

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE MEETING

City of Riverside Fire Department

February 24, 2026

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CITY OF RIVERSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

OUTSTANDING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Since 1887



One of 4 Cities in California

ISO Class One Rated

One of 34 Cities Nationwide both
Internationally Accredited



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Emergency Calls

1 Call every 11 minutes

2024: 44,670 Emergency Calls

2025: 47,026 Emergency Calls

35% Increase in Emergency Calls Since 2015

State Fire Map +13,356 Riverside Parcels into High-Risk Fire Area



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WILDFIRES CAN HAPPEN ANY DAY

- ❖ Year-Round Fire Season
- ❖ Defensible Space Challenges
- ❖ High Ignition Potential
- ❖ Santa Ana Wind Exposure
- ❖ Extensive Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)



Hawarden Fire 2024

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RIVERSIDE RESILIENCE..PULLING TOGETHER FOR WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS!

The goal today is *Community Resilience*.

Bringing residents, fire officials, and community stakeholders together to strengthen Riverside's readiness before a wildfire occurs.

Community + Fire Department = Fire Resilient



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**RIVERSIDE
RESILIENCE**

GET READY

Update

Empower

Educate

Engage



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FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES (FHSZ)

Developed by: CAL FIRE

Maps arose from major destructive fires, prompting the recognition of these areas.



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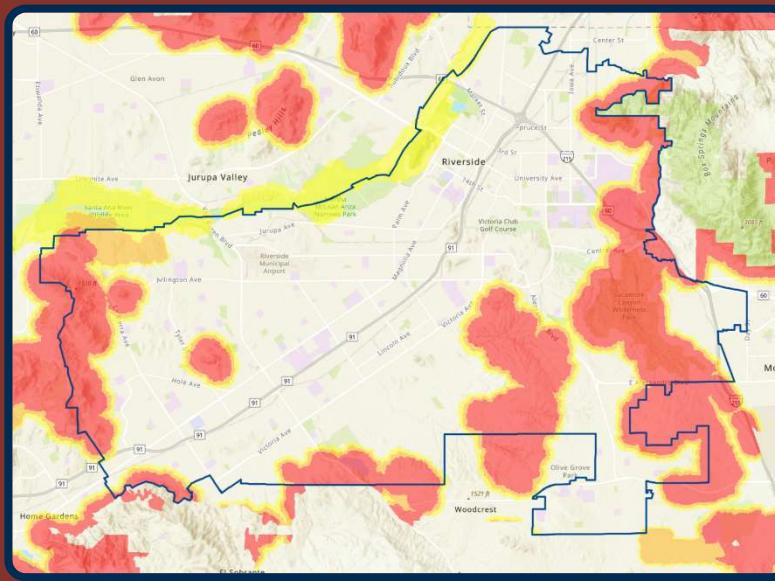
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FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES IN RIVERSIDE

MODERATE
HIGH
VERY HIGH

Buildings in FHSZ: 17,796

Parcels in FHSZ: 24,110



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WHAT RESIDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR



- ❖ Vegetation Management
- ❖ Home Hardening
- ❖ Property Cleanliness & Maintenance
- ❖ Preparedness & Planning
- ❖ Compliance with Local Ordinance



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DEFENSIBLE SPACE



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The Immediate Zone: 0-5 Feet

The home and the area furthest attached exterior point of the home.

1

The Intermediate Zone: 5-30 Feet

The furthest exterior point of the home.

2

The Extended Zone: 30-100 Feet

Landscaping



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ZONE 0

The Immediate Zone: 0-5 FT.



What to do?

- ❖ Avoid using wood mulch.
- ❖ Remove dead plants, dry leaves, and pine needles from the ground, roof, and gutters.
- ❖ Keep firewood, propane tanks, and other flammable items at least 5 feet away from structures.
- ❖ Use fire-resistant building materials for fences, decks, and siding.

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ZONE 1

The Intermediate Zone: 5-30 FT.



What to do?

- ❖ Keep grass mowed and green.
- ❖ Avoid using wood mulch.
- ❖ Create clear walkways.
- ❖ Trim back branches that hang over the roof or touch the house.
- ❖ Use fire-resistant building materials for fences, decks, and siding when possible.

