

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



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Vegetation Management Program

- Program Overview
 - Vegetation Management Projects
 - Defensible Space Program
 - GIS/Mapping
 - Unit Fire Plan
 - Environmental Review
 - Range Improvement
 - Community Involvement
 - Agency Cooperation: CAL Fire, USFS, BLM, Department of Fish and Game, Local Fire Agencies



Vegetation Management Program

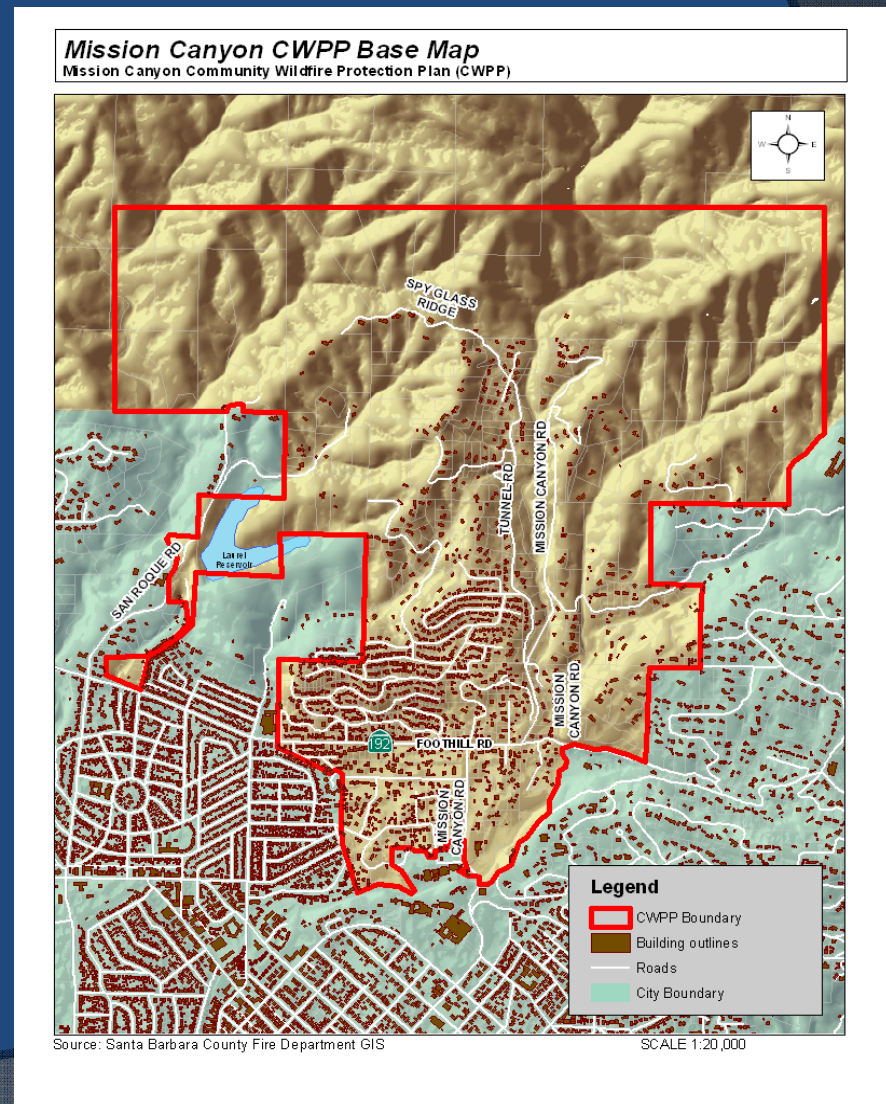
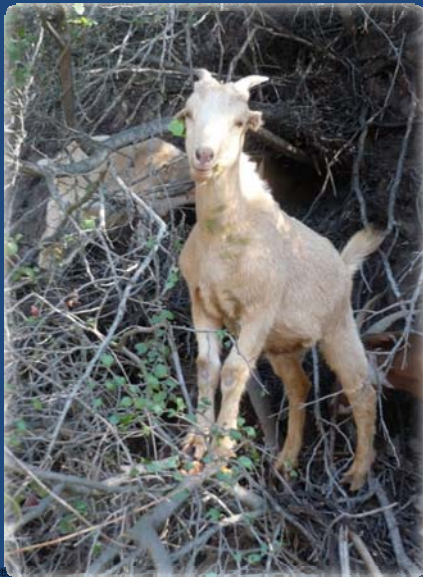
◎ Project Areas 2009

- Mission Canyon
- Burton Mesa
- Tepusquet Canyon
- Range Improvement: Los Alamos
- UCSB



Mission Canyon

- ✓ Mission Canyon
 - CWPP
 - Burn Pile Project
 - Goats



Mission Canyon CWPP

- Collaborative effort between MCA and SBCoFD.
- Community plan that is a “living document”.
- Reviewed and revised to identify project areas based on fire hazard.
- Required in order to pursue grant opportunities.

