#### COMMUNITY WILDFIRE MITIGATION



OBJECTIVE: TO REDUCE THE DESTRUCTIVE IMPACTS
OF WILDLAND FIRES IN ORANGE COUNTY



### CRANGE COUNTY FIRE HISTORY



LAGUNA FIRE

October 27, 1993 14,336 acres 347 structures

#### SANTIAGO FIRE

October 21, 2007 28,359 acres 56 structures

#### FREEWAY COMPLEX FIRE

November 15, 2008 30,305 acres 381 structures

#### BLUE RIDGE FIRE

October 26, 2020 13,694 Acres 1 structure



#### SILVERADO FIRE

October 26, 2020
12,466 acres
1 structure

#### CRANGE COUNTY FIRE HISTORY



BOND FIRE

December 3, 2020 6,680 Acres 31 Structures



EMERALD FIRE

February 12, 2022 154 Acres 0 Structures

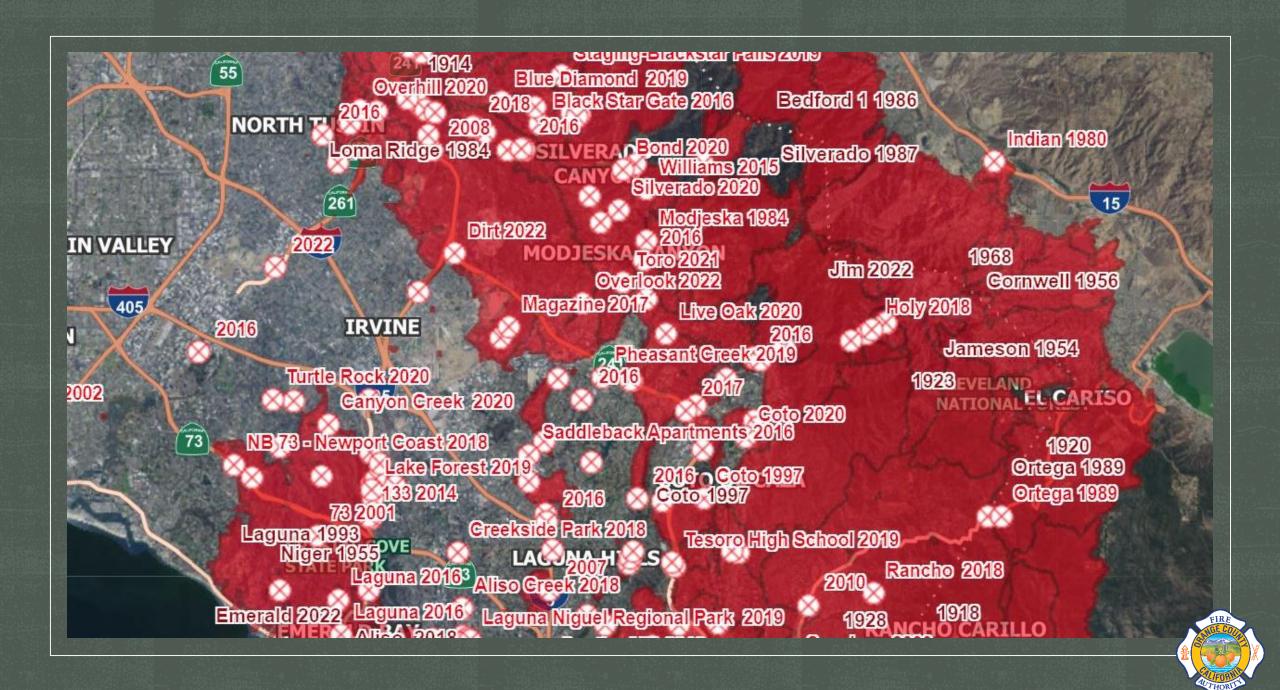


COASTAL FIRE

May 11, 2022 202 Acres 20 Structures

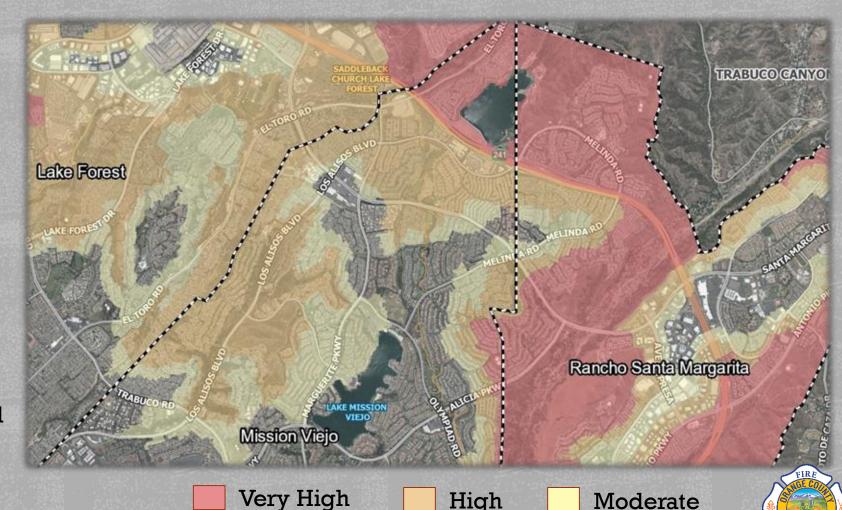
FIRE SEASON IS YEAR ROUND



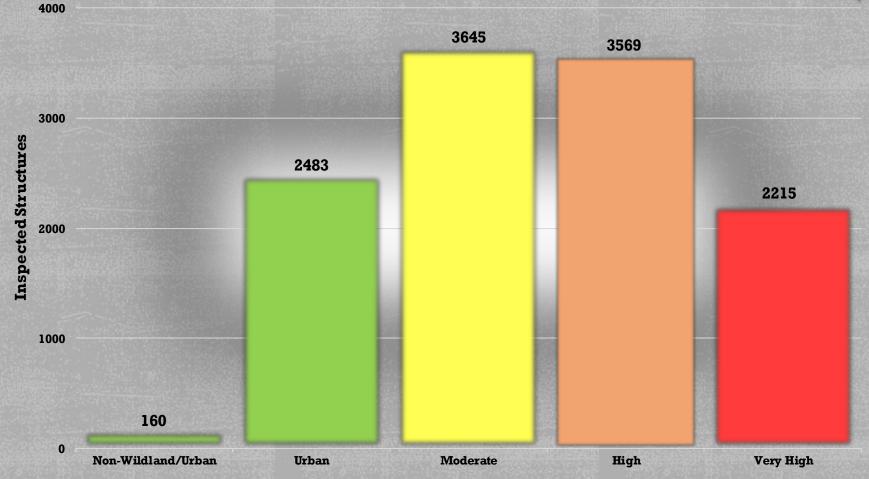


### FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES (FHSZ)

- Developed by CAL FIRE to identify areas where the State of California's defensible space standards and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) building codes are enforced and required.
- Severity zone maps evaluate HAZARD not RISK.
- Maps are developed using the best available science and data involving fire history, vegetation, flame length, blowing embers, proximity to wildland, terrain and weather.



## FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES (FHSZ)



Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Class

Total structures damaged by fire within Fire Hazard Severity Zones  $(1-9\%, 10-25\%, 26-50\%, and\ Destroyed)$ Recorded in 2017



#### LAWS & REGULATIONS

#### Local Responsibility Areas (LRA)

Government Code 51175 - 51189

#### State Responsibility Areas (SRA)

Public Resources Code Section 4125

#### **Defensible Space Disclosure (DSD)**

As of July 1st, 2021

The seller of a property located in a Very
High Fire Hazard Severity Zone is required to
disclose to the buyer, if the property is
compliant with Defensible Space