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ZONE 2

The Extended Zone: 30-100 Feet



What to do?

- ❖ Thin out vegetation.
- ❖ Keep good spacing between tree canopies.
- ❖ Maintain other structures on property.
- ❖ Use fire-resistant building materials for fences, decks, and siding.



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HAZARDOUS VEGETATION

**Riverside Municipal Code
Chapter 6.16**

*Vegetation Management and
Defensible Space*





Any vegetation native or ornamental that is dead, dying, overgrown, unmanaged, or otherwise maintained in a condition that creates a fire hazard or contributes to the spread, intensity, or ignition potential of a wildland fire.







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ACCEPTABLE VEGETATION











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DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION PROGRAM

Who it Applies To

All owners of property in the High and Very High hazard severity zones will be notified by mail around June of pending inspection (seasonal dependent).

How Long It Will Take

Inspections will occur 30+ days after notification.

Violation Notice

Parcels in violation will be referred to Code Compliance for abatement.

Gross violations

will be referred to Code Compliance for abatement.





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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ENFORCEMENT

Riverside Municipal Code Chapter
6.16

Vegetation Management and
Defensible Space



Property owners are **REQUIRED** to:

- ❖ Maintain defensible space around structures by reducing, clearing, or modifying vegetation.
- ❖ Remove dead, dying, or overgrown vegetation, ladder fuels, and combustible plant material.
- ❖ Ensure vegetation does not obstruct roadways, impair visibility, or interfere with emergency response.
- ❖ Manage parcels to prevent conditions that allow wildfire to spread rapidly between structures or open-space areas.



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**FREE HOME
ASSESSMENT
PROGRAM**

HOW TO APPLY

WHAT YOU'LL GET

- ❖ Personalized Home Risk Report
- ❖ Defensible Space Guidance
- ❖ Checklist & Resources

Submit your Home Assessment Program application through the City's 311 website or App.



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AB38 FIRE INSPECTIONS

When selling your home, a fire inspection is **REQUIRED** for properties in High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Sellers must provide proof of compliance to buyers before escrow closes or agree in writing to complete it after.



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YOU CAN HELP! WHY?

GET INVOLVED

- ❖ REDUCE RISK OF FIRE
- ❖ REDUCE RISK OF LIFE OR PROPERTY LOSS
- ❖ REDUCE WORKLOAD ON FIRE DEPARTMENT
- ❖ POTENTIAL AND POSSIBLE DISCOUNT ON FIRE INSURANCE!

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HOW TO HELP? BECOME A FIREWISE COMMUNITY!

Firewise Communities work together to improve safety by creating defensible space, using fire-resistant materials, and maintaining their properties.

Neighborhood Watch for Fire!



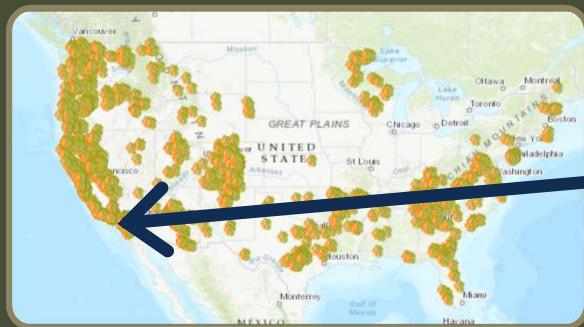
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FIREWISE USA MAP

FIREWISE USA SITES
2,432



CITY OF RIVERISDE FIREWISE SITES
0



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4 STEPS TO BECOMING FIREWISE

Get together with your neighbors and City of Riverside Fire Department will assist.



1
Organize It



2
Plan It



3
Do It



4
Apply



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4 STEPS TO BECOMING FIREWISE

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**LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP TO
BECOME A FIREWISE COMMUNITY.**

**Scan Here with
Camera**



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**OTHER CITY
RESOURCES**

RiversideCA.gov/Fire

311 App

Watch Duty App

Pulse Point App


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SIGN UP FOR RIVERSIDE ALERT

STAY ALERT



**Scan Here with
Camera**

Riverside Alert

Riverside Alert is Riverside's official mass notification system that sends emergency alerts to residents and businesses.

Keeps you informed about wildfires, floods, evacuations, or other public safety threats.


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