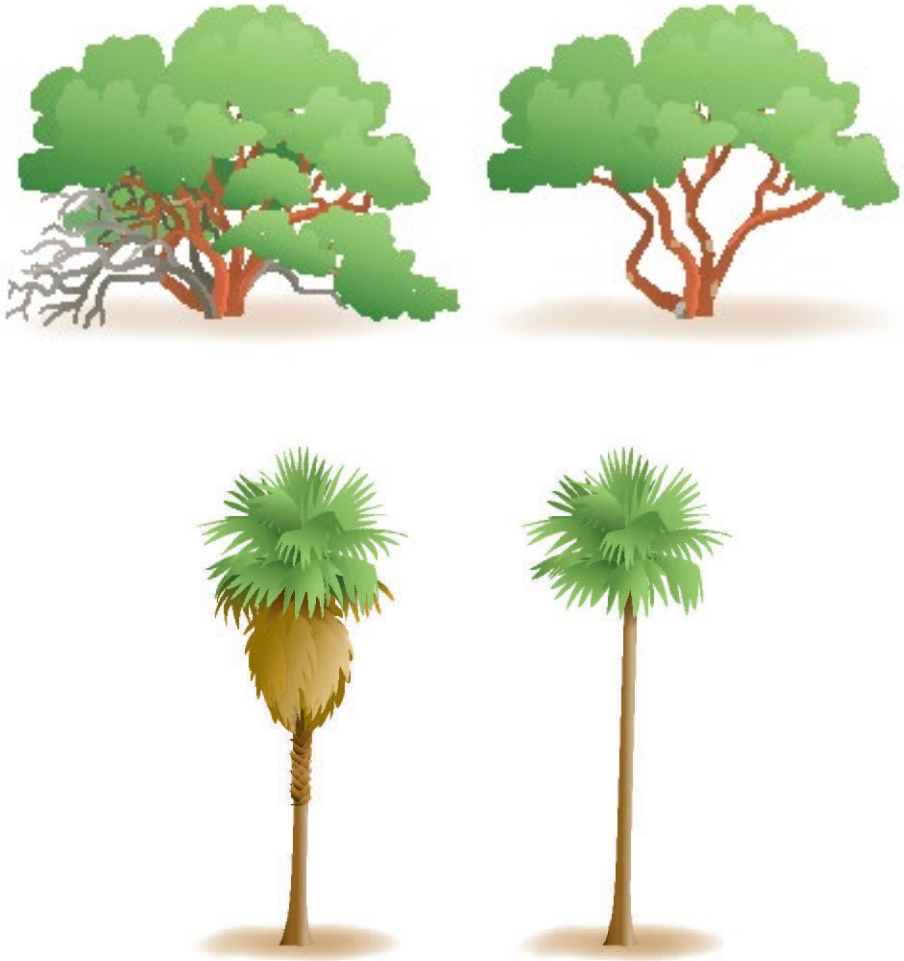
2025 Palisades Fire burns to the beach

A firefighter works to put out spot fires from embers

Source: LA Times

Plant placement is more important than plant type

- ✓All plants can burn regardless of how they are marketed
- ✓Fire safe landscaping requires maintenance (pruning, irrigation, clean-up)
- ✓Select low growing, open structured, less resinous, higher moisture content plants
- ✓Native and drought tolerant can be options, if maintained well
- ✓More info: Research Literature Review of Plant Flammability Testing, Fire-Resistant Plant Lists and Relevance of a Plant Flammability Key for Ornamental Landscape Plants in the Western States (Bethke, et al 2016 UCCE San Diego)

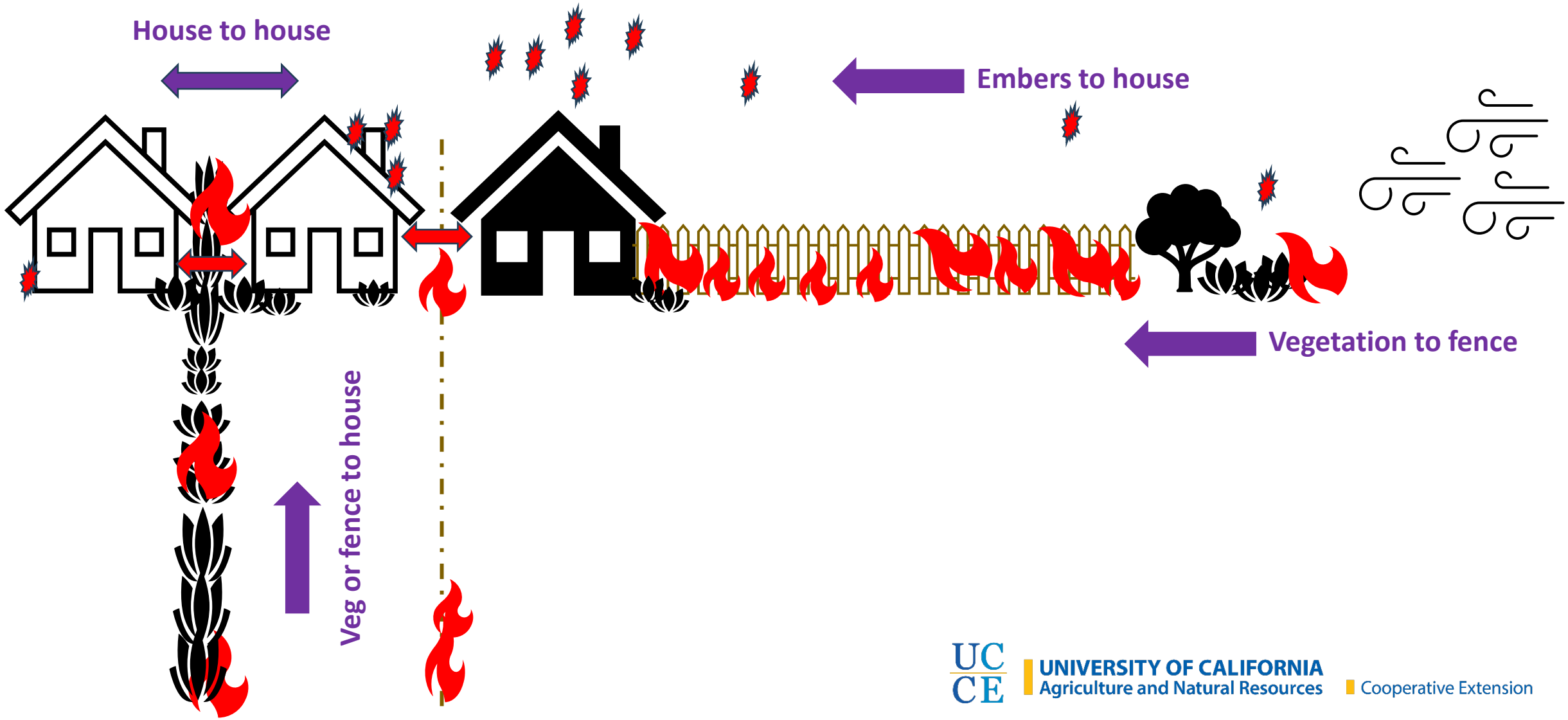


Eaton and Palisades examples- firefighter intervention saved these homes from ember ignition of vegetation

Firefighters in Altadena cut the gate off to stop the flames from the burning fence from touching the house.

Photo: Yana Valachovic

Fire pathways and transitions



What does AB 3074 (2020) require?

- Create an **ember-resistant zone within 5 feet of the structure**, based on regulations promulgated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
- On or before **January 1, 2023**, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, shall update the **guidance document** to include suggestions for creating an ember-resistant zone within five feet of a structure based on regulations promulgated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to **consider the elimination of materials in the ember-resistant zone that would likely be ignited by embers**.
- For purposes of this section, **a structure for the purpose of an ember-resistant zone shall include any attached deck.** This section does not limit the authority of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection or the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to require the removal of fuel or vegetation on top of or underneath a deck pursuant to this section.
- (2) (A) The requirement for an ember-resistant zone pursuant to Section 51182 **shall not take effect for new structures until the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection updates the regulations**, pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 51182, and the guidance document, pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 51182.
- (B) The requirements for an ember-resistant zone pursuant to Section 51182 **shall take effect for existing structures one year after the effective date for the new structures**.

SB 504 (2024)

- **51182.**
- (a) A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains an occupied dwelling or occupied structure within a very high fire hazard severity zone designated by the local agency pursuant to Section 51179, shall at all times do all of the following:
- (1) (A) Maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line except as provided in subparagraph (B). The amount of fuel modification necessary shall consider the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. **Fuels shall be maintained and spaced in a condition so that a wildfire would be unlikely to ignite the structure.** This subparagraph does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that are well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a structure or from a structure to other nearby vegetation or to interrupt the advance of embers toward a structure. The intensity of fuels management may vary within the 100-foot perimeter of the structure, with more intense fuel reductions being used between 5 and 30 feet around the structure, and an ember-resistant zone being required within 5 feet of the structure, based on regulations promulgated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, in consultation with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, to consider the elimination of materials in the ember-resistant zone that would likely be ignited by embers. **The regulations may also alter the fuel reduction required between 5 and 30 feet to integrate the ember-resistant zone into the requirements of this section.** Consistent with fuels management objectives, steps should be taken to minimize erosion, soil disturbance, and the spread of flammable nonnative grasses and weeds.

SB 504 continued

- (2) On or before January 1, 2023, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, in consultation with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, shall update the guidance document to include suggestions for creating an ember-resistant zone within five feet of a structure based on regulations promulgated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, in consultation with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, to consider the elimination of materials in the ember-resistant zone that would likely be ignited by embers. Existing and new structures shall meet the same standard for the ember-resistant zone, but regulations shall allow the staging of work for existing structures to support implementation of the ember-resistant zone and address the costs of compliance.

