

San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council (SEHFSC) Board of Directors



President: Lindsey Smith

Vice President: Bill Mullins

Treasurer: Mark Dale

Secretary: Gabe Cohan

Committee Coord: Peter Brandt

**Give Today.
Protect
Tomorrow.**



Scan to Donate!

The San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council is a nonprofit organization. We are solely funded by grants & donations. Your support helps us continue vital wildfire prevention work right here in our community. Every dollar goes directly toward community outreach, educational materials, defensible space assessments, and other fire mitigation efforts.

Our Board of Directors and committee members are all volunteers. With your help, we can keep building a safer, more resilient community—together.

Firewise USA Designation Earned Next Step: Action!

The San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council is proud to announce that our community has been officially recognized as a Firewise USA® site. This designation marks an important milestone in our shared commitment to wildfire preparedness and resilience.

While this recognition is a meaningful first step, it is only the beginning. Continued success requires an ongoing, community-wide effort. Together, we must remain focused on home hardening, fuel reduction, and proactive mitigation measures—not only to maintain our designation and insurance benefits, but to strengthen the safety of our entire neighborhood.

When we take intentional steps as a community, we don't just protect our homes—we protect each other.

For more information, certificates, resources, and updates, visit <https://www.sehfsc.org/firewise.html>

\$14,000 Grant Secured to Boost Local Wildfire Resilience

We're proud to announce that the San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council has been awarded a \$14,000 grant through the 2025 SAFE Grant Program, made possible by the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, with generous funding from SDGE and the San Diego River Conservancy.

This funding will support expanded wildfire preparedness efforts across San Elijo Hills, Old Creek Ranch, Venzano, and Questhaven Hills—including defensible space and fuel reduction projects, community education and outreach programs, and critical assistance for vulnerable homeowners.

We're grateful for this partnership and look forward to continuing our work to make our neighborhoods safer and more fire-resilient.



• THE SAN DIEGO REGIONAL •
FIRE FOUNDATION

Zone 0: Start Preparing Now for California's New Home Hardening Law

A major shift in wildfire safety is on the horizon: Assembly Bill 3074 (AB 3074) is **proposed** to set the stage for a statewide requirement that all existing homes in wildfire-prone areas implement Zone 0 defensible space measures by January 1, 2029.

What is Zone 0?

Zone 0 refers to the first five feet surrounding your home or any structure. This area is critical for slowing or stopping the spread of wildfire embers—one of the most common ways homes ignite during a fire. Proposed to start in 2029, homeowners will be required to maintain this space in a way that resists flame exposure and ember intrusion.

Where to Begin: A Phased Approach

Phase 1: Assess & Plan (Now – Early 2026)

- Walk around your home and take inventory of what's within five feet of your exterior walls—wood chips, mulch, brush, firewood stacks, patio furniture, etc.
- Review the Zone 0 guidelines on our [Linktree](#) or Cal Fire's defensible space resources.
- If you live in an HOA, submit your plan to your architectural committee before starting any modifications.

Phase 2: Start Small, Think Smart (Mid 2026)

- Replace combustible mulch with crushed rock around the home's perimeter.
- Trim vegetation back from siding and decks.
- Clear roof and gutter debris regularly—embers love to land there.

Phase 3: Upgrade & Harden (2027–2028)

- Install ember-resistant vents and consider fire-resistant siding or roofing if you're already planning upgrades.
- Replace aging fencing connected to the home with non-combustible materials near the structure.



Why It Matters

Zone 0 is about more than compliance - it's about protecting your home and your neighbors. Studies show that defensible space, especially in the first five feet, dramatically improves a home's chance of surviving a wildfire.



Resources



Genasys Protect App

Evacuation & repopulation status alerts. Save up to 10 addresses: home, work, family & friends

Check Your Settings!

Check your Notification settings to ensure your app is configured to deliver critical alerts.

