

A nighttime aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Alamos, showing a large industrial or office complex in the foreground. In the background, a massive wildfire is visible, with intense orange and red flames and thick smoke billowing into the dark sky. The city lights are visible as small white dots in the distance.

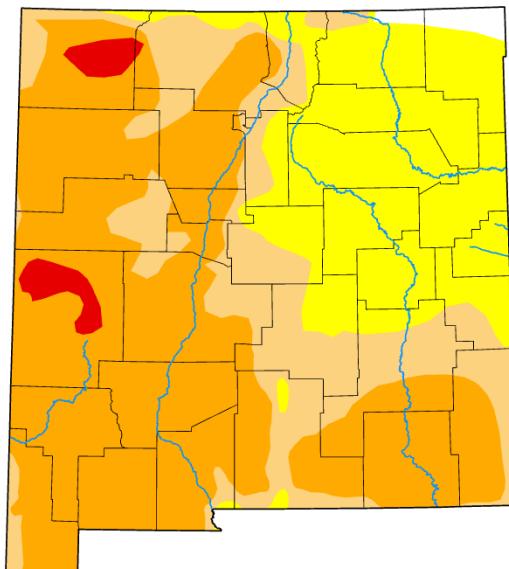
Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Preparedness in Los Alamos County

Los Alamos County Fire Department

A- Wildfire Preparedness Presentation

Weather Forecast

New Mexico



Map released: Thurs. January 29, 2026

Data valid: January 27, 2026 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

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[Home](#) / New Mex



Are we wildfire ready?





Ready!

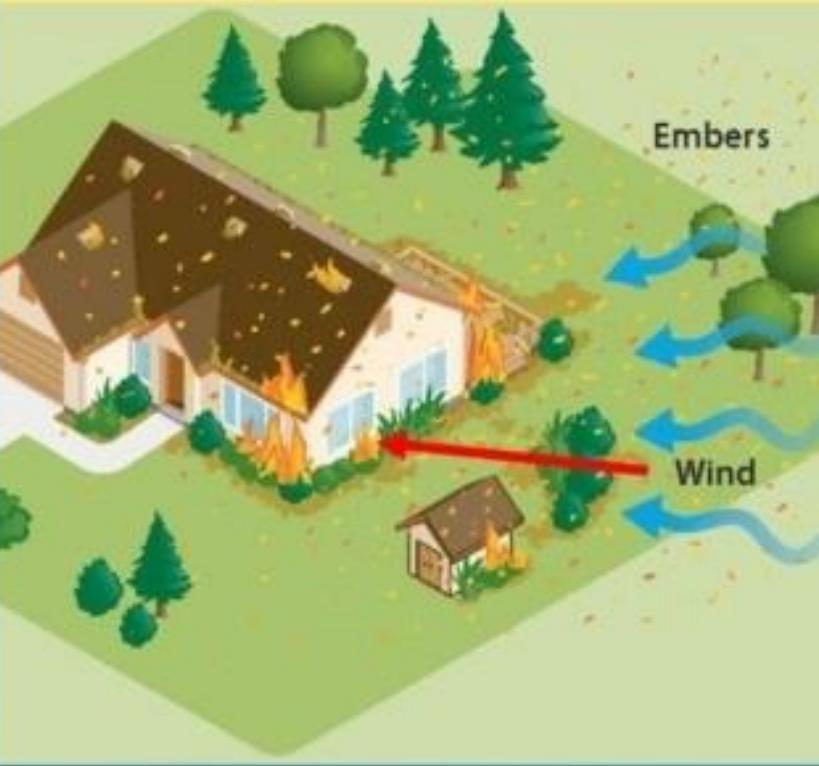
- **Have evacuation plan for your family and animals.**
- **Put together a go kit.**
- **Create a checklist of valuables if you need to leave quickly.**
- **Register for Public Warning Messages to get updates.**