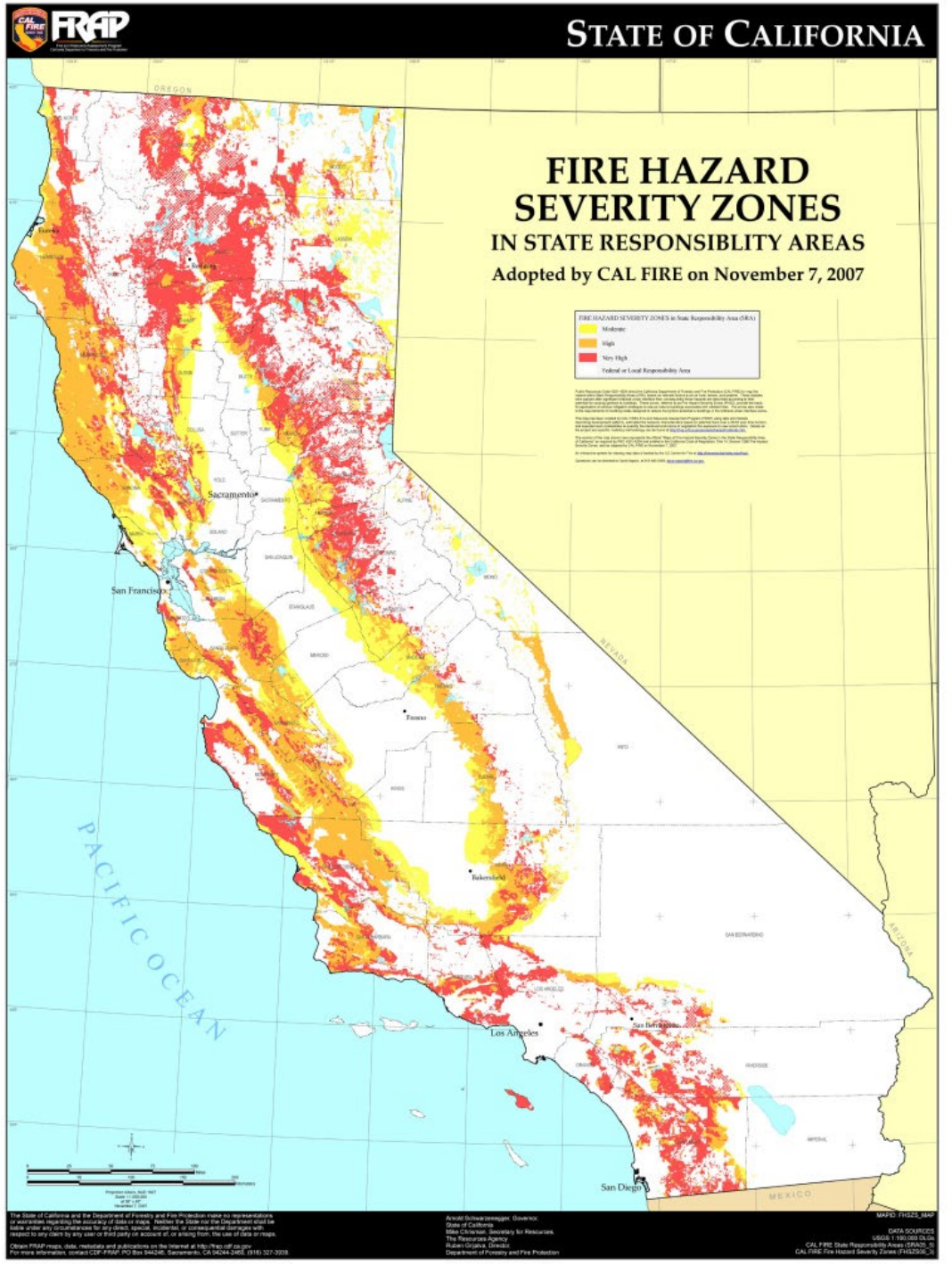
504 Takeaways

- The Board should continue to work in consultation with OFM to develop the Zone 0 regulations
- Defensible space applies to all fire weather conditions
- New and existing structures shall meet the same standards
- Existing structures have 3 years to meet the standards
- The Board has the direction to harmonize Zone 0 and Zone 1
  - Gutters management is in Zone 1
  - What happens at 6 feet could compromise Zone 0

Zone Zero applies to SRA and VHFHZ in LRA.

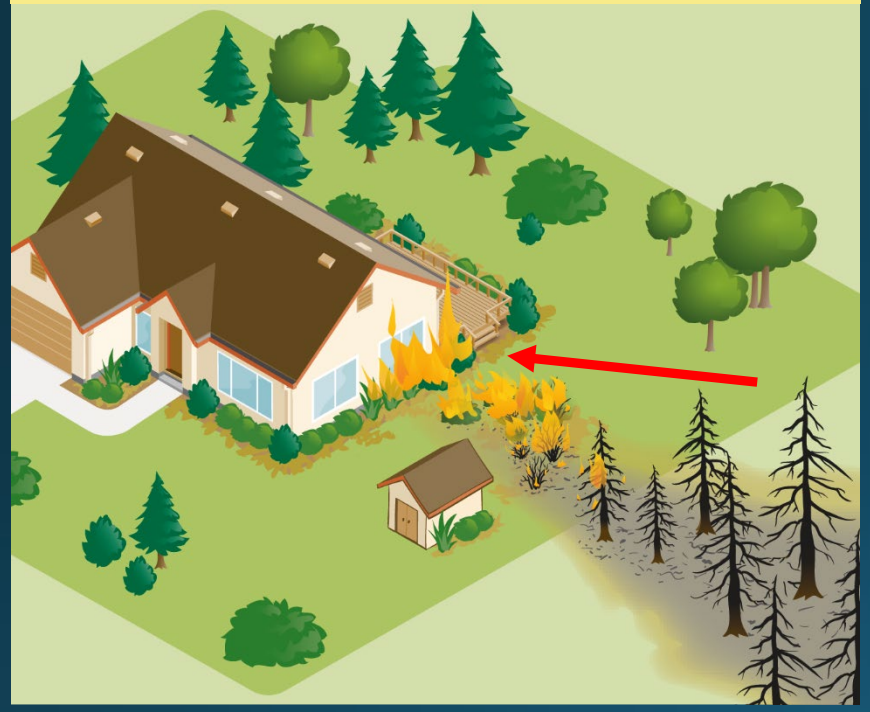
Watch the map update at:

https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps-2022

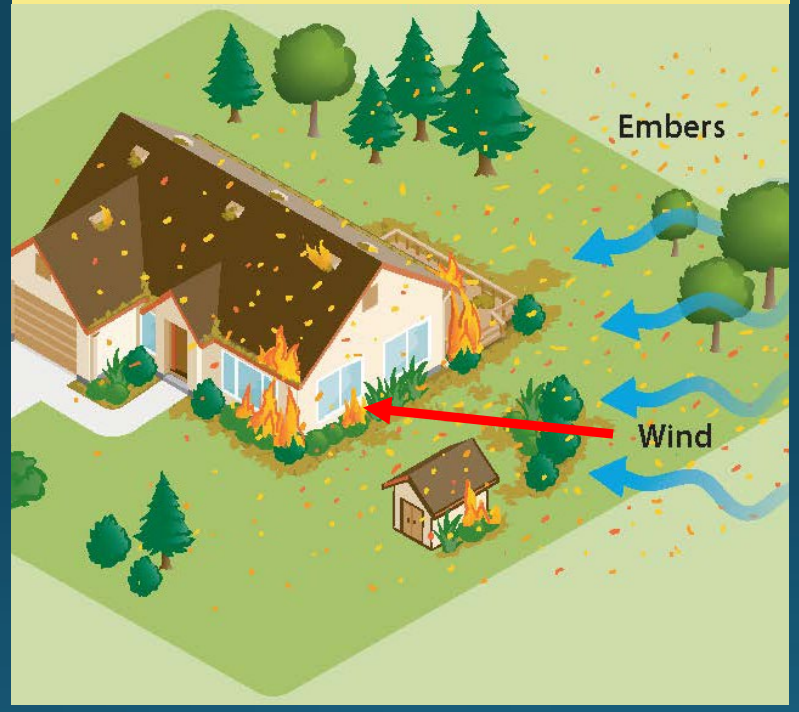


Three types of fire exposures

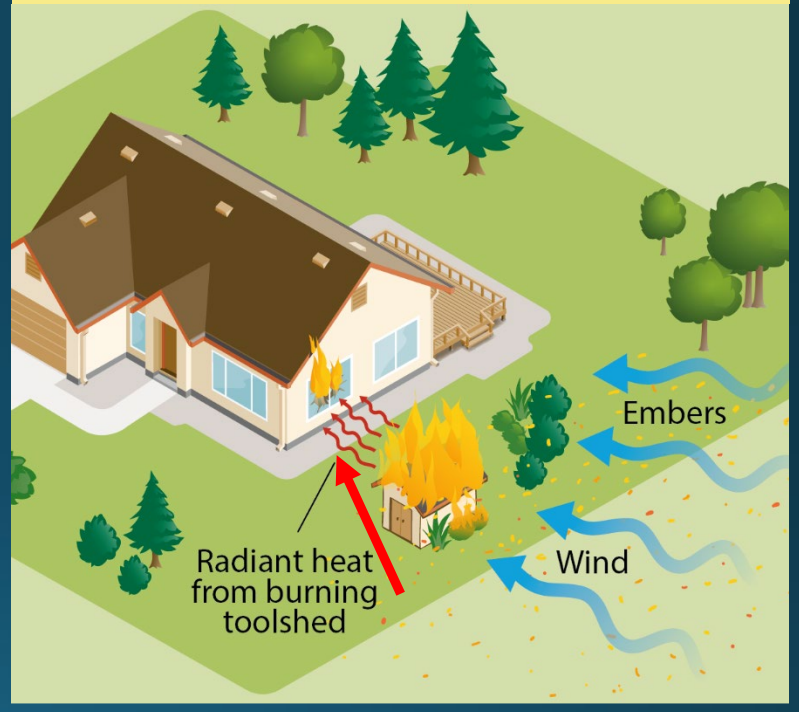
Direct flame contact



Embers



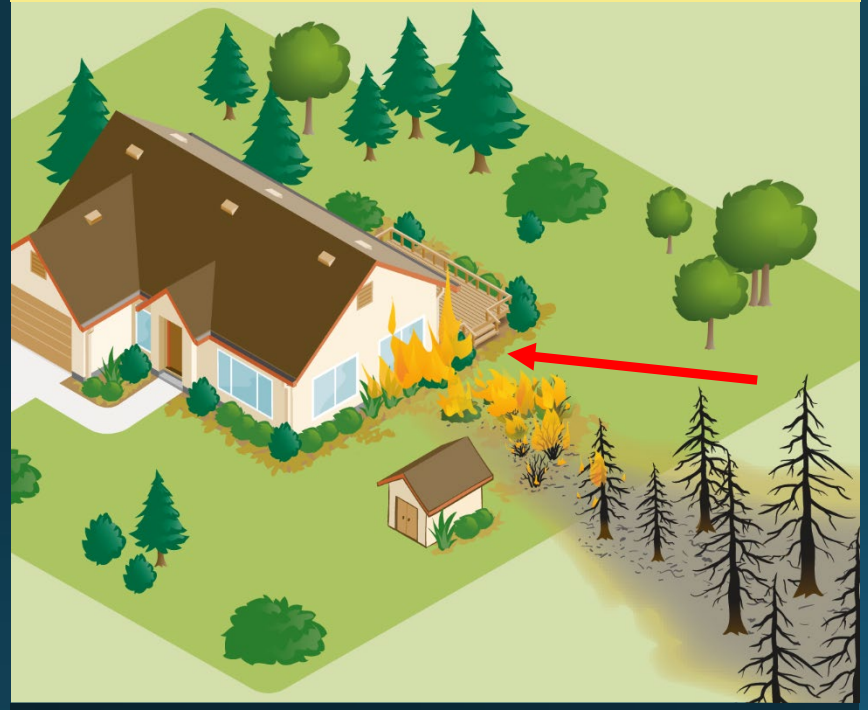
Radiant heat



- Defensible space strategies have focused on how to reduce <u>direct flame contact.</u>
- **Preparing for embers and radiant heat exposures takes a different approach**.