requirements, or enter into an agreement with
the buyer.

#### **Locally Adopted Codes & Ordinances**

- California Fire Code Chapters 3 & 49
- C-05 Guideline for Fuel Modification
- Vegetation Management Maintenance Guideline for Property Owners
- Defensible Space Guideline for Homeowner Association Interior Slope Areas

#### **Assembly Bill 3074**

As of January 1st, 2023

• New structures constructed in a **Very High**Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall maintain an
ember-resistant zone, known as the
Immediate Zone, 0-5' around a structure.



#### LAWS & REGULATIONS

#### Local Responsibility Areas (LRA)

Government Code 51175 - 51189

#### State Responsibility Areas (SRA)

Public Resources Code Section 4291



#### LAWS & RECULATIONS

#### Locally Adopted Codes & Ordinances

- California Fire Code Chapters 3 & 49
- Guideline C-05: Fuel Modification for New Construction
- Vegetation Management Maintenance Guidelines for Property Owners
- Defensible Space Guidelines for Homeowner Association Interior Slope Areas



#### LAWS & REGULATIONS

#### Defensible Space Disclosure (DSD)

- Effective as of July 1st, 2021 (passed under Assembly Bill 38)
- The seller of a property located in a **Very High** Fire Hazard Severity Zone is required to disclose to the buyer, if the property is compliant with Defensible Space requirements, or enter into an agreement with the buyer.

#### **Immediate Zone**

- Assembly Bill 3074 (CAL FIRE Guidelines)
- New structures constructed in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall maintain an ember-resistant zone, known as the Immediate Zone, 0-5' around a structure.





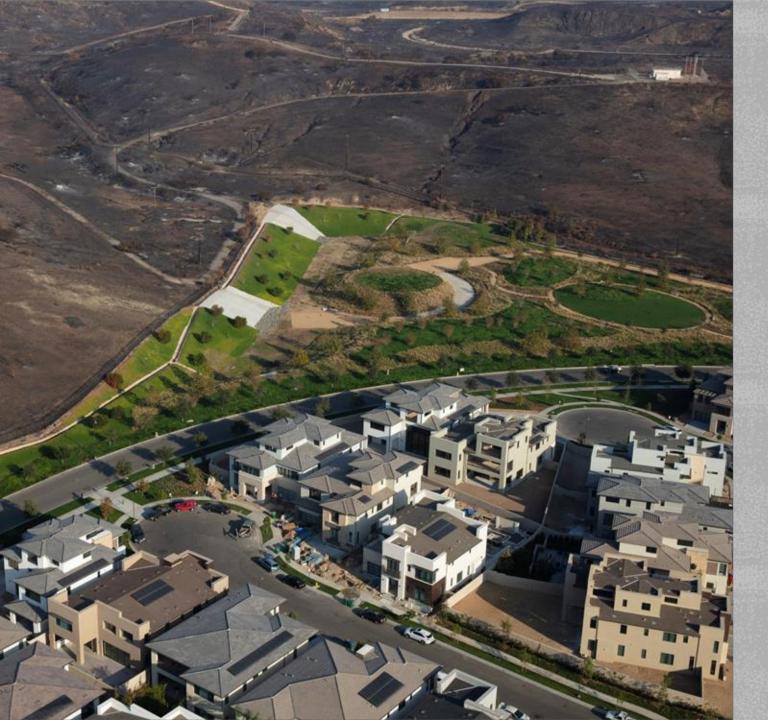












# FUEL MODIFICATION

Planned landscape design that reduces the threat of wildfire, by creating a fire-resistant divider between homes that are adjacent to areas of natural plant life/open space.

An approved plant installation and ongoing vegetation maintenance.