Three types of fire exposures

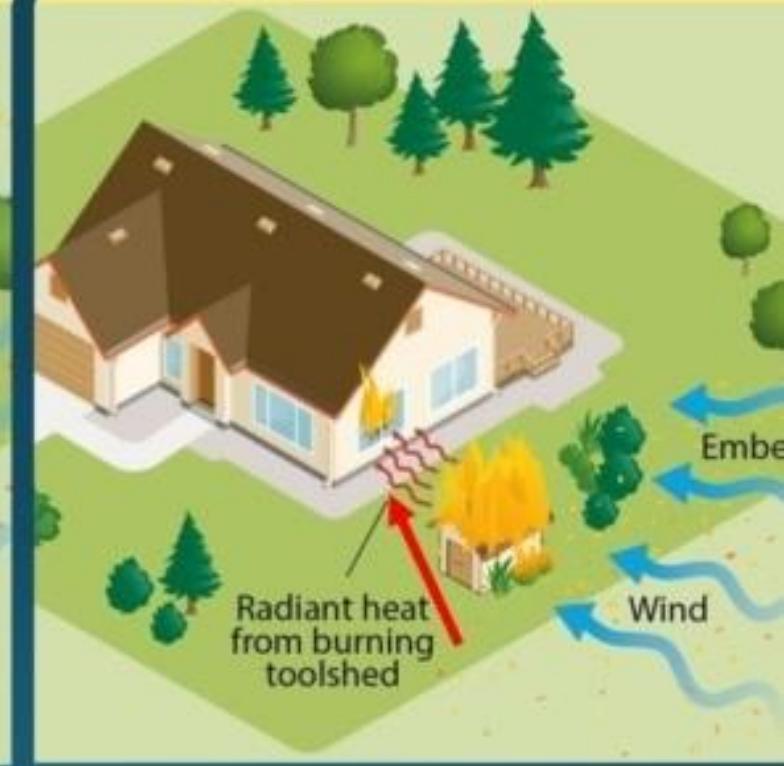
Direct flame contact



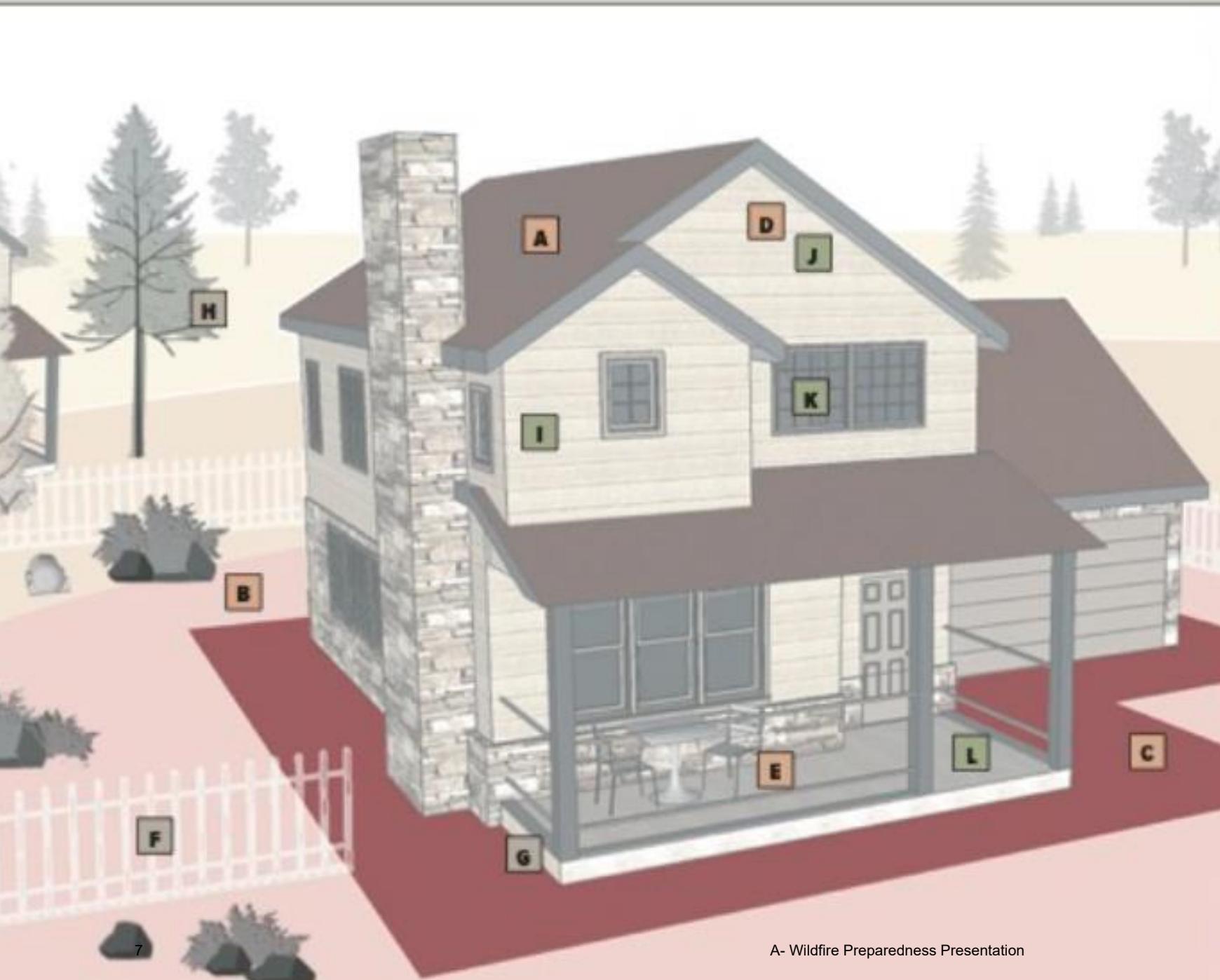
Embers



Radiant heat