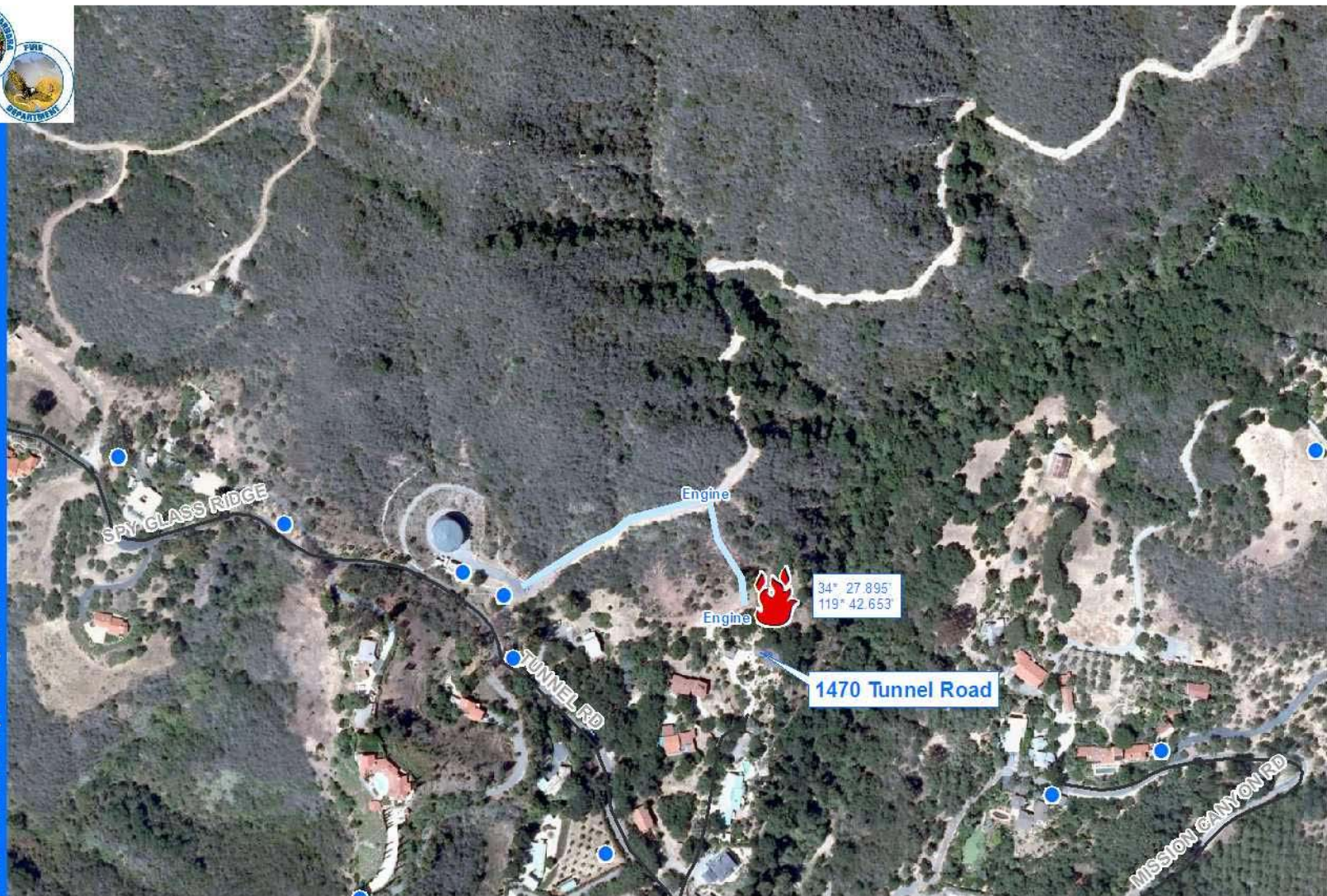


Mission Canyon Burn Pile Location



Tunnel Burn Pile Project

Santa Barbara County Fire Department



Mission Canyon Burn Piles



Goats in Mission Canyon



Before



After



Goats have been utilized to clear over 10 acres in the Mission Canyon Area.

