

February 25, 2022

<<Owner Name>>
<<Owner Address>>
<<Owner City>>, <<Owner State>> <<Owner ZIP Code>>

RE: <<APN>>
 <<Property Address>>

Dear Property Owner,

The Santa Clara County Fire Department continues to focus on preparing residents and the community for the threat of wildfire. This year, SCCFD will be hosting several informative wildfire preparedness webinars with special presentations about Zonehaven, a powerful new tool to manage evacuations. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.

Defensible space is essential to improve your home’s chance of surviving a wildfire. Defensible space is the buffer created around a structure when combustible vegetation is removed or reduced. This buffer is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and can also protect your home from catching fire.

Your property is located in the **Very High Fire Hazard** Severity Zone of the Wildland Urban Interface Area (WUI) and requires **100 feet** of defensible space from all structures. Your area’s specific enforced safety regulations include:

Enforced Safety Regulations (Items A - F)

- A. Create **100 feet** of defensible space around your home. To accomplish this, you must clear all flammable vegetation a **minimum of 30 feet** around structures. Additionally, create a reduced fuel zone for the **remaining 70 feet** (or to the property line).
- B. Remove pine needles, leaves, and other dead vegetation from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- C. Trim tree limbs 10 feet from chimneys and stove pipes; remove dead limbs that hang over rooftops.
- D. Remove all non-fire-resistive vegetation a minimum of 10 feet on each side of a fire apparatus access road or driveway.
- E. Cover chimney outlets or flues with a 1/2” mesh spark arrester.
- F. Post a clearly visible house address, using at least 4” high numbers, for easy identification. For homes located more than 50 feet from the street, post address numbers at the driveway entrance.

Additional Safety Recommendations

- Create and maintain a 0 to 5 feet noncombustible zone around all structures, including decks.
- Clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above fuels (e.g. woodpiles, lumber, scrap, etc.) Move woodpiles as far away as possible from all structures.
- Clear vegetation and other combustible material from underneath decks. Enclose elevated decks with fire-resistive materials.
- Trees 18 feet or taller should be limbed up 6 feet from the ground. Provide additional vertical clearance when trees have vegetation beneath them.

For more info. about wildfire safety ordinances in Los Gatos, visit www.losgatosca.gov/2581/Be-Wildfire-Ready

<<APN>> <<TRA>> <<ZoneID>>/<<AccessKey>>

<<Owner Name>>
<<Owner Address>>
<<Owner City>>, <<Owner State>> <<Owner ZIP Code>>

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
ATTN: FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
14700 WINCHESTER BOULEVARD
LOS GATOS, CA 95032-1818

Owner Responsibilities:

- 1. You have the option to complete the required work yourself, hire your own contractor, or you may elect to schedule the authorized contractor to perform the work. If you choose to have the authorized contractor perform the work, the charges will appear on your next property tax bill.
- 2. Please either scan the QR Code below **OR** complete and return the attached information card to report the current status of your property before April 1, 2022.

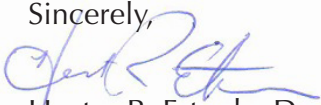
Inspection Schedule:

On April 1, 2022, Santa Clara County Fire Department will begin conducting property inspections. Property owners not in compliance will be notified of what work needs to be completed to comply with the Enforced Safety Regulations. Please contact us if you are unable to complete the required work due to late season rains or other special circumstance.

On June 1, 2022, we will begin conducting re-inspections of the properties that were out of compliance at the time of the first property inspection. Properties must comply with the Enforced Safety Regulations (Items A, B, C and D) otherwise the compliance work will be completed by the **Town of Los Gatos'** authorized contractor and the charges for this service will appear on your next property tax bill.

If you have questions regarding the safety compliance of your property, or you would like to schedule a courtesy property inspection, please contact the Fire Prevention Division at 408.378.4010.

Sincerely,



Hector R. Estrada, Deputy Chief
Fire Prevention Division

Resources and Information

- Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E):** www.PGE.com • 800.743.5000
Services include courtesy gas appliance inspections, energy conservation, tree management and electrical safety near power lines
- Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council:** www.SCCFireSafe.org • 408.975.9591
Protects and educates communities at risk from wildfire through fuel reduction programs, outreach and community planning efforts
- Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management:** www.SCCgov.org/sites/oes • 408.808.7800
Coordinates county-wide all hazards preparedness, including managing the AlertSCC Emergency Alert System (www.alertscc.org)
- United Policyholders:** www.uphelp.org • info@uphelp.org
Provides consumer-focused services to protect assets, build financial safety nets and access disaster recovery tools and resources

Choose ONE:

- 1. Scan the QR code below with a smartphone camera to submit your response online **OR**
- 2. Complete and mail the attached information card below.

Option 1 - Respond Online

Evacuation Zone ID: <<ZoneID>>
Private Access Key: <<AccessKey>>



Or visit: bit.ly/WUIresponse2022

Option 2 - Respond by Mail

I have received the annual Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Enforced Safety Regulations letter related to flammable vegetation abatement. The current status of my property is as follows:

- ☐ I have inspected my property for flammable vegetation clearance and believe it complies with the Enforced Safety Regulations. I understand that an inspection of my property may be conducted to verify compliance.
- ☐ I will remove flammable vegetation around all structures on my property in accordance with the Enforced Safety Regulations no later than **June 1, 2022**. I understand that if the required work is not completed, the authorized contractor may complete the work and the charges will appear on my next property tax bill.
- ☐ I authorize the designated contractor to enter my property and clear all flammable vegetation to comply with the Enforced Safety Regulations. I understand the charges to complete this work will appear on my next property tax bill.
- ☐ I would like to schedule a courtesy inspection of my property with the Santa Clara County Fire Department for recommendations of the work needed to comply with the Enforced Safety Regulations.
- ☐ I am no longer the owner of this property.
- ☐ There are no structures on this property.

Name (print clearly): _____ Date: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____