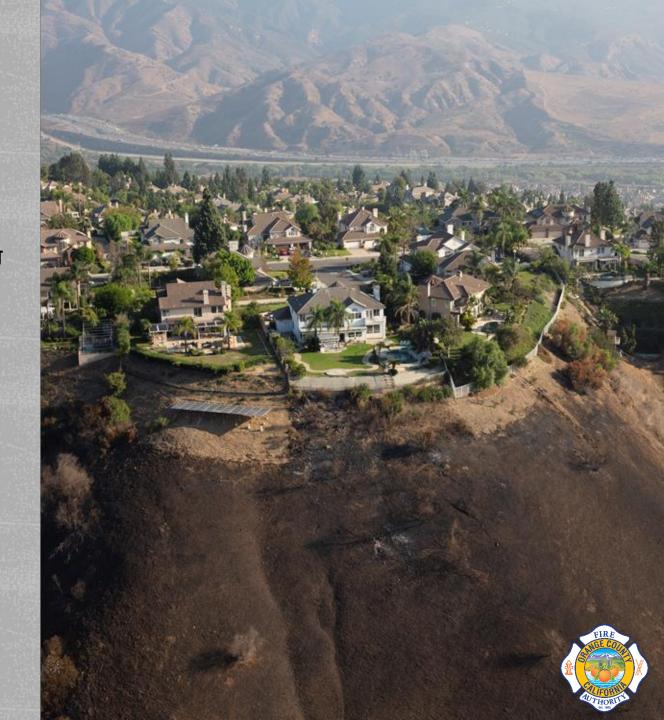
- Slows the spread of a wildfire by reducing the approaching fire's direct flame and radiant heat
- Increases the chances of survival for structures and communities

Provides firefighter access and safety

Vegetation that has been maintained through trimming and separation to slow or stop an oncoming wildfire's threat of producing direct flame content, radiant heat, or ember intrusion.

- Vegetation management within 100' of a structure or to the property line
- Removal of dead and dying plant material
- Horizontal and vertical separation of plant material
- Maintain ground cover below 2' in height
- Maintain weeds and grasses below 4" in height

Reduces chance of ember re-ignition Provides firefighter access and safety



DEAD AND DYING VEGETATION





HORIZONTAL SEPARATION





VERTICAL SEPARATION





GROUND COVER





WEEDS & GRASSES





## IMMEDIATE ZONE



The Immediate Zone is the first **five feet** around a structure

(Assembly Bill 3074)

Reduces the potential ignition of fuels and direct flame contact around a structure from ember exposure.





### HOME HARDENING

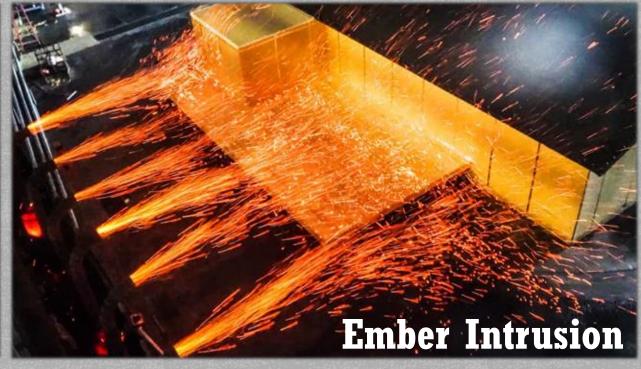
The main objective of Home Hardening is to give your home the best chance to survive a wildfire.

Hardened homes are those homes that **comply and are maintained with** Defensible Space or Fuel
Modification requirements, and who's
exterior components have been **properly maintained**or retrofitted to withstand direct flame, radiant heat,
and ember intrusion.

Homes can be retrofitted to California Building Code Chapter 7A and the California Residential Code R337.









#### HOME HARDENING

Examples of home ignition that can affect a structure during a wildfire:

- Direct Flame Contact
- Radiant Heat
- Ember Instrusion

(Ember intrusion is the leading cause of structure loss)



ROOF

**EAVES** 

**VENTS** 

**GUTTERS** 



PATIO/BALCONIES/DECKS

**DOORS** 

FENCE

### ROOF





### FAVES







#### VENTS







HO

#### CHIMNEYS









#### CUTTERS







#### EXTERIOR SIDING







### DOORS





### WINDOWS



#### FENCES







#### PATIO COVERS





#### BALCONIES & DECKS







#### IMMEDIATE ZONE









# SCHEDULE YOUR HOME ASSESSMENT

www.ocfa.org/RSG/HomeAssessment rsgoc@ocfa.org (714) 573-6774











# THANK YOU

WWW.OCFA.ORG/RSG RSGOC@OCFA.ORG







# EVACUATION PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION



# SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ROLES AND PRIORITIES

- Unified Command with Orange County Fire Authority
- Alert and warning announcements to the public
- Traffic Control
- Evacuation
- Security and protection of evacuated areas
- Safety of all citizens, personnel, and property

# UNIFIED COMMAND WITH OCFA

We work in collaboration with the Orange County Fire Authority when making critical decisions in every emergency situation, such as:

- Estimation of people to be evacuated
- Time available for evacuation
- Distance of travel required to reach safety
- Evacuation routes
- Vulnerability of evacuation routes due to the hazard or threat
- Availability of resources to support evacuation
- Constant communication to prioritize community safety

# PUBLIC ALERT & WARNING

OUR GOAL IS TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC OF AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE, SUCH AS:

- Why
- Who
- Areas
- Consequences
- Estimated Time
- Evacuation Routes and transportation options
- Locations of Transportation Assembly Points

# PUBLIC ALERT & WARNING

### HOW THE PUBLIC IS NOTIFIED:

# INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT & WARNING SYSTEM (IPAWS)

- WEA- Wireless Emergency Alert
- EAS- Emergency Alert System
  - AM, FM, Satellite Radio
  - Digital, analog, cable, and satellite TV

### **ALERTOC**

- Mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents and businesses informed of emergencies.
- Sends time-sensitive voice messages to your home, cell, or business phones.
- Sends text messages to mobile phones, email accounts, and hearing impaired receiving devices.
- Sign-up for alerts:
  - AlertOC.org

SHERIFF'S PATROL VEHICLES ARE EQUIPPEDD WITH A PUBLIC ADDRESS (PA) SYSTEM THAT HAVE A "HI/LO" EVACUATION WARNING.

OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE AIR SUPPORT UNIT.

DEPUTIES GOING DOOR TO DOOR AND ADVISING RESIDENTS.

