



City of Arcadia

Fire Department

Chen Suen
Fire Chief

Dear Homeowner:

The recent wildfires in our area have served as a serious reminder of the hazards they pose to our community. Proper property maintenance is a key component in protecting our lives and homes from these hazards. Your property is currently in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). The VHFHSZ is determined by geographic location, vegetative fuel loads, topography, climatic conditions, and historic fire experience.

Attached you will find information regarding emergency preparedness, defensible space, and home hardening guidelines for the VHFHSZ. Please note that all construction requirements for the VHFHSZ apply only to *new construction*. You will not be required to modify your existing home unless you apply for a building permit for a remodel/addition.

In addition, the Arcadia Fire Department would like you to be aware of upcoming changes in California regulations concerning the VHFHSZ. Assembly Bill 3074 (Chaptered September 2020) will create a new defensible space termed "Zone 0". This new State regulation for Zone 0, currently under development by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, is scheduled to take effect in late 2025 for all **new** buildings, and one (1) year thereafter, for all **existing** buildings. Zone 0 is the horizontal area within the first five feet around the structure, outbuildings, attached decks, and stairs. Though guidelines for the requirements of this zone are still in development, the intent is to create a non-combustible area around the structure that will prevent fire embers entering through openings such as windows or attic vents.

Vegetation clearance requirements are mandatory and shall be kept year-round. Your property may be inspected by the Arcadia Fire Department on an annual basis to ensure proper vegetation clearances are maintained. These inspections typically begin May 1st each year.

In an effort to increase efficiency and decrease costs, the Fire Department has implemented a paperless program that will allow us to send you important information via e-mail. **If you are interested in receiving notices by this method, please send us your name, e-mail address and your property address to FirePrevention@ArcadiaCA.gov.** Your e-mail address will remain confidential and will only be used for Fire Department correspondence.

We thank you for your efforts in keeping our community safe from wildfires. Please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (626) 574-5104 should you have any questions and visit www.ArcadiaCa.gov for updates.

Thank you,

Mark Krikorian, PE, CFM
Fire Marshal



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