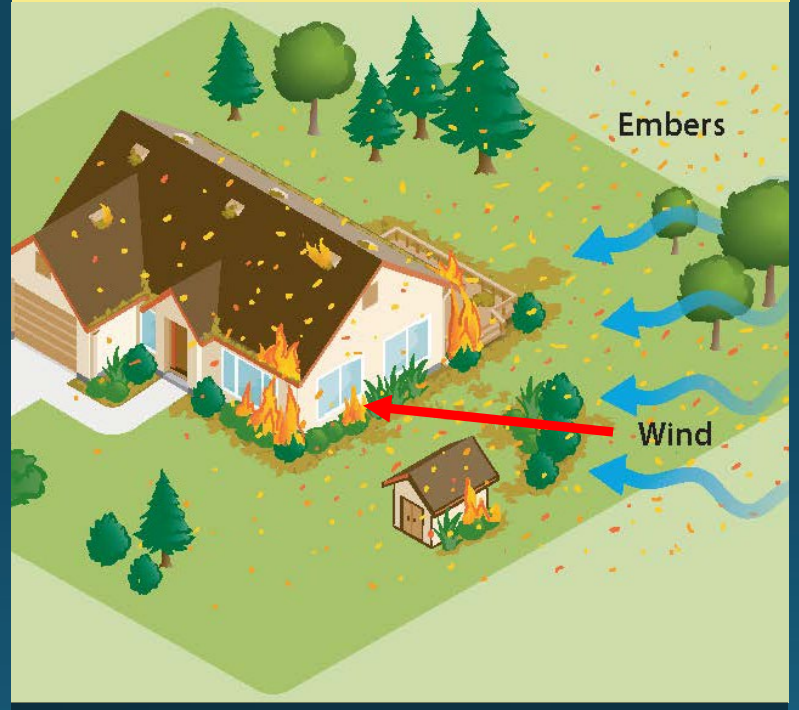
Techniques to reduce pathways

Direct flame contact



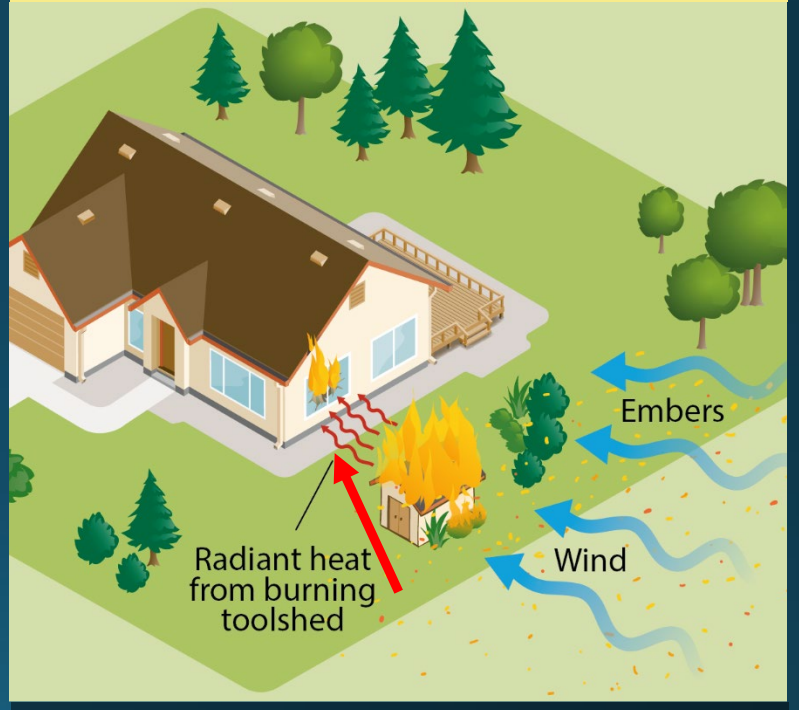
Defensible space implementation interrupts fire pathways and reduces the potential for direct flame contact

Embers



Home hardening with defensible space can help mitigate ember exposure

Radiant heat



Home hardening and fuel reduction can address potential radiant heat exposure

Purpose- Zone o

Zone o is the o-5’ perimeter of the building and attached decks

Zone 0 reduces the likelihood of structure ignition by reducing the potential for **direct ignition of the structure from flame contact**, by **embers that accumulate at the base of a wall**, and/or indirect ignitions when **embers ignite vegetation, vegetative debris or other combustible materials located close to the structure that result in either a radiant heat and/or a direct flame contact** exposure to the structure.

Zone 0 is the **horizontal area within the first five feet around the structure and any outbuildings and attached decks, and stairs**. The zone also includes the **area under attached decks and stair landings**. To be most effective, the zone should incorporate a **6-inch vertical area** between the ground and the start of the building’s exterior siding. (*Note: the appropriate vertical height would be dependent on whether combustibles are retained in Zone 0 and coupled with Chapter 7A requirements. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is the regulatory authority for this vertical zone since this zone would be part of the built environment.)*

Zone 0 is a critical component of structure defense and, when coupled with Zones 1 and Zone 2, is essential to defensible space.

Purpose- Zone 1

Zone 1 is the 5-30’ perimeter of the building and attached decks

Zone 1 reduces the likelihood of fire burning directly to the structure.

This is accomplished by modifying fuels and creating a discontinuity between planting groups that limits the pathways for fire to burn to the structure and reduces the potential for near-to-building ember generation and radiant heat exposures.

An additional purpose of this zone is to provide a **defendable zone** for fire personnel to stage and take direct action

Purpose- Zone 2

Zone 2 is the 30-100' perimeter of the building and attached decks, or to the edge of the property line

Zone 2 actions are designed to reduce the potential behavior of an oncoming fire in such a way as to drop an approaching fire from the crown to the ground.

Fuel modification includes removing dead vegetation and reducing living vegetation to **eliminate fuel ladders and create vegetation separation** between individual or islands of trees or shrubs.

These vegetation modification requirements are more significant for those properties with **steeper terrain, larger and denser fuels, highly volatile fuels, and areas subject to frequent fires**.

Additional **benefits** of the Zone 2 include facilitating direct defense actions, improving the function of Zones 0 and 1 by reducing the flame heights, and the potential for ember generation and radiant heat exposure to structures.

Items commonly located in Zone 0

—Rock, pavers, statuary, fountains, cement

—Trees
—Irrigated and mowed lawn
—Synthetic lawn
—Irrigated, non-woody plants
—Decorative structures
—Gate or fence that attaches to the building
—Parallel fence
—Covered storage facilities
—Landscape materials
—Potted plants
—Garbage, recycling receptacles
—Vehicles
—HVAC, heat pumps
—Outdoor kitchens
—Attached patio covers
—Portable BBQs
—Pet and animal structures

Zone 0 Draft

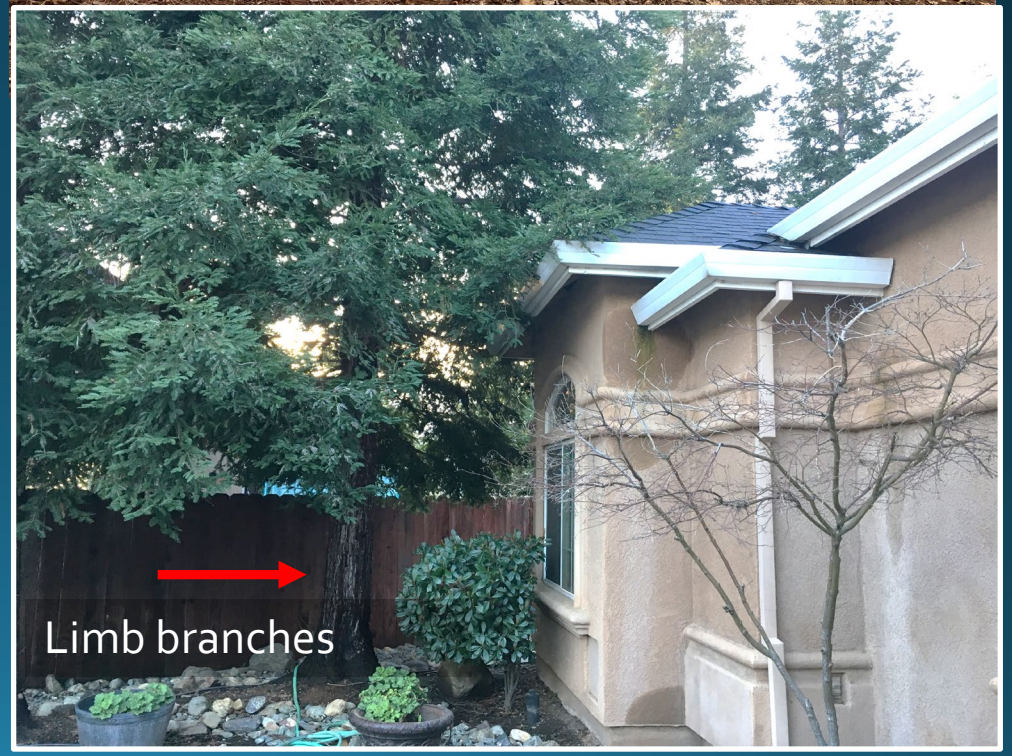
- **Trees**: Allows the bole of mature trees that meet Zone 1 standards--branches above the roof lines, away from the chimney, no ladder fuels (live or dead branches within 5 feet of the sides of the structure)
- **Pots**: noncombustible, < 5 gallons, plants limited to 18 inches in height.
- **Gates/fences**: Mandates that the 5 feet that connect to the house be of a noncombustible material. Upgrade the fence, upon replacement, in Zone 0.
- **Outbuildings within Zone 0**: Recommend moving all small buildings, but if impossible, the exterior should meet 7A requirements
- **Ground coverings**: Gravel, rocks, pavers, stone, cement, bare mineral soil
- Look at minor changes to Zone 1 to help **harmonize between Zone 1 and 2**

Mature tree-

Bole within or touching the Zone 0

Branches 10’ above the roof and from the chimney, not under the eaves, and no ladder fuels


Trees outside of Zone 0



Considerations

- May help in gaining public support
- Trees provide **shade** (Green Energy Code consideration)
- Trees provide a regular source of **needles, leaves, branches**, and other items that will accumulate on or near the building.