# TRAFFIC CONTROL

### UNDERSTANDING SOFT & HARD ROAD CLOSURES

### **SOFT ROAD CLOSURES:**

- Typically included in "Evacuation Warnings"
- Limited public access- varies for each incident.
- Purpose is to lighten traffic and keep roads available for first responders, support resources, and residents only.
- When driving to/from your residence, be prepared to provide identification to deputies at soft road closures.

### HARD ROAD CLOSURES:

- Typically included in "Evacuation Orders"
- No public access
- Purpose is to clear the area of the active threat for first responders only and save lives.

# EVACUATION

# UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY EMERGENCY SITUATION IS DIFFERENT AND WILL DICTATE HOW WE RESPOND FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY.

### **SHELTER IN PLACE:**

• Remain where you are, seek cover, and avoid the specific threat

### **EVACUATION WARNING:**

- Voluntary evacuation of specific areas
- Extends the time frame of the evacuation
- Expect "soft road closures"

### **EVACUATION ORDER:**

- Mandatory evacuation of specific areas
- Time-sensitive with the goal of saving lives
- Expect "hard road closures"

# EVACUATION

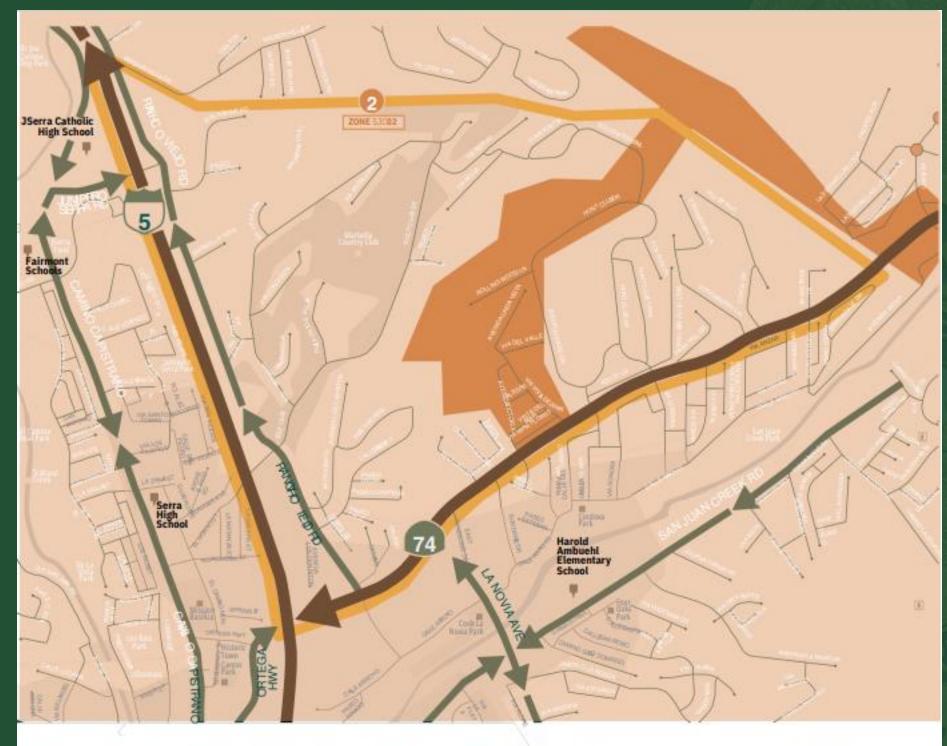
## THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Make a plan with your family ahead of time in case of an emergency.
- Prep emergency kits with water, food, and other essential items.
- Know at least two routes out of your immediate area.
- Before evacuating, close all doors and windows to your residence.
- Assist elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Carpool to reduce traffic and help make evacuations quicker.
- Drive cautiously Be aware of potential road hazards, including emergency vehicles.



# EVACUATION

- Know which evacuation zone applies to you
- Plan ahead and take note of the best evacuation route(s)



Register your mobile phone and email for AlertOC: AlertOC.org

Or text AlertOC to: 888-777

County Emergency Information: www.ocgov.com/emergency





City of San Juan Capistrano

www.sanjuancapistrano.org

Evacuation Routes

Zone Boundary Line

Schools

Fire Severity Zones

VERY HIGH

MODERATE



# EVACUATION

- For a closer look into each zone map, visit and go to: sanjuancapistrano.org
  - Departments
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - **Evacuation Routes**
  - Click "emergency evacuation maps"
- Direct link to SJC Evacuation Zones
  - **Evacuation Zones PDF**
- Evacuation Zone QR Codes





POINT

# PROPERTY PROTECTION

# THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PRIORITIZES THE SECURITY OF EVACUATED RESIDENCES.

- Soft road closures with identification checks to prevent non-residents from entering and possibly burglarizing homes.
- Increased presence of deputies in the area.
- Roving patrol vehicles in evacuated neighborhoods.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### **READYOC.COM**

• Information and tips on how to prepare for natural disasters.

