



# San Diego County Fire Safe Councils

ADAPTING ALONGSIDE TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT

PRESENTATION BY: J. BRITNEY MUNOZ



# The FSC of San Diego County



- Formed in 1997 by the RCD of Greater San Diego and local, state, federal, and tribal fire



**As the County-wide umbrella for local FSCs, our services include:**

- Community FSC support
- Workshops, education, and public outreach
- Fuel reduction programs
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan support
- Agency coordination
- Supporting the development of new FSCs

# The Challenges We Are Facing

- **Wildfire:** A wildfire, wildland fire or rural fire is an unplanned, unwanted, uncontrolled fire in an area of combustible vegetation starting in rural areas and urban areas. Many organizations consider **wildfire** to mean an unplanned and unwanted fire.

**Wildland Urban Interface( WUI):** A wildland–urban interface is a zone of transition between wildland and human development. Communities in the WUI are at risk of catastrophic wildfire and their presence disrupts the ecology.



“We cannot change topography or weather...  
...but we can modify or remove fuels to reduce the risk of  
catastrophic wildfire.” Cal Fire PIO, Thomas Shoots

# The Challenges We Are Facing

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- Suburbanization has led to community development in the wildland urban interface (WUI).
- Changing climate and year-round fire season.
- Learning to live with wildfire by creating a sustainable relationship with nature and the natural landscape around us.
- COVID-19 pandemic response forcing a county-wide lockdown and new social distancing measures.



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# Mission, Vision and Values

To make our communities Fire Safe and prepared for disaster or emergencies by providing an exchange of information through education and training, and to foster fire prevention and safety throughout our communities.

Our shared vision of this Fire Safe Council is to foster Fire Safe / Fire Wise communities that have developed through an ongoing course of public education, training, and community collaboration in project support.



### Community Fire Safe Councils: the "Neighborhood Watch" in Keeping San Diego

Nearly 150 communities throughout California have created fire safe councils (fscs) to help protect their homes and neighborhoods from the devastating effects of wildfire. San Diego is home to 46 community fire safe councils, more than any other area in a California. And the list keeps growing.

Community fire safe councils have been referred to as the "neighborhood watch" in keeping San Diego fire safe. As grassroots, community-led organizations, they mobilize residents to protect their homes, neighborhoods, and environments from wildfire. They know the unique challenges their communities face and implement such projects as hazardous fuel reduction programs, local wildfire protection planning, and homeowner training to ensure its protection.

#### San Diego County Fire Safe Councils:

Campo / Lake Morena	Jamal	Potrero/Tecate
Chula Vista	Julian	Poway
Coastal Canyon	Kensington East	Ramona West End
Crest	Kensington North	Rancho Bernardo
Cuyamaca Woods	Kensington South	Rancho Helix de Oro
Deer Springs	Kensington Talmadge Loop	Rancho Peñasquitos
Descanso	Kensington West	Rancho Santa Fe
Dulzura	Lake Hodges Hills	Real East County
El Capitan	Lakeside	San Diego
Eucalyptus Hills	Los Jules	Scripps Ranch
Fallbrook	Mt. Laguna	Sherilton Valley
Greater Alpine	Olivenhain	Southwest Escondido
Greater Sunshine Summit	Outer Jamul	University City
Greater Valley Center	Palomar Mountain	Wynola Estates
Harrison Park	Pilgrim Creek	
Intermountain	Pine Valley	

9500 La Jolla Village Road | Lakeside, CA 92040 | 619.562.0096  
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 **FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**  
of San Diego County  
[www.firesafesdcounty.org](http://www.firesafesdcounty.org)

# Transparency, Integrity, Respect

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This organization and its member's value, transparency, integrity, respect, and a collaborative approach with all partners and community members in our efforts.

Be Helpful,

Be Courteous,

Be Honest ,

Be Nice!



# What is a community FSC?

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We consider community FSCs to be the 'Neighborhood Watch' of fire safety.

- Grassroots, community-led organizations made up of local residents and other stakeholders.
- They know their communities and how to mobilize residents to protect their homes, neighborhoods, and environments from wildfire.
- Local councils implement hazardous fuel reduction programs and outreach to keep their communities fire safe.





# Boots on the Ground

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- Defensible Space
- Fuel Breaks
- Chipping Projects
- Weed and Brush Abatement
- Fire Wise Landscaping
- Home Hardening
- Dumpster Days
- Outreach and Education
- Community Clean-up days





# Community Clean Up Days

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In Local Communities , with a little help our friends

Free removal of yard waste, debris and Tires

Including free chipping of brush



# Reflective Address Signs

Reflective Address Signs

Easy to See... Blue Indicates Water Source





# Smoke Alarm Programs



**American  
Red Cross**



# Growing Connections

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# FireWise Landscaping

## Creating Planting Zones

**Zone 1** is the first 5 ft that is next to your home. Hardscape, gravel (instead of wood mulches) and low growing, water filled plants like sedums, succulents and blubs.

**Zone 2** is the next 5 to 30 ft. Think lean, clean and green. Plant 3-4 ft high irrigated plantings using proper spacing. Apply wood and gravel mulches. Remove dead material and debris.

**Zone 3** beyond 30 ft. Plant trees and bushes in proper spacing. Always consider this zone in relation to your neighbors structures. Use appropriate mulches.

Lean, Clean and Green.  
Keep it lean by spacing plants farther apart and planting in small, irregular clusters or islands rather than mass plantings.  
Keep it clean with regular pruning and thinning of plants, mowing of grasses, and removal of dead or high-risk vegetation.  
Keep it green with proper irrigation.

Zone 2. 5-30 ft.

Zone 1. 0-5 ft.

Zone 3.  
beyond 30ft.

## What are fire-resistant plants?

Fire-resistant plants are plants that don't easily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. The plant foliage and stems do not contribute significantly to the fuel potential and fire intensity. Firewise plant materials have the following characteristics:

- \*Leaves are moist and supple.
- \*Plants have an open, loose branching habit with little dead wood and tend not to accumulate dry, dead material within the plant.
- \*Sap is water-like and does not have a strong odor.

## Garden Sponsors



Scan this code to get information on how you can be more Fire Safe.





# Joining Forces

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# Drive-Thru Safety Fairs





# Drive -Thru Safety Fairs





# Why Do we Care?

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Community Livelihoods

Property

Animals

Family Keepsakes

Habitat & Natural Ecosystems

Preservation Of Nature For Future generations

Lives





# What Home owners can do

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Communities can and should educate themselves about how to properly maintain their homes and yards to meet local and state fire codes.

It is important to identify and mitigate fire risks on your property before a wildfire incident.

Through the formation of fire safe councils, property owners can collaborate with agencies to identify and prioritize community projects.

# Your Local Community Fire Safe Councils...

## We are You, You are Us... People, Neighbors

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# Thank You!



**FIRE SAFE  
COUNCIL**  
of San Diego County



**RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**  
Greater San Diego County



Britney Munoz | 619-562-0096 | [Britney.munoz@rcdsandiego.org](mailto:Britney.munoz@rcdsandiego.org)