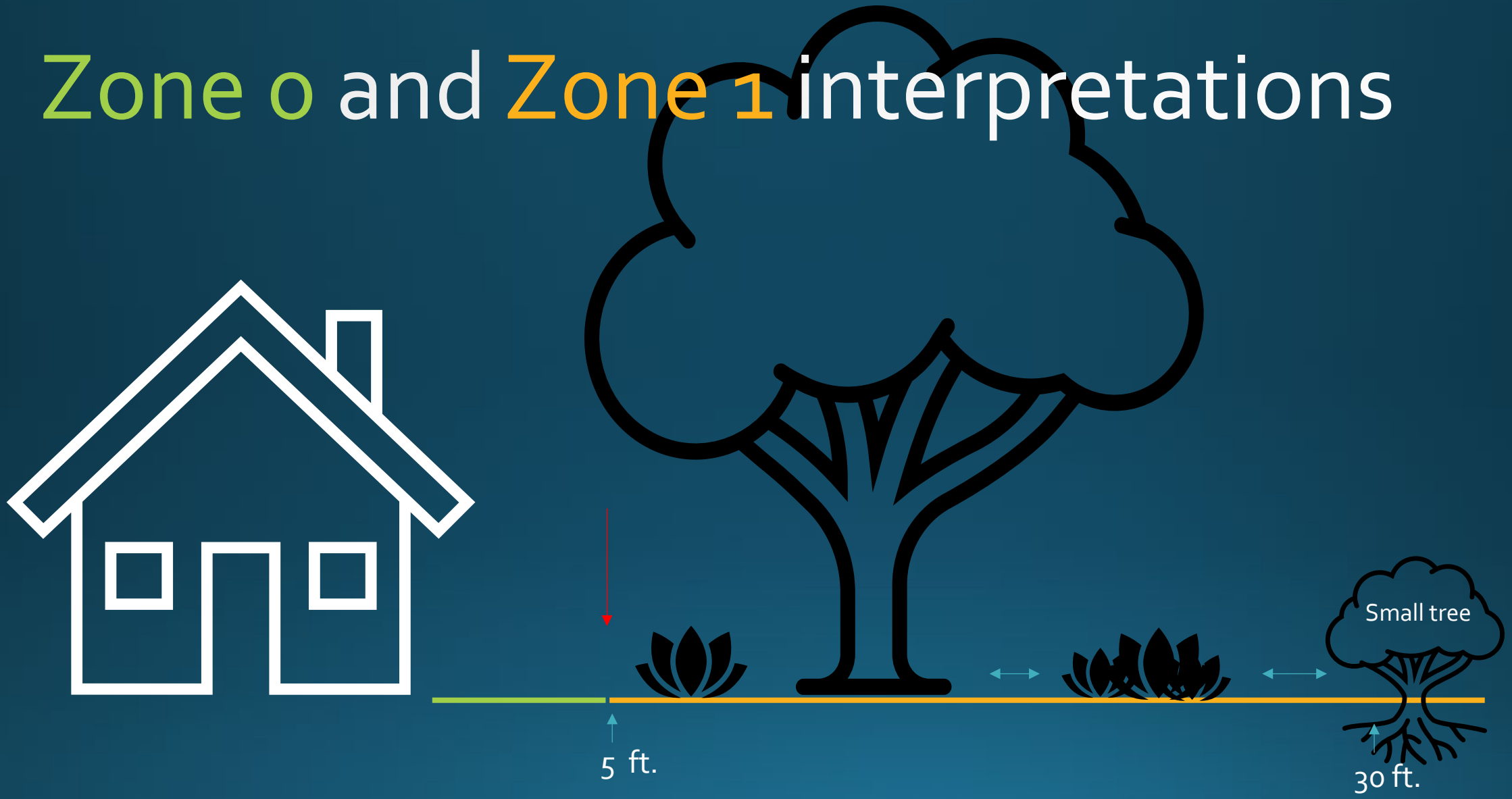

Limb branches


Limb branches

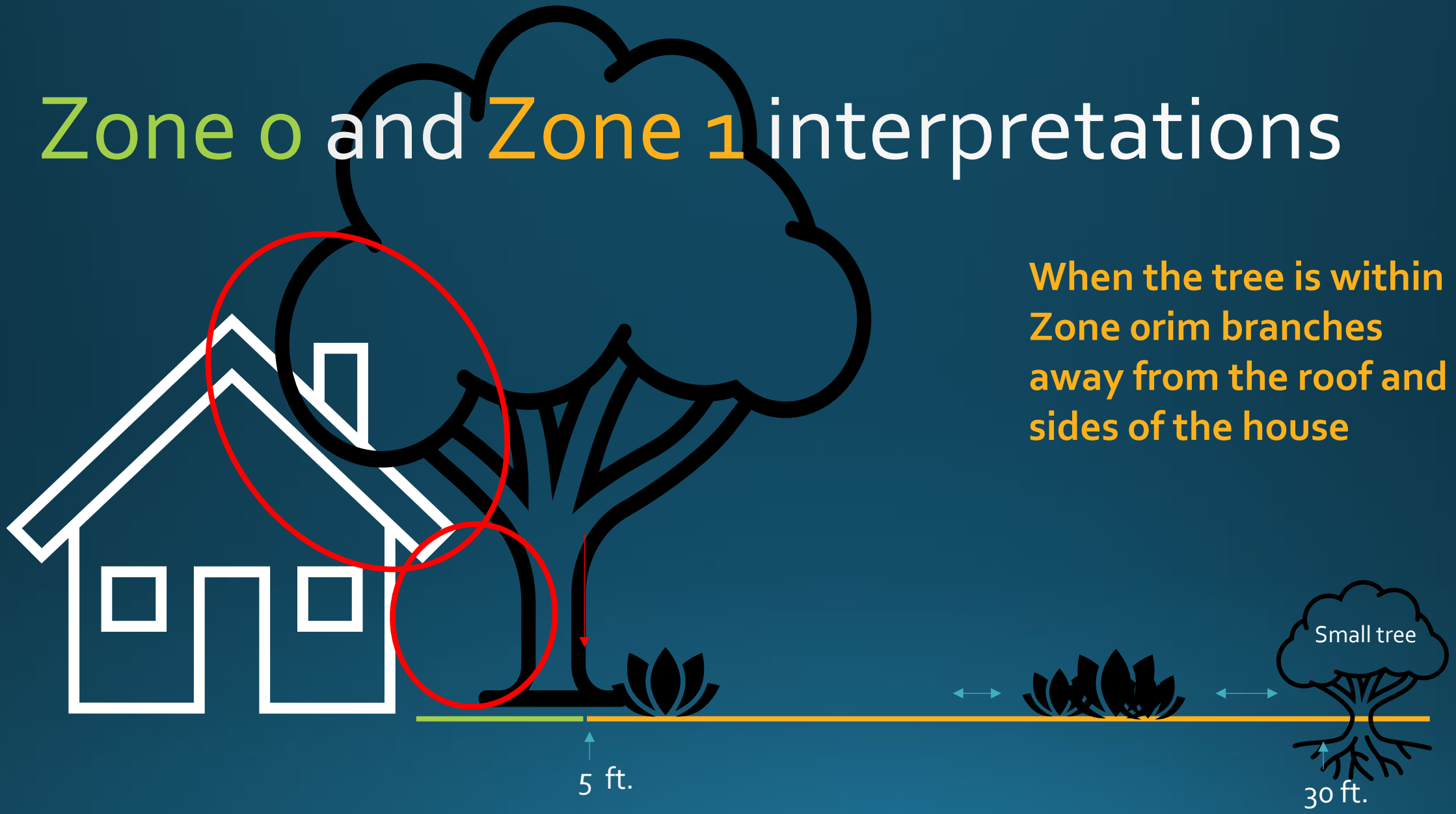

Difficult to assess


Ok

Zone 0 and Zone 1 interpretations



Zone 0 and Zone 1 interpretations



When the tree is within Zone orim branches away from the roof and sides of the house

Radeloff, V. C., Mockrin, M. H., Helmers, D., Carlson, A., Hawbaker, T. J., Martinuzzi, S., Schug, F., Alexandre, P. M., Kra

More homes burn in grasslands/shrubs than forests

More houses are burned in grasslands/shrubs (64%) than forests (33%) in the United States (using 1990-2020 data).

Radeloff, V. C., Mockrin, M. H., Helmers, D., Carlson, A., Hawbaker, T. J., Martinuzzi, S., Schug, F., Alexandre, P. M., Kramer, H. A., & Pidgeon, A. M. (2023). Rising wildfire risk to houses in the United States, especially in grasslands and shrublands. Science. https://doi.org/ade9223

Forest fire paradigm drives interpretation

Green= forest
Grey= mixed
Orange= shrub
Yellow= grass

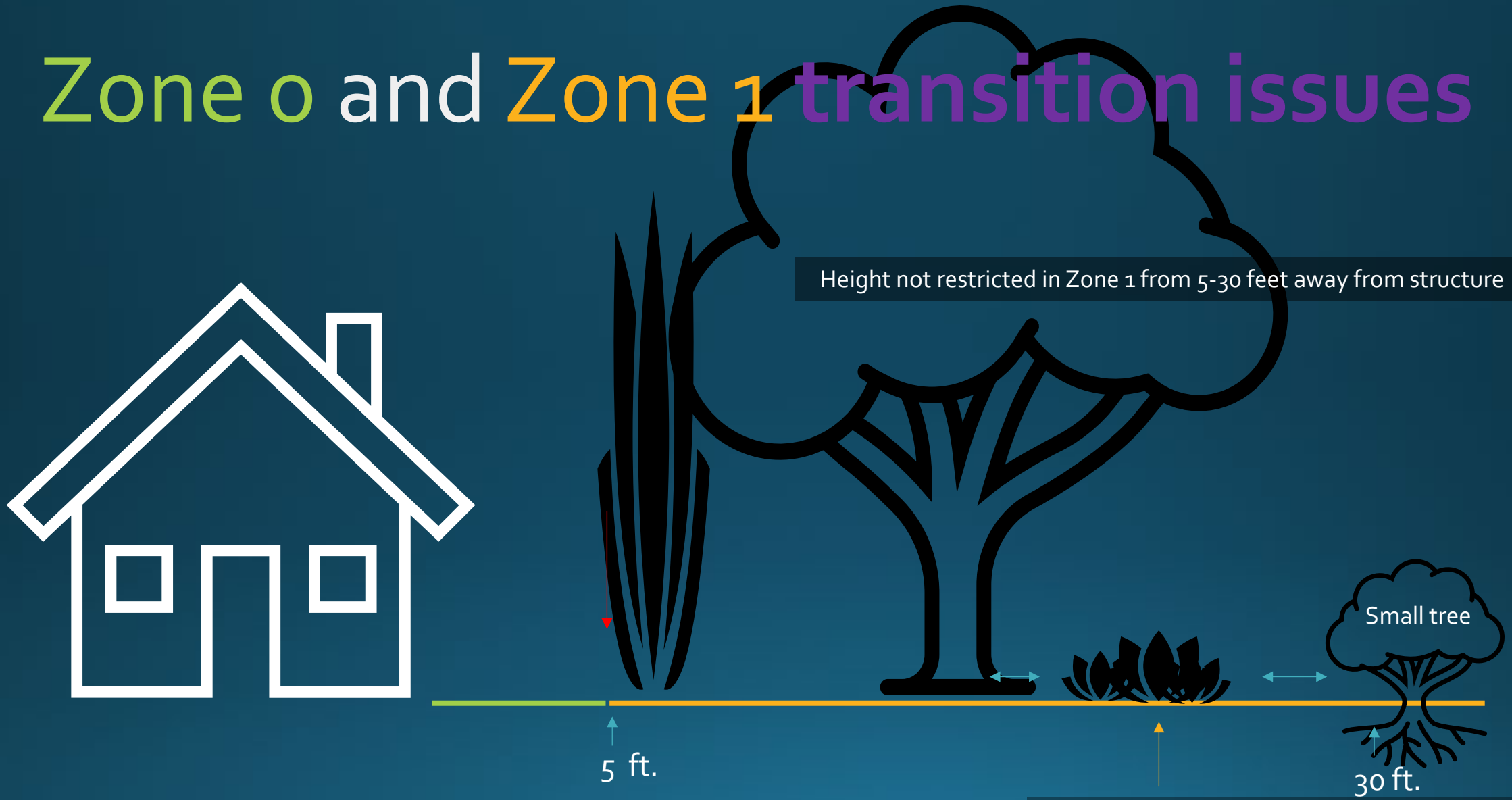
Rank	Name	structures	type of fire	Year	County	acres
1	Camp	18,804	forest	2018	Butte	153,336
2	Eaton	9,418	Shrub	2025	Los Angeles	14,021
3	Palisades	6,837	shrub	2025	Los Angeles	23,707
4	Tubbs	5643	mixed	2017	Napa, Sonoma	36807
5	Tunnel	2900	shrub/grass	1991	Alameda	1600
6	Cedar	2820	shrub	2003	San Diego	273246
7	North Complex	2352	forest	2000	Plumas, Butte	318935
8	Valley	1955	shrub/grass	2015	Lake, Napa, Sonoma	76067
9	Witch	1650	shrub	2007	San Diego	197990
10	Woolsey	1643	shrub	2018	Ventura, Los Angeles	96949
11	Carr	1614	mixed	2018	Shasta, Trinity	229651
12	Glass	1520	mixed	2020	Napa, Sonoma	67484
13	LNU Lightning Com	1491	mixed	2020	Colusa, Lake, Napa, Sonoma, Solano, Yol	363220
14	CZU Lightning Com	1490	mixed	2020	Santa Cruz, San Mateo	86509
15	Nuns	1355	shrub	2017	Sonoma	54382
16	Dixie	1329	forest	2021	Butte, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, Tehama	963309
17	Thomas	1063	shrub	2017	Ventura, Santa Barbara	281893
18	Caldor	1003	forest	2021	El Dorado, Amador, Alpine	221835
19	Old	1003	shrub	2003	San Bernardino	91281
20	Butte	965	mixed	2015	Amador, Calaveras	70868