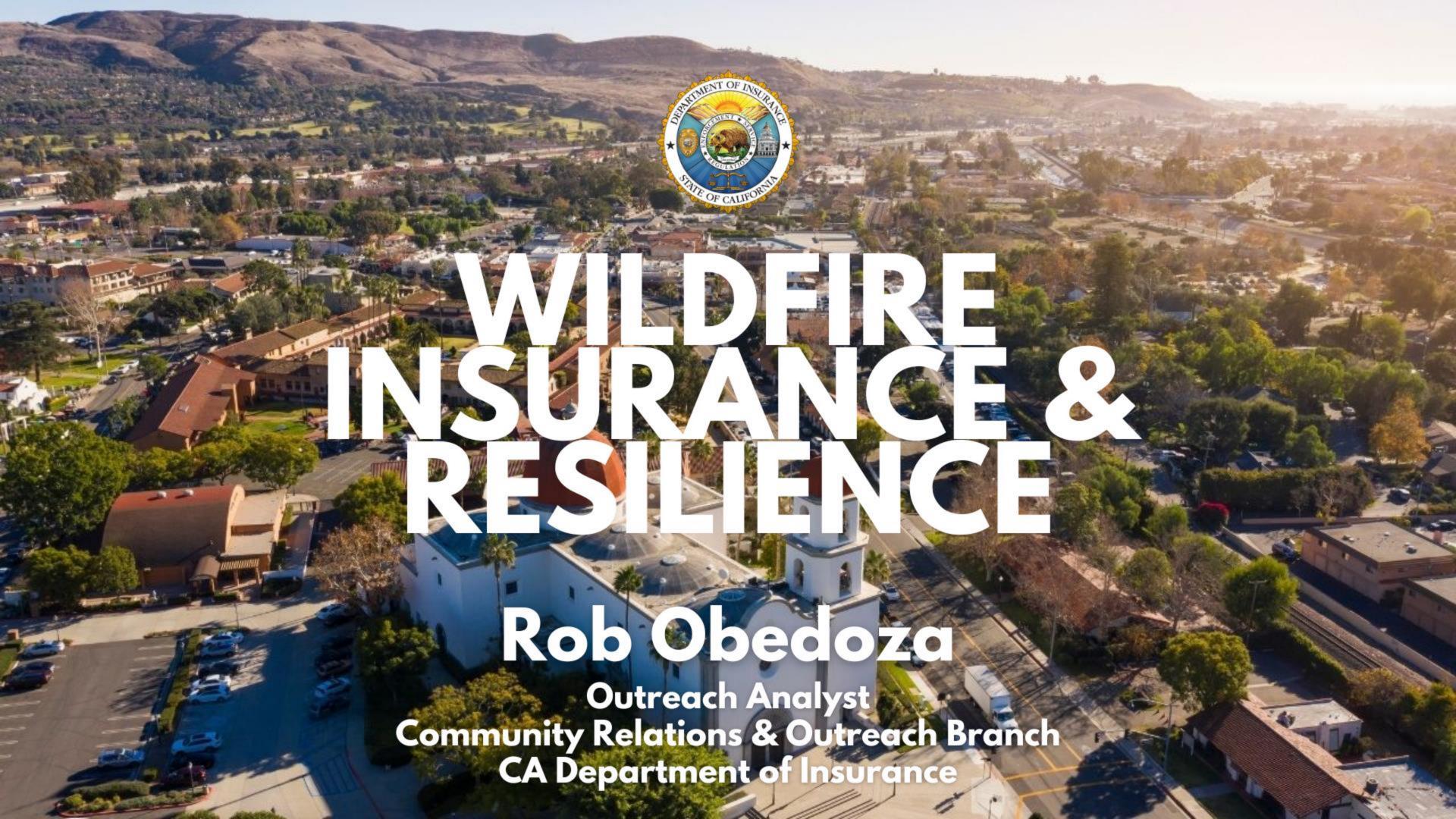
### LARGE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM

- Provides training to safely evacuate large animals during emergencies
- Offers training with trailer loading, transportation, assisting in emergency shelters, and fire behavior and safety.

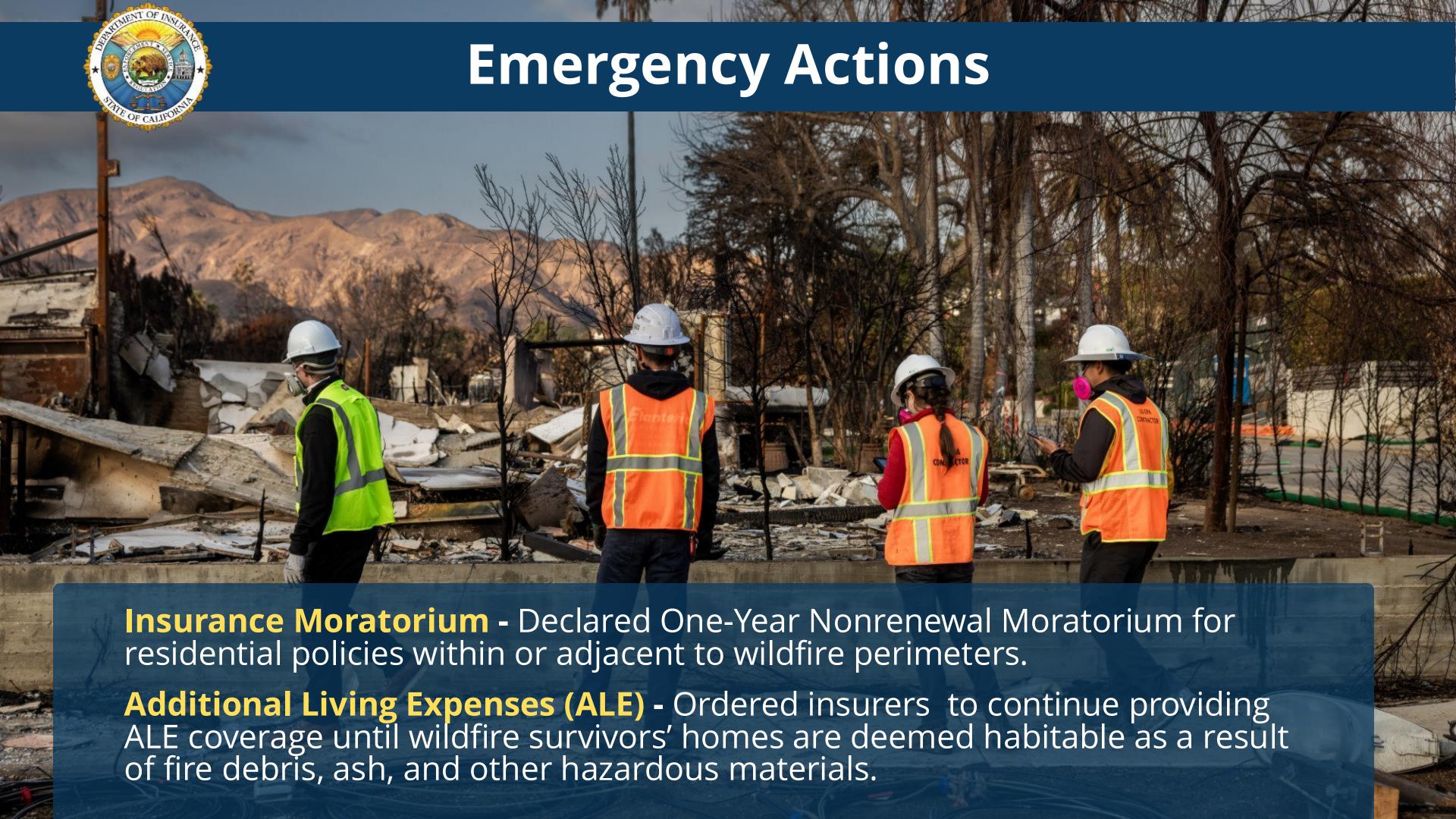
### **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