Tepusquet Canyon

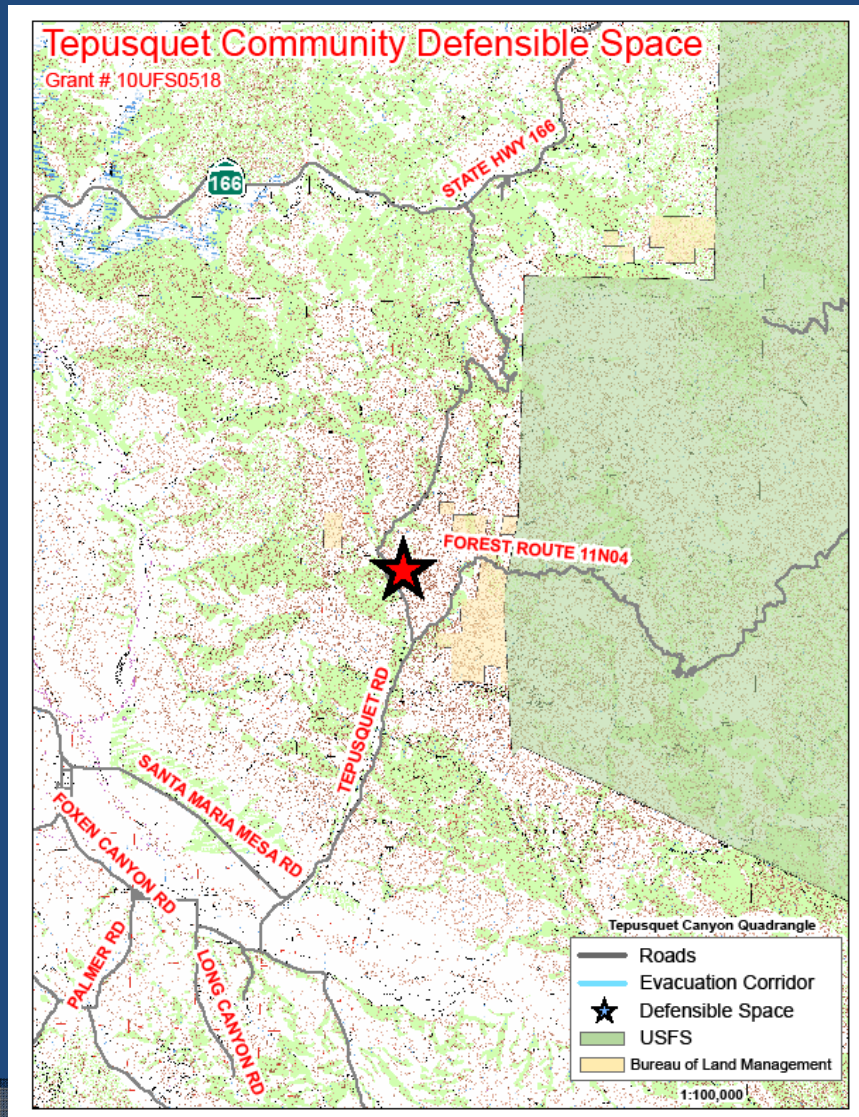
◎ Road Side Clearance

- 30' clearance on both sides from edge of pavement.
- 5 miles completed.
- Improvement of evacuation corridor.
- Fire Crew and Fire Construction utilized for implementation.





Tepusquet Canyon



○ Tepusquet Community Defensible Space Grant

- Fire Safe Council Grant
- Santa Barbara County Fire Department to administer
- Develop CWPP
- Improve evacuation corridor along Colson Canyon
- Improve defensible space around identified residences

Burton Mesa Reserve Defensible Space

- In collaboration with the Department of Fish and Game fuels modification and pile burning have been completed.
- 2.5 miles of fuels modification have been completed.
- Additional work planned to increase defensible space for homes adjacent to the Reserve.



Before



After

Range Improvement William's Burn



- ◎ Completed 400+ acres of range land improvement through prescribed fire.
- ◎ Range Land Association along with assistance from Santa Barbara County Fire.