Parallel fence

Considerations

- Privacy and property protection is important
- More difficult to implement for existing construction
- Combustible fences directly ignite from embers on a privacy fence, less lightly on a good-neighbor fence.
- Embers ignite adjacent vegetation that can ignite the fence.
- **Solution**: Upgrade upon replacement, the section that is within Zone 0 (excluding other sections outside of Zone 0)

Zone 0 and Zone 1 transition issues



Wood mulch is allowed between islands of vegetation

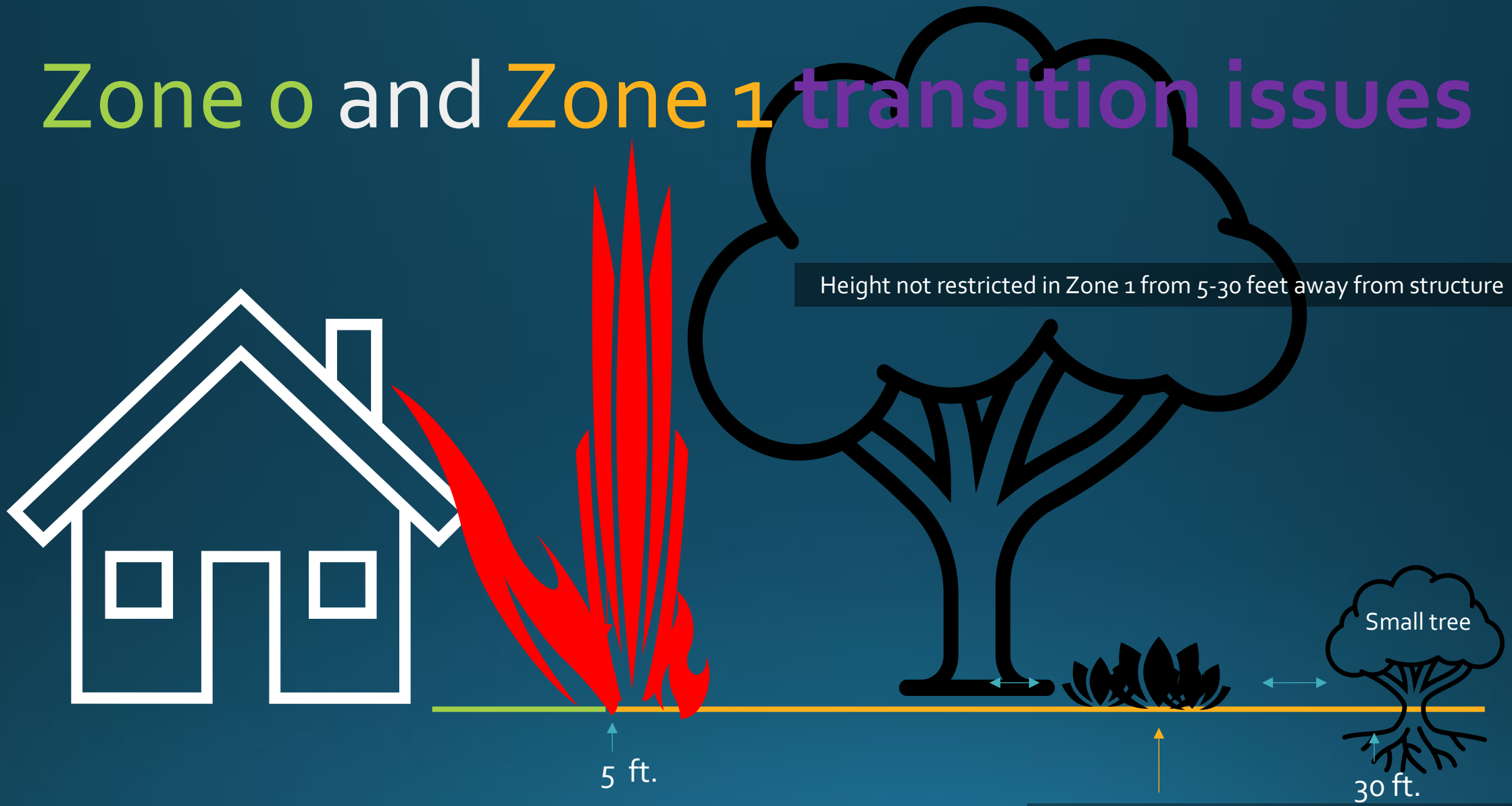
Group vegetation. Use the slope separation guidance with plant height as the standard. Tree is not an island. Islands are similar height vegetation (at their maturity) are allowed up to a 75 ft sq

Zone 0 and Zone 1 transition issues

Wood mulch is allowed between islands of vegetation

Group vegetation. Use the slope separation guidance with plant height as the standard. Tree is not an island. Islands are similar height vegetation (at their maturity) are allowed up to a 75 ft sq

Zone 0 and Zone 1 transition issues



Wood mulch is allowed between islands of vegetation

Group vegetation. Use the slope separation guidance with plant height as the standard. Tree is not an island. Islands are similar height vegetation (at their maturity) are allowed up to a 75 ft sq

Images courtesy of the Insurance Institute for Busines and Home Safety.


insurance
fuel
risk
trees
fire
Zone
mitigation
0
balance
control
change
policy
adaptation

Zone 1- 5-30’ Current Standard

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Relocate wood piles to Zone 2.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks, balconies and stairs
- 10 feet of bare mineral soil around outbuildings plus 10 additional feet of no vegetation

Zone 1- 5-30’ Phase 2 Workgroup Recommendations

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, ~~roof and rain gutters~~
- ~~Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.~~ *Remove branches 10 feet from roof or chimney.*
- ~~Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows~~
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Relocate wood piles to Zone 2.
- ~~Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks, balconies and stairs~~
- ~~10 feet of bare mineral soil around outbuildings plus 10 additional feet of no vegetation~~ *Use Zone 0 standards*

~~Orange~~: Move to Zone o
Yellow: Improved language

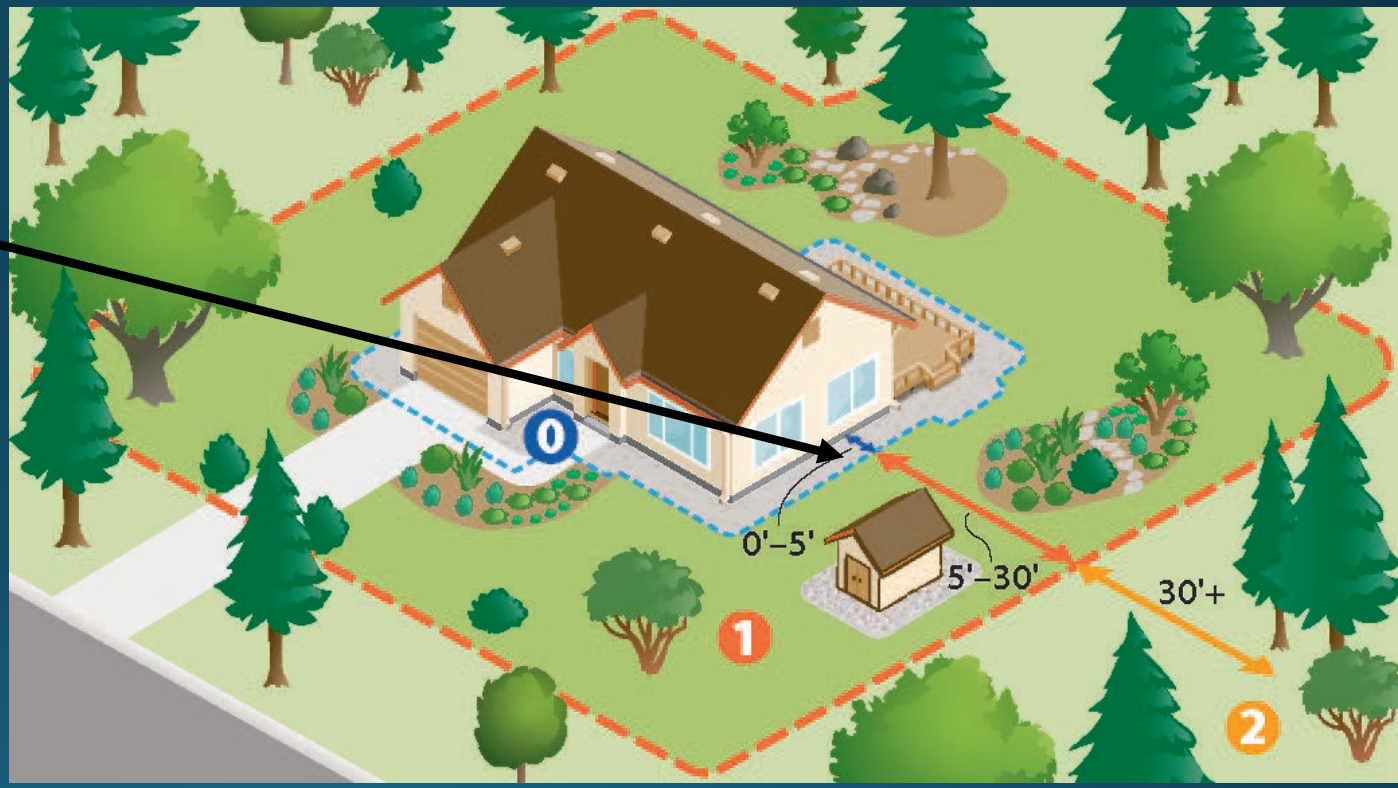
Zone 1- 5-30’ Recommendations

Additional Considerations

- Transition from Zone 0- Zone 1
- Islanding or vegetation grouping
- Live lawn or annual grass height
- Wood mulch