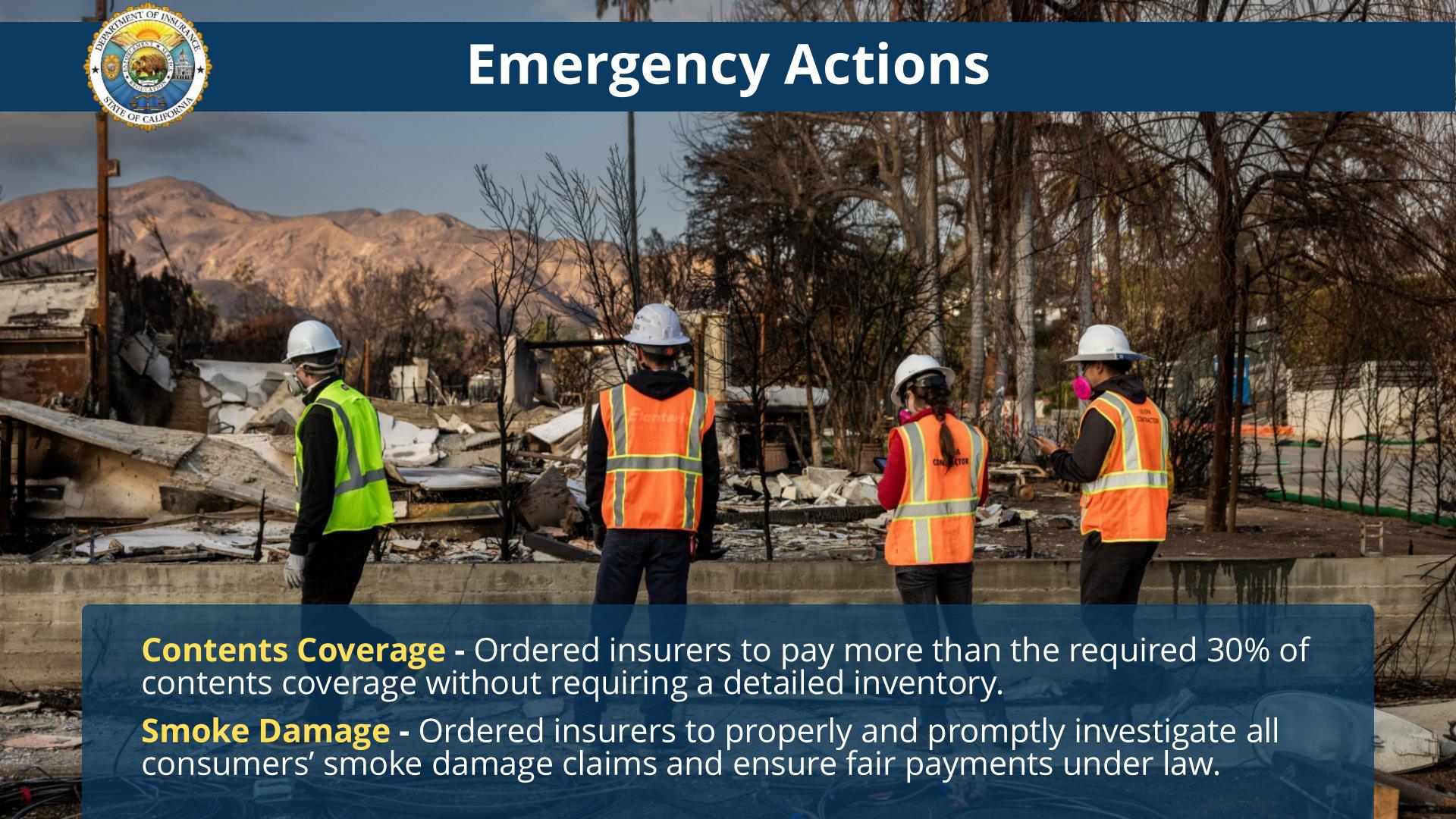
• A program offering free training on preparing for man-made or natural disasters and assisting in the aftermath of an emergency.











# California's Insurance Market

Reduction of Policies
Since 2022, 7 of the top 12
insurance companies have
paused or restricted new
business despite rate increases
approved or pending with
Department of Insurance.

# **Credit Ratings**

AM Best downgraded outlooks for top 12 companies.

# **High Risk Areas**

Won't write policies unless they can cover 100% of consumer claims, expenses, and earn a fair return.

## **CA FAIR Plan**

Increased to 4% of CA market – becoming the insurer of first resort, not last resort, for many.

Insurance Group and Ranking (2022)	Market Share	2023 Rate Increases (Pending & Approved)	Major Action Since 2022
1. State Farm	21.22%	28.1%	Paused new policies
2. Farmers (10 companies)	14.9%	17.7%, 12.5%	Limited new policies to 7,000 per month
3. CSAA (2 companies)	6.9%	18.55% (approved 2021)	
4. Liberty Mutual (6 companies)	6.6%	29%, 10.6%	
5. Mercury	6%	12.6%, 7%	
6. Allstate (5 companies)	6%	39.6%	Paused new policies
7. USAA (4 companies)	5.7%	30.6%, 16.5%, 6.9%, 3%	Restricted underwriting to low-risk only
8. Auto Club	5.1%	20%	
9. Travelers	4.2%	21.7%	Limited new policies
10. American Family (3 companies)	2.8%	22.7%, 6.9%, 6.9%	
11. Nationwide (2 companies)	2.5%	19.9%, 24.5%	Limited new policies
12. Chubb (8 companies)	2.2%		Ceased writing high-value homes with higher wildfire risk, and non-renewed some high-value homes





# **Building Communities Safer from Wildfires**

Safer from Wildfires is a comprehensive approach to wildfire resilience, focusing on three key areas: the structure, its surroundings, and the community. California's Safer from Wildfires program provides clear, actionable steps for homeowners to reduce wildfire risk. The more steps you take, the greater your insurance savings.