UCSB Burn Plots



- ◎ Assisted UCSB Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) with burn plots.
- ◎ Goal to remove non-native grass thatch and seed and provide a weed-free planting window for restoration to diverse, native coastal bluff scrub vegetation.
- ◎ Burn part of the ongoing Lagoon ecological restoration program.

Defensible Space Program

- ◎ Education and enforcement of California Public Resource Code 4291.





Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Defensible Space Checklist for Homeowners

California law requires a Defensible Space of 100 feet around structures. Millions of Californians live in residential developments that border fire-prone wildland. Each year, hundreds of homes in these "suburban" and rural areas are lost to wildfire outbreaks. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as many as 80 percent of the homes lost to wildfires could have been saved if the homeowners provided a defensible space around their homes. Homeowners can substantially increase the chance of their home surviving a wildfire by the following these fire safe laws and practices.

- Clear all flammable vegetation within 30 feet immediately surrounding your home.
- Create a Reduced Fuel Zone in the remaining 70 feet, or to the property line, which ever is less. Spacing between plants and trees greatly improves the chance of stopping a wildfire before it destroys your home. (Guidelines for the Reduced Fuel Zone are attached or printed on the backside of this document.)
- Remove surface litter so it does not exceed 3 inches in depth. Surface litter consists of fallen leaves, needles, twigs, small branches, cones, bark, etc.
- Maintain all vegetation with regular watering. Remove dead braches, leaves, and needles.
- Landscape with fire resistant plants.
- Remove needles, leaves, or other dead vegetation from the roof of structures and gutters.
- Remove that portion of any tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.
- Cover your chimney outlet or flue with a spark arresting 1/2" mesh screen.
- Maintain any tree adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead or dying wood.
- Vehicle access clearance shall be 14 feet high and 12 feet wide.
- Clear all flammable vegetation 10 feet from roadways.
- Clear all vegetation and other flammable materials from your deck. Enclose undersides of elevated decks with fire resistive materials.
- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from buildings, fences, and other combustible materials. Clear all flammable vegetation 10 feet from woodpiles.
- Install a fire resistant roof.
- Make sure your address is clearly visible for easy identification in an emergency.
- When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer.

For more information on how to make your home fire safe visit our website:
WWW.SBCFIRE.COM

Fuel Treatment Guidelines for the Reduced Fuel Zone

This document provides a general guideline to comply with the law and protect you home from a wildfire. These guidelines were developed by the State Board of Forestry to reduce the spread of wildfires.

Grasses

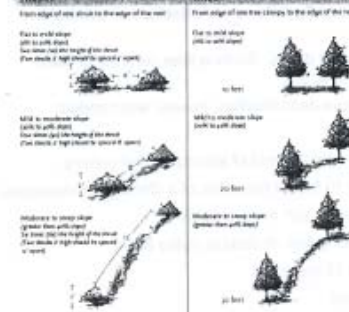
1. Must not exceed 4 inches in height.
2. When an erosion problem exists grass may be maintained to a height of 18 inches.

Horizontal Clearance of Shrubs and Trees

Continuous fuels provide a means of rapid fire spread and greater fire intensity.

1. Horizontal clearance will vary depending on slope and shrub or tree size.
2. Check the chart below for an estimation of clearance distances.

Minimum Horizontal Clearance



Note: A grouping of vegetation may be treated as a single plant as long as the foliage diameter does not exceed 10 feet.

Vertical Clearance of Shrubs and Trees

Low hanging branches create a "Ladder" from the ground fuels to the tree canopies.

1. To determine the estimated clearance distances between shrubs and overhanging tree branches follow the formula below.

Minimum Vertical Clearance

Example: A tree trunk is growing near a tree. 110" = 9 feet of clearance needed between top of the shrub and the lowest tree branches.

9' height of shrub to lowest branches of tree.



Continuous Tree Canopy

1. Remove all surface fuels greater than 4 inches in height.
2. Single specimens of trees or vegetation may be retained provided they are well spaced, well pruned, and prevents the spread of fire.
3. Prune lower limbs of trees to a height of 6 feet to 15 feet from the top of the vegetation below (or the lower 1/3 branches for small trees).

The Fire Inspector may require increased clearances for properties with greater fire potential. If you need further assistance or direction please call your local Fire Station or visit our website below and click on "Protect Your Home".

For more information on how to make your home fire safe visit our website:
WWW.SBCFIRE.COM