Recommended approach

- **Wood mulch-** is allowable in Zone 1 if there is a transition from Zone 0- Zone 1 and vegetation is grouped
- Create discontinuity/separation between islands of vegetation, in adjacency to Zone 0, and in relation to wooden structures is needed.
- Use the plant height separation guidance developed for slopes as the standard.
- **Minimize abrupt transitions between Zone 0 to 1, by limiting vegetation height to a max of two feet for an additional 5 feet**
- Cut and maintain live grasses to 4” when not in a decorative island



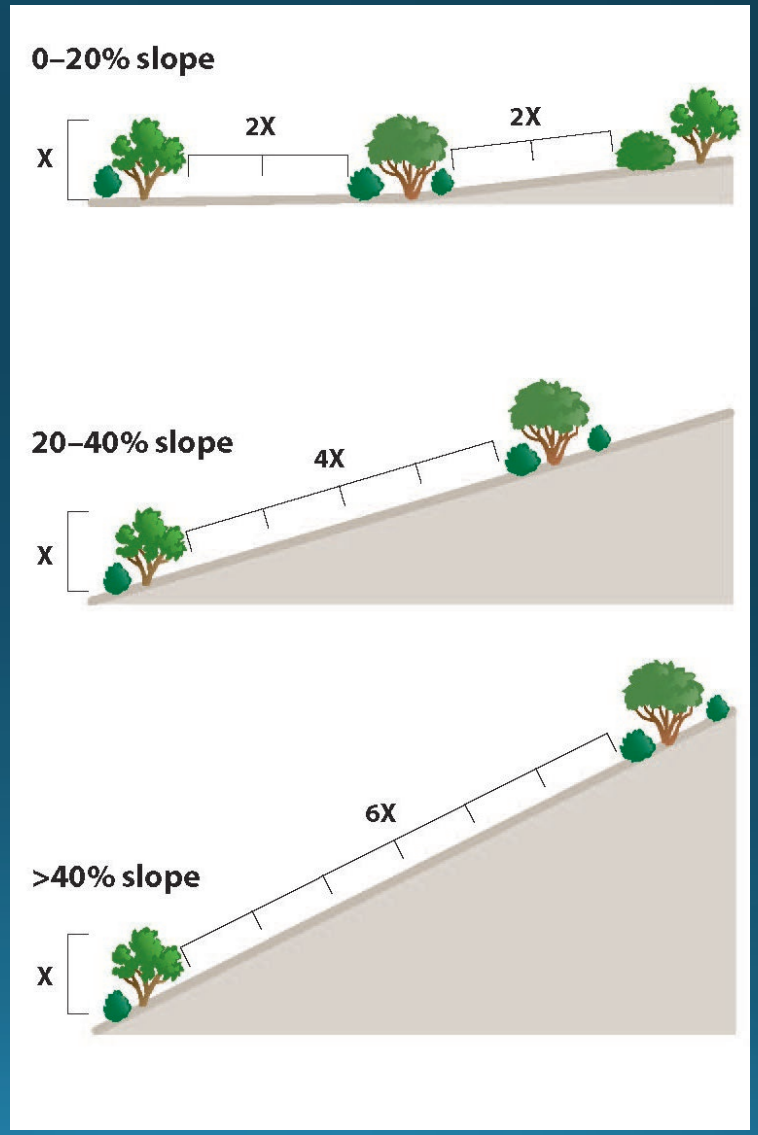
Zone 1- 5-30’ Recommendations

Additional Considerations

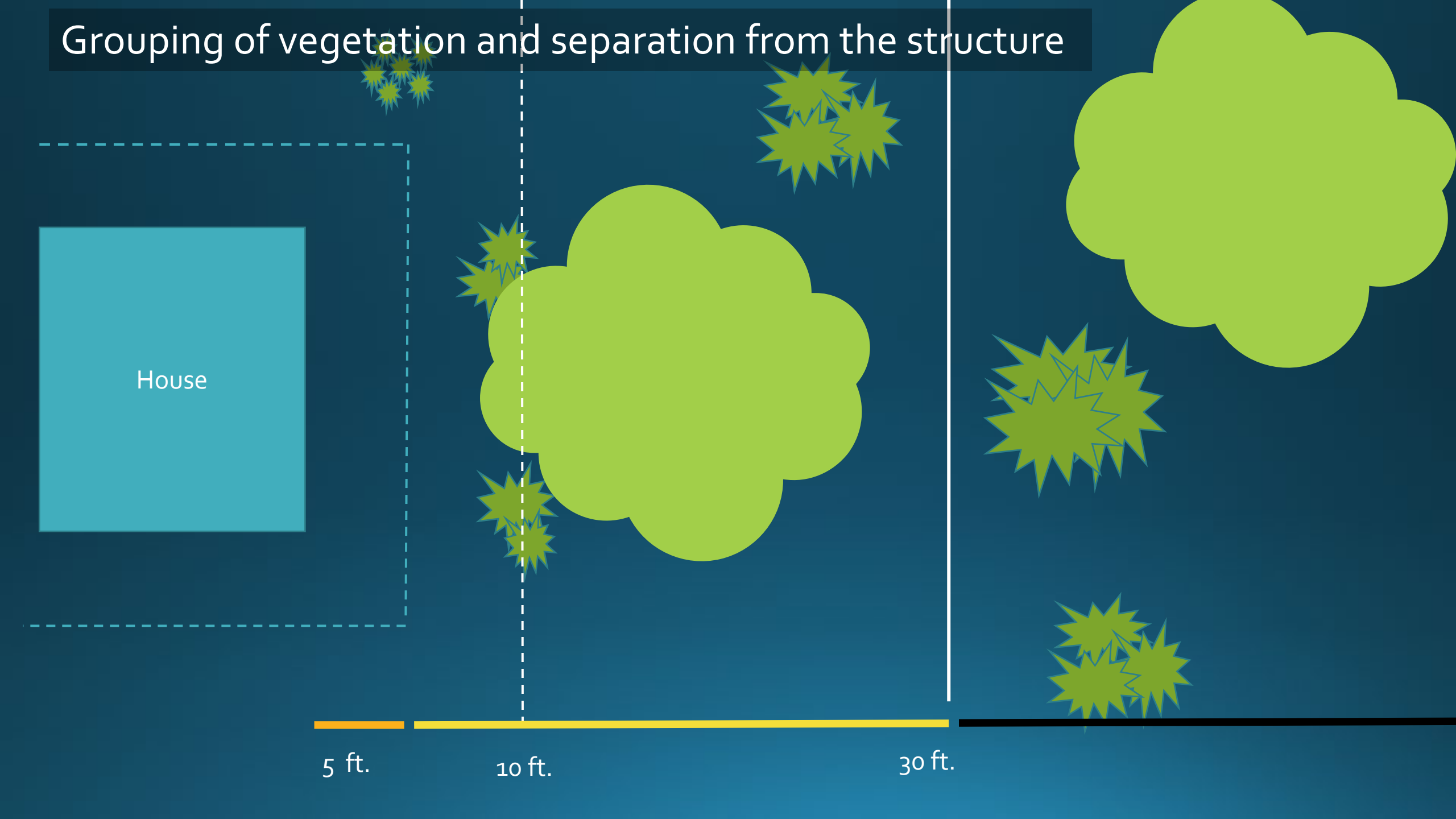
- Wood mulch
- Transition from Zone 0- Zone 1
- Islanding or vegetation grouping
- Live lawn or annual grass height

Recommended approach

- **Wood mulch-** is allowable in Zone 1 if there is a transition from Zone 0- Zone 1 and vegetation is grouped
- Create discontinuity/separation between islands of vegetation, in adjacency to Zone 0, and in relation to wooden structures is needed.
- Use the plant height separation guidance developed for slopes as the standard for separation of islands of vegetation.
- Minimize abrupt transitions between Zone 0 to 1, by limiting vegetation height to a max of two feet for an additional 5 feet
- Cut and maintain live grasses to 4” when not in a decorative island



Grouping of vegetation and separation from the structure



Purpose- Zone 2

Zone 2 is the 30-100' perimeter of the building and attached decks, or to the edge of the property line

Zone 2 actions are designed to reduce the potential behavior of an oncoming fire in such a way as to drop an approaching fire from the crown to the ground.

Fuel modification includes removing dead vegetation and reducing living vegetation to **eliminate fuel ladders and create vegetation separation** between individual or islands of trees or shrubs.

These vegetation modification requirements are more significant for those properties with **steeper terrain, larger and denser fuels, highly volatile fuels, and areas subject to frequent fires**.

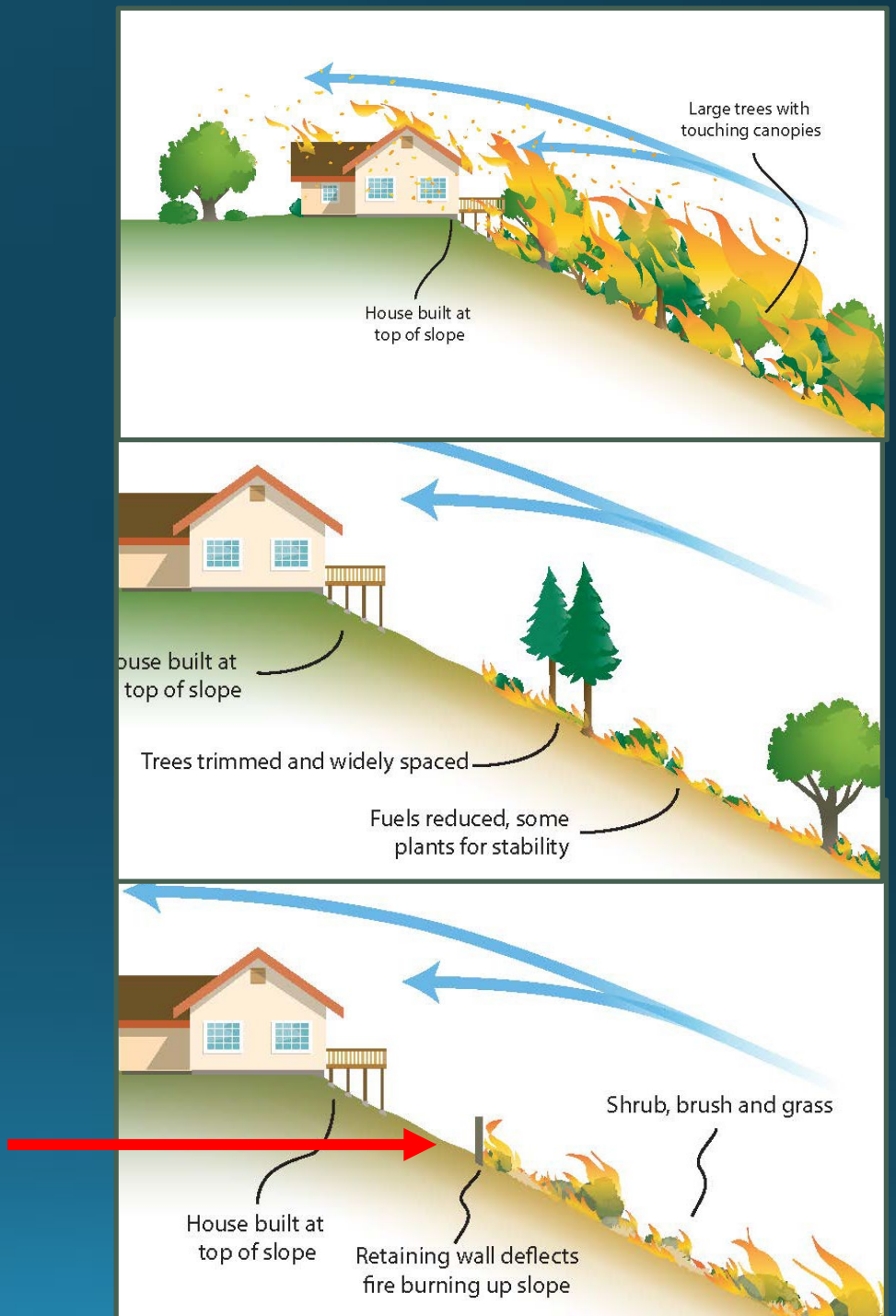
Additional **benefits** of the Zone 2 include facilitating direct defense actions, improving the function of Zones 0 and 1 by reducing the flame heights, and the potential for ember generation and radiant heat exposure to structures.

Zone 2- 30-100’

Current Standard

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs, and trees.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 3 inches.
- All exposed wood piles must have a minimum of 10 feet of clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.

Recommendations:
In cases of construction on a **slope**, in a shrub or grass vegetation type, recommend the use of **noncombustible retaining wall** down-slope of building



Phase 1 workgroup recommendations

Not recommended

- Covered storage facilities (0/7)
- Potted plants- combustible pot (0/7)
- Gate or fence that attaches to the building (0/7)
- Landscape materials (1/7)
- Synthetic lawn (1/7)
- Decorative structures (1/7)

Allowable

- Rock, pavers, statuary, fountains, cement (7/7)
- Mature tree (7/7)
- Parallel fence (7/7)
- Irrigated and mowed lawn (5/7)
- Irrigated, non-woody plants(5/7)
- Potted plants- noncombustible pot (5/7)

Educational Approach

- Garbage, recycling receptacles
- Vehicles
- HVAC, heat pumps
- Outdoor kitchens
- Attached patio covers
- Portable BBQs
- Pet and animal structures

Legend: Workgroup votes tallied (7 members voted)

Highest standard

No combustibles (vegetation, mulch, wooden structures) and no trees

Allowances (7 of 7)

- Rock or other noncombustible mulch product (i.e., gravel, lava, decomposed granite)
- Statuary, fountain
- Attached decks and stairs
- Cement or stone pavers

Benefits

- Reduces the potential damage from ember deposition (and ignition) creating the potential for direct flame contact, and radiant heat exposure to the structure within the first 5 feet.

Considerations

- Reduces need for interpretation from the D-space inspector or Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)
- Easiest to maintain
- Retrofitting (existing buildings) will be more costly than implementing for new construction.
- Easier to implement with new construction
- Implementation more difficult for buildings built on a slope.

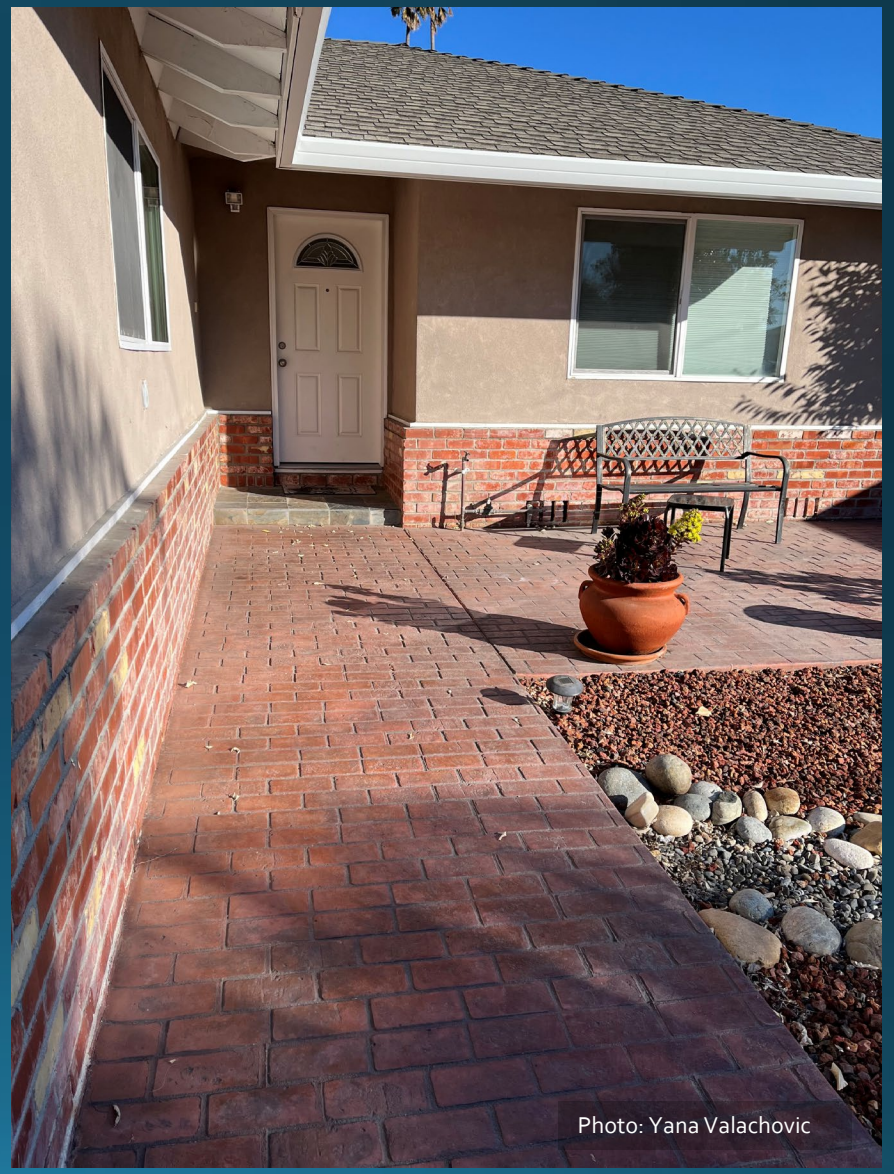


Photo: Yana Valachovic

Synthetic lawn- No

(1 of 7 supported this allowance)

Considerations

- Petroleum-based product.
- IBHS experiments suggest smoldering ignition. A NIST study suggested significant BTU production and flame heights.
- Combustible materials may accumulate on the surface. Ignition would result in a flaming exposure.
- Hazard does not change seasonally
- SYNLawn has met ASTM E 108 Class A in a roofing application. How would an inspector know the product rating?
- The vertical noncombustible zone could be helpful for an allowance

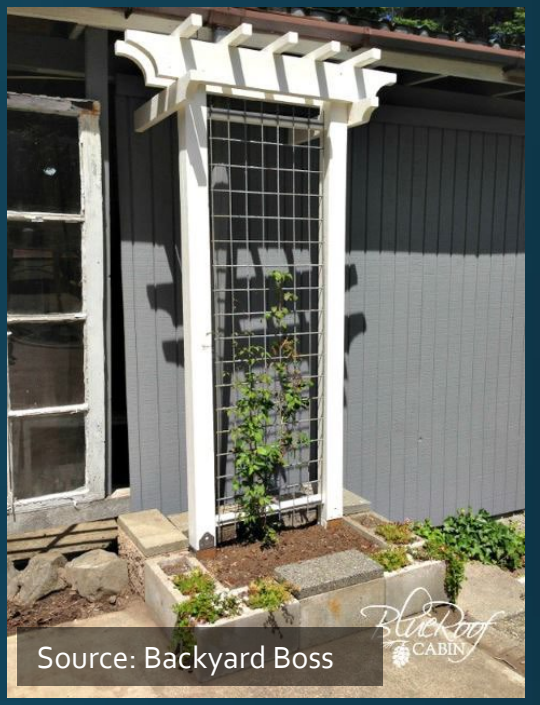
Combustible decorative structure- No

Trellis, pergola, shade covering, planters, privacy wall, etc.

If these structures are a part of the deck, they would not be evaluated; however, the vegetation would be evaluated.

(1 of 7 supported this allowance)


Source: Pinterst


Source: Backyard Boss

Considerations

- Will help with public support
- Depending on the dimensions of the combustible materials and arrangement, these structures may compromise the fire protection benefits.
- These structures weather, vulnerability increases over time.
- Structures on decks are often unpermitted and added later.

Attached fence or gate-No

Combustible attachment

(0 of 7 supported this allowance)

Considerations

- A combustible fence can transmit fire to the home via an attached gate.
- The gate can be replaced using noncombustible materials.
- Perpendicular attachment is the concern.

Boulder, Marshall Fire 2021

Coffey Park, Tubbs Fire 2017

Photo from an experiment at IBHS where combustible mulch ignited a wood fence.

The metal gate and rock mulch in Zone Zero prevented the fire from spreading to the building.

Storage structures-No

Not built to 7A standards

(0 of 7 supported this allowance)

Considerations

—Helps with public support

—Difficult to implement

—If made of ignition-resistant material or ignition-resistant construction, could these be allowable?

Landscape materials-No

Woody mulch, combustible boards (0 of 7 supported this allowance)

Considerations

—Wood mulch is highly flammable

—Wood or petroleum-based boards are the concern; some can be made of metal or cement.

—Used to separate garden beds and their placement can lead to the house or follow fence lines

—The concern is especially when in contact with the house in Zone 0

Source: Southwestern Garden Supplies

Photo: Yana Valachovic

Fire burned under the stucco wall

Landscape materials-No

Lumber or round logs, railroad ties, creosote-treated, pressure-treated

(1 of 7 supported this allowance)

Considerations

—Always combustible

—Used as retaining walls

—Fences are often adjacent

—Logs can be used to make garden bed separation or create height

—Can be buried

Marshall Fire 2021

Potted plants, combustible pot-No

Wine barrel, wood pot, plastic

(0 of 7 supported this allowance)

Considerations

—What plant?

—Maintained?

—Irrigated?

—Near to window?