Here are 10 ways to make your property safer from wildfires:

#### Class-A fire rated roof

Most roofs qualify including asphalt shingles, concrete, brick, or masonry tiles, and metal shingles or sheets. Wood shake shingles are not Class A fire-resistant rated. The Office of the State Fire Marshal maintains a list of tested and approved materials:

osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-engineering-andinvestigations/building-materials-listing

#### 2. 5 foot ember resistant zone, including fencing

Removing greenery and replacing wood chips with stone or decomposed granite 5 feet around your home prevents fire from getting a foot in the door. Replacing wood fencing connecting to your home with metal is critical because it can act like a candle wick leading fire straight to your home.

#### 3. Ember- and fire-resistant vents

Installing 1/16 to 1/8 inch noncombustible, corrosionresistant metal mesh screens over exterior vents can keep wind-blown embers out of your house.

#### 4. Non-combustible 6 inches at the bottom of exterior walls

Having a minimum of 6 vertical inches measured from the ground up and from any attached horizontal surface like a deck can stop embers from accumulating and igniting your walls. Noncombustible materials include brick, stone, fiber-cement siding or concrete.

Installing soffits under your eaves can prevent heat and embers from getting trapped and igniting. When enclosing eaves, non-combustible or ignition resistant materials are recommended.

#### 6. Upgraded windows

Multi-paned windows are more resistant to breaking during a wildfire, which helps keep flames from entering. Multi-paned glass or added shutters all qualify.

#### 7. Cleared vegetation, weeds and debris from under decks

Noncombustible materials like concrete, gravel, or bare soil are permitted.

#### 8. Removal of combustible sheds and other outbuildings to at least a distance of 30 feet

These include sheds, gazebos, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), open covered structures with a solid roof, dog houses and playhouses.

#### 9. Defensible space compliance

Following state and local laws requiring defensible space including trimming trees and removal of brush and debris from yard. See CAL FIRE's defensible space page and your local city or county for details: www.fire.ca.gov/dspace

#### 10. Being safer together

Safer from Wildfires recognizes two community-wide programs, Firewise USA and Fire Risk Reduction Communities as small as 8 dwelling units or as big as 2,500 can create an action plan and start being safer together. Firewise USA is a nationally recognized program with proven results, sponsored by the National Fire Prevention Association.

Follow this QR code for more information: arco.de/bdrVFB



# Safer From Wildfires

# Wildfire Risk Reduction

Addresses one biggest factor in insurability.

### **Discounts**

First in the nation discounts to consumers for wildfire mitigation.

## Wildfire Risk Score

Transparency allows consumers to request and appeal your property risk score.



# **Building Communities Safer from Wildfires**

Safer from Wildfires is a comprehensive approach to wildfire resilience, focusing on three key areas: the structure, its surroundings, and the community. California's Safer from Wildfires program provides clear, actionable steps for homeowners to reduce wildfire risk. The more steps you take, the greater your insurance savings.

Here are 10 ways to make your property safer from wildfires:

#### 1. Class-A fire rated roof

Most roofs qualify including asphalt shingles, concrete, brick, or masonry tiles, and metal shingles or sheets. Wood shake shingles are not Class A fire-resistant rated. The Office of the State Fire Marshal maintains a list of tested and approved materials:

osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-engineering-and-investigations/building-materials-listing

#### 2. 5 foot ember resistant zone, including fencing

Removing greenery and replacing wood chips with stone or decomposed granite 5 feet around your home prevents fire from getting a foot in the door. Replacing wood fencing connecting to your home with metal is critical because it can act like a candle wick leading fire straight to your home.

#### 3. Ember- and fire-resistant vents

Installing 1/16 to 1/8 inch noncombustible, corrosionresistant metal mesh screens over exterior vents can keep wind-blown embers out of your house.

#### Non-combustible 6 inches at the bottom of exterior walls

Having a minimum of 6 vertical inches measured from the ground up and from any attached horizontal surface like a deck can stop embers from accumulating and igniting your walls. Noncombustible materials include brick, stone, fiber-cement siding or concrete.

#### Enclosed eaves

Installing soffits under your eaves can prevent heat and embers from getting trapped and igniting. When enclosing eaves, non-combustible or ignition resistant materials are recommended.

#### 6. Upgraded windows

Multi-paned windows are more resistant to breaking during a wildfire, which helps keep flames from entering. Multi-paned glass or added shutters all qualify.

#### Cleared vegetation, weeds and debris from under decks

Noncombustible materials like concrete, gravel, or bare soil are permitted.

#### Removal of combustible sheds and other outbuildings to at least a distance of 30 feet

These include sheds, gazebos, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), open covered structures with a solid roof, dog houses and playhouses.

#### 9. Defensible space compliance

Following state and local laws requiring defensible space including trimming trees and removal of brush and debris from yard. See CAL FIRE's defensible space page and your local city or county for details: www.fire.ca.gov/dspace

#### 10. Being safer together

Safer from Wildfires recognizes two community-wide programs, Firewise USA and Fire Risk Reduction Communities as small as 8 dwelling units or as big as 2,500 can create an action plan and start being safer together. Firewise USA is a nationally recognized program with proven results, sponsored by the National Fire Prevention Association.

