

# 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. You can protect your home by removing items that can ignite from these dangerous embers around the first five feet of your home.

In 2021 state leaders passed a law that requires statewide guidelines that protect the area immediately adjacent to homes, which is known as “Zone Zero.” Since then, several cities have already adopted Zone Zero 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 GUIDELINES

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is working with CAL FIRE and local communities to develop specific Zone Zero requirements to implement this state law.

- Requirements apply to homes, apartments and commercial buildings in communities that are in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Area and in the State Responsibility Area.
- Building owners will have three years to phase-in changes to meet Zone Zero requirements.

### Zone Zero Draft Guidelines

- Allows plants in pots, just not near windows, glass and vents.
- Trees are allowed as long as they are taller than the roofline, and branches are away from the siding and roof.
- Materials that can catch fire from embers must be excluded from within five feet of a building, including grass, shrubs, mulches, and decor. Wooden gates or fences cannot be attached to buildings.





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## THE SCIENCE BEHIND ZONE ZERO

Working alongside partners like the Institute of Business and Home Safety (IBHS), the Office of the State Fire Marshal has collaborated on scientific studies that show Zone Zero works.

Findings have 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.



As part of its effort to reduce wildfire-caused building ignitions in vulnerable communities, IBHS Research Center developed the ability to simulate ember exposure on building components to better understand how structures ignite.

## HELPING COMMUNITIES IMPLEMENT ZONE ZERO

- Educating homeowners and residents is the best way to create buy in and compliance and the tool most used by CAL FIRE and fire departments.
- New building construction will require Zone Zero compliance as soon as the regulations are adopted, but for existing buildings enforcement is proposed to phase in over three years.
- A financial assistance program will help vulnerable Californians implement Zone Zero, while all communities are eligible for the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program which can also fund Zone Zero education and support.

**MORE RESOURCES: [LINKTR.EE/CALFIREZONE0](https://linktr.ee/calfirezone0)**   
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