Source: Stuff.co.nz


Source: Ana White Tall Wood Planters


Source: Russet Street Reno


Source: Interior Design Ideas

Phase 1 workgroup recommendations

Not recommended

- Covered storage facilities (0/7)
- Potted plants- combustible pot (0/7)
- Gate or fence that attaches to the building (0/7)
- Landscape materials (1/7)
- Synthetic lawn (1/7)
- Decorative structures (1/7)

Allowable

- Rock, pavers, statuary, fountains, cement (7/7)
- Mature tree (7/7)
- Parallel fence (7/7)
- Irrigated and mowed lawn (5/7)
- Irrigated, non-woody plants(5/7)
- Potted plants- noncombustible pot (5/7)

Educational Approach

- Garbage, recycling receptacles
- Vehicles
- HVAC, heat pumps
- Outdoor kitchens
- Attached patio covers
- Portable BBQs
- Pet and animal structures

Legend: Workgroup votes tallied (7 members voted)

Maintained grass

Yes, if:

Max height 2-3 inches

(5 of 7 supported this allowance)

Considerations

- May help in gaining public support.
- Thatch can burn under certain conditions.
- Homeowner practices vary, and this requires sufficient water to maintain grass during dry conditions (including drought).
- Grass is a one-hour fuel
- Without water, plant conditions change quickly.
- The vertical noncombustible zone could be helpful for the allowance of a mowed and dry lawn.

Irrigated, non-woody, herbaceous plantings, separated- Yes, if:

All ground cover (< 3" in height) and plants (< 16" in height) shall be minimally set back from structures, decks, and other plants 1.5 times the height of the plant or 12-inches, whichever is greater. Ground covers and plants shall have high water content. No combustible mulch.

(5 of 7 supported this allowance)

Source: High Country Gardens

Considerations

- Will help with public support
- The more vegetation allowed in Zone 0, the more likely the fire protection benefits will be compromised.
- Plants shed leaves and will require ongoing maintenance.
- Noncombustible mulch could be between plantings.
- This green vegetation can catch leaves, needles, and other debris, allowing for unanticipated accumulations of combustibles.
- Note that the vertical zone may need to increase in height if these combustibles are allowable.
- Succulents could be difficult to evaluate as many thatch and can be woody (e.g., ice plant is woody)

Source: South Bay Creek Gardens

Potted plants, noncombustible pot

Yes, if:

- ✓**Ceramic, metal, cement**
- ✓**Two ft max vegetation height**

(5 of 7 supported this allowance)

Considerations

—What plant?

—Maintained? Irrigated?

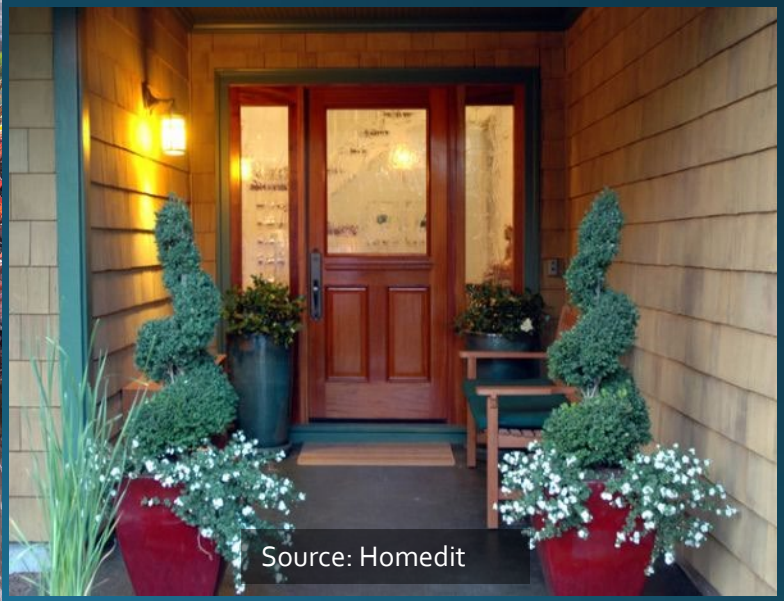
—How many pots?

—Near to window?

—Near to combustible siding?


Source: American Meadow


Note pot and windowpane crack, Carr Fire (2018)


Source: Homedit

Use an educational strategy for:

- ✓Garbage, recycling receptacles
- ✓Vehicles
- ✓HVAC, heat pumps
- ✓Outdoor kitchens
- ✓Attached patio covers
- ✓Portable BBQs
- ✓Pet and animal structures

Phase 1 workgroup recommendations

Not recommended

- Covered storage facilities (0/7)
- Potted plants- combustible pot (0/7)
- Gate or fence that attaches to the building (0/7)
- Landscape materials (1/7)
- Synthetic lawn (1/7)
- Decorative structures (1/7)

Allowable

- Rock, pavers, statuary, fountains, cement (7/7)
- Mature tree (7/7)
- Parallel fence (7/7)
- Irrigated and mowed lawn (5/7)
- Irrigated, non-woody plants(5/7)
- Potted plants- noncombustible pot (5/7)

Educational Approach

- Garbage, recycling receptacles
- Vehicles
- HVAC, heat pumps
- Outdoor kitchens
- Attached patio covers
- Portable BBQs
- Pet and animal structures

Legend: Workgroup votes tallied (7 members voted)

Phase 2 workgroup recommendations (June 2, 2022)

= change from May

Not recommended

- Combustible mulch (1/25)
- Covered storage facilities (not 7A) (2/25)
- Gate or fence that attaches to the building (2/25)
- Landscape materials (2/25)
- Synthetic lawn (4/25)
- Potted plants- combustible pot (5/25)
- Privacy hedge (5/25)
- Window boxes (5/25)
- Decorative structures (11/25)

Allowable

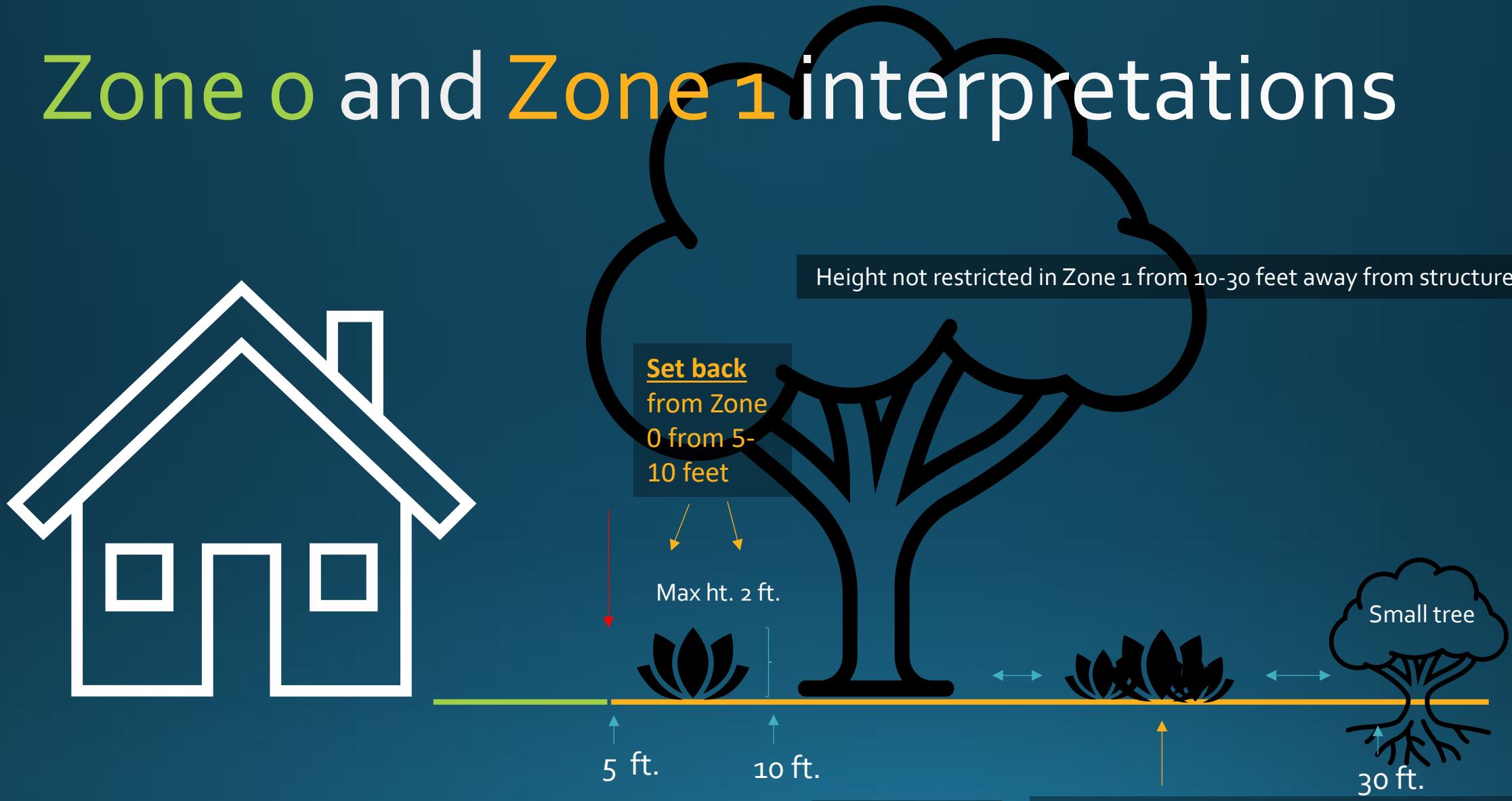
- Mature tree (24/25)
- Potted plants- noncombustible pot (20/25)
- Covered storage facilities (7A) (19/25)
- Irrigated and mowed lawn (16/25)
- Irrigated, non-woody plants(15/25)
- Parallel fence (13/25)

Educational Approach

- * Garbage, recycling receptacles (13/25)
- Vehicles
- HVAC, heat pumps
- * Outdoor kitchens (20/25)
- * Attached patio covers (19/25)
- Portable BBQs
- * Pet and animal structures (8/25)

Legend: Workgroup votes tallied (25 members voted)

Zone 0 and Zone 1 interpretations



Wood mulch is allowed between islands of vegetation

Group vegetation. Use the slope separation guidance with plant height as the standard. Tree is not an island. Islands are similar height vegetation (at their maturity) are allowed up to a 75 ft sq

Going forward

- Zone 0's economic analysis needs direction on expensive items ASAP
  - Trees, fences, gates
- Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good
- Establishes minimum standards for California's SRA and LRA VHFHZ; locals can increase the local standard
- Adoption will take time, but we need to start to move towards a more fire-resilient built environment. AB 38 disclosures will have an effect.
- Need everyone to share how to balance fire protection, insurability, and aesthetics
- **Public comments:** I can live with this, understand the vulnerability, and offer constructive feedback for improvements.
- The same standards for new and existing, though existing, get a 3-year phase-in.

Purpose- Zone 1

Zone 1 is the 5-30’ perimeter of the building and attached decks

Zone 1 reduces the likelihood of fire burning directly to the structure.

This is accomplished by modifying fuels and creating a discontinuity between planting groups that limits the pathways for fire to burn to the structure and reduces the potential for near-to-building ember generation and radiant heat exposures.

An additional purpose of this zone is to provide a **defendable zone** for fire personnel to stage and take direct action

Transition Examples

Images courtesy of the Insurance Institute for Busines and Home Safety.