Follow this QR code for more information: qrco.de/bdrVFB



- Class A fire-rated roof
- 5-foot ember-resistant zone, including fencing
- Non-combustible 6 inches at the bottom of exterior walls
- Ember- and fire-resistant vents
- Upgraded windows
- Enclosed eaves
- Sheds, ADUs, and other buildings at least 30 feet away
- Cleared vegetation, weeds, and debris from under decks













# Sustainable Insurance Strategy

# Modernizing Our Insurance Market

**Accessible Insurance For Californians** 

Create a Resilient Insurance Market

**Protect Communities From Climate Change** 





# Sustainable Insurance Strategy

# **Insurer Commitments To Write More Policies In Wildfire Distressed Areas**

 Requiring insurance companies to write no less than 85% of homes and businesses in distressed areas and reduce FAIR Plan policies in order to achieve greater insurance availability for consumers

# Introduce New Climate Risk Management Tools In Ratemaking

Catastrophe Modeling and Reinsurance Costs

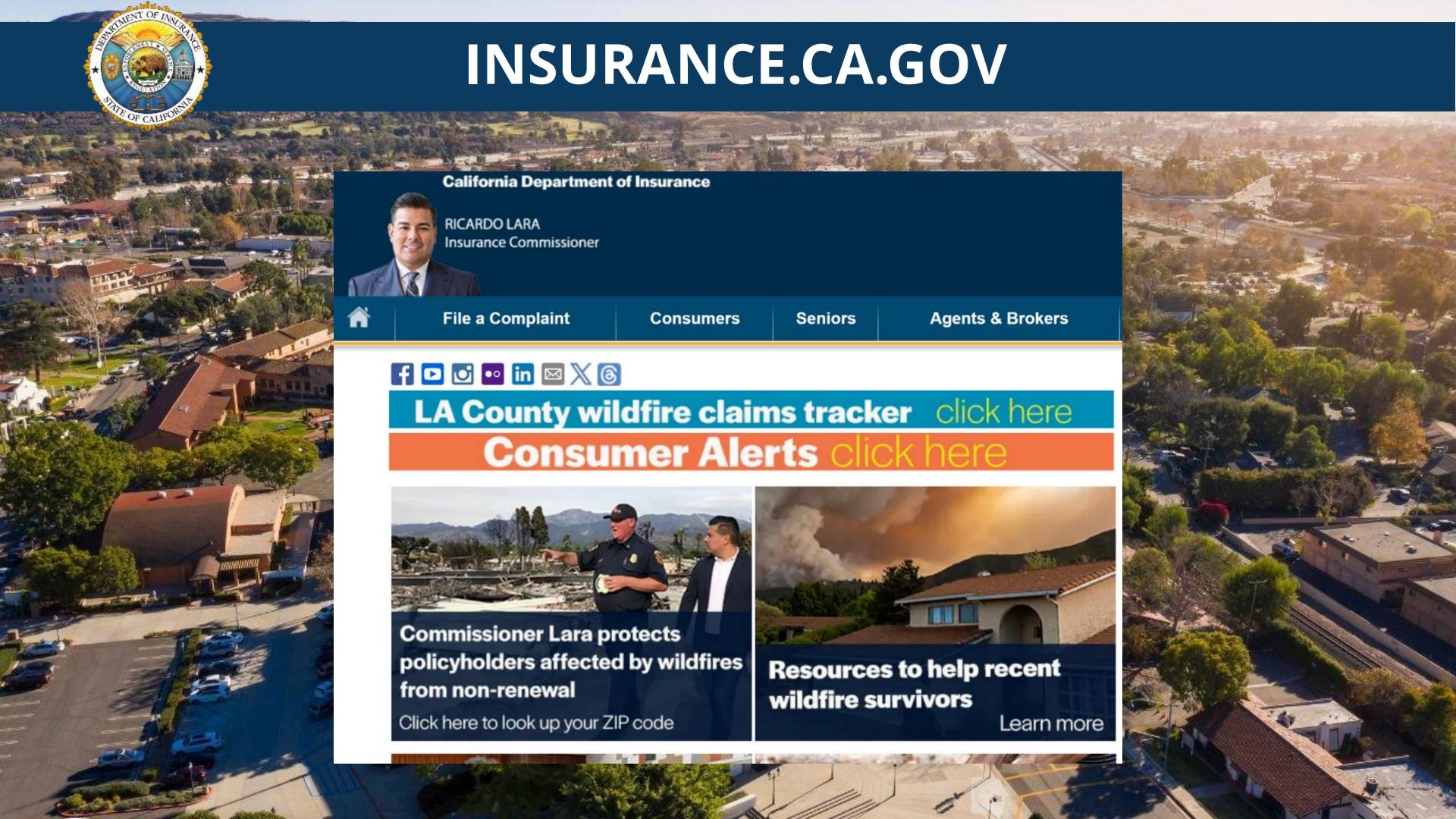
# Continued Modernization of the FAIR Plan

 Ensure it remains financially solvent and sustainable while providing more – yet temporary – comprehensive commercial coverage for HOAs, affordable housing developers, and larger businesses.



# Tips To Find Residential Insurance

- After a nonrenewal notice, contact your insurer to discuss actions that may help you retain coverage.
- File a complaint with CDI if you believe your nonrenewal was unfair.
- Mitigate fire risk on your property and promptly begin searching for new coverage.
- Use CDI's Residential Insurance Company Contact List to find licensed insurers and obtain quotes.
- · Find agents who speak your preferred language using CDI's Find an Agent or Broker tool.
- Compare premiums and coverages with CDI's Homeowner Premium Comparison and Coverage Comparison tools.
- If your agent can't find coverage beyond the FAIR Plan, contact other agents using CDI's Home Insurance Finder tool.
- Understand that the FAIR Plan is a last-resort option with limited coverage; consider supplementing it with a Difference in Conditions policy.
- Explore the non-admitted/surplus lines market if other options fail.





# **Contact Us**

 Phone: 1-800-927-4357 (Consumer hotline for insurance complaints, questions, and assistance)

 Website: insurance.ca.gov Facebook:@insurancecagov

Twitter/X: @CDInews

Instagram:
 @cadeptofinsurance

CDI Consumer Alerts