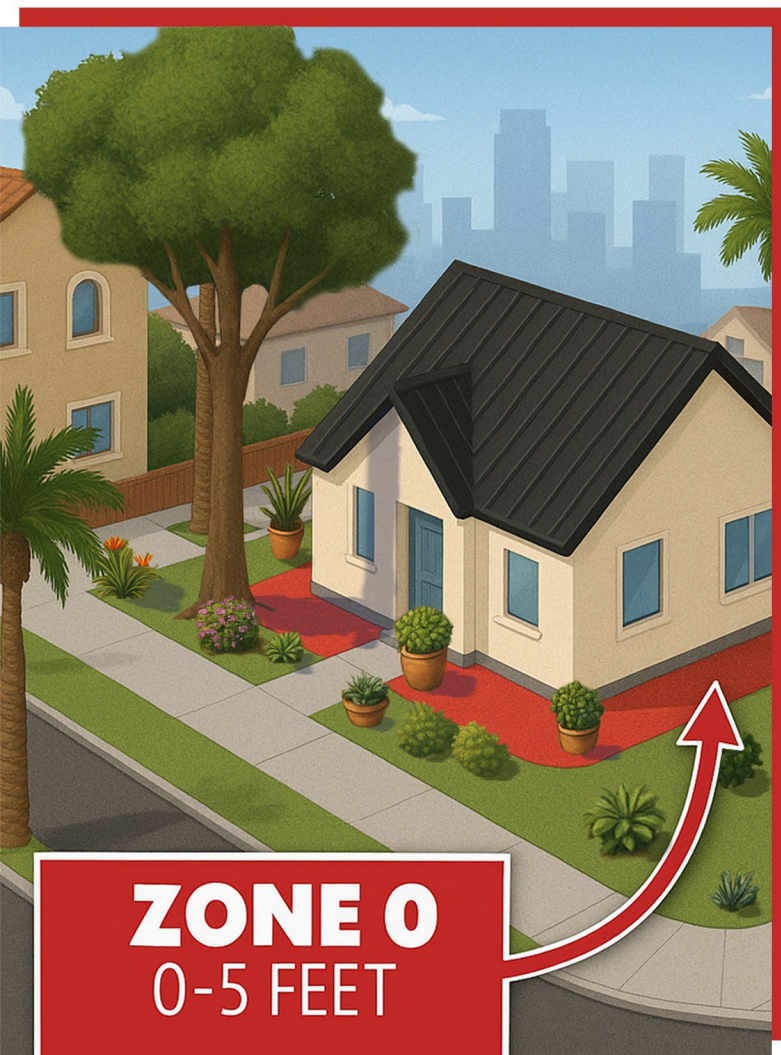


ZONE 0 AT-A-GLANCE



Wind-driven embers during wildfires are a leading cause of homes being destroyed, including in the 2025 Los Angeles fires. Californians can protect their homes by removing items that can ignite from these dangerous embers around the first five feet of their homes.

In 2021 state leaders passed a law that requires statewide guidelines that protect the area immediately adjacent to homes, which is known as “Zone 0”. Since then, several cities have already adopted Zone 0 requirements on their own and the California Department of Insurance has established the Safer from Wildfires Program to enable home insurance discounts for implementation of these protective measures.



Zone 0 is the first five feet surrounding your home, decks, and attached structures. This area is called the ember-resistant zone and is critical to wildfire defense. The goal is simple: keep this zone completely free of combustible materials so embers or flames cannot ignite your home.

ZONE 0 GUIDELINES

- Use pavers, concrete, or other hardscape materials instead of combustible mulch.
- Clear dead weeds, grass, and debris; check roofs, gutters, and outdoor areas.
Keep branches trimmed 10 feet away from chimneys and stovepipes.
- Minimize combustible items like furniture and planters on decks.
- Move firewood and lumber to Zone 2 for safety.
- Replace combustible fencing and gates with fire-resistant materials.
Shift garbage and recycling containers to a safer area outside this zone.
- Relocate boats, RVs, and vehicles away from this zone to reduce fire risks.
- Plants can be added just outside Zone 0 as a way to maintain vegetation around the home.



ZONE 0 AT-A-GLANCE



THE SCIENCE BEHIND ZONE 0

In an ongoing collaboration, CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) continue to conduct live burn demonstrations using a mitigated and nonmitigated structure.

The demonstrations provide a controlled environment to study how specific structural and landscape modifications mitigate wildfire risk, thereby offering data-driven insights into fire behavior and prevention.

Research has concluded that removing flammable materials within the first five feet of a structure prevents embers from starting a fire, greatly reducing the risk of ignition to exterior walls, eaves, and gutters—areas where wildfire embers can easily take hold. Keeping this area clear is one of the best protection measures you can take to protect your home.



- **Zone 0 Landscaping** – Non-mitigated home had wood mulch, plants, and a wooden fence within five feet, acting as a wick for flames. The mitigated home used gravel, hardscaping, and a metal fence, removing fuel for embers.
- **Vents** – Standard vents let embers enter and ignite the attic. Ember-resistant vents on the mitigated home blocked them.
- **Siding** – Flammable siding to the ground allowed flames to climb. The mitigated home used noncombustible material at the base.
- **Gutters** – Debris-filled plastic gutters fueled ember ignition. The mitigated home had clean metal gutters with noncombustible gutter guards to prevent debris accumulation.
- **Furniture** – Flammable outdoor furniture on the non-mitigated home ignited from embers. The mitigated home used noncombustible furniture, preventing ignition.

MORE RESOURCES: [LINKTR.EE/CALFIREZONE0](https://linktr.ee/calfirezone0)
SCIENCE, VIDEOS, AND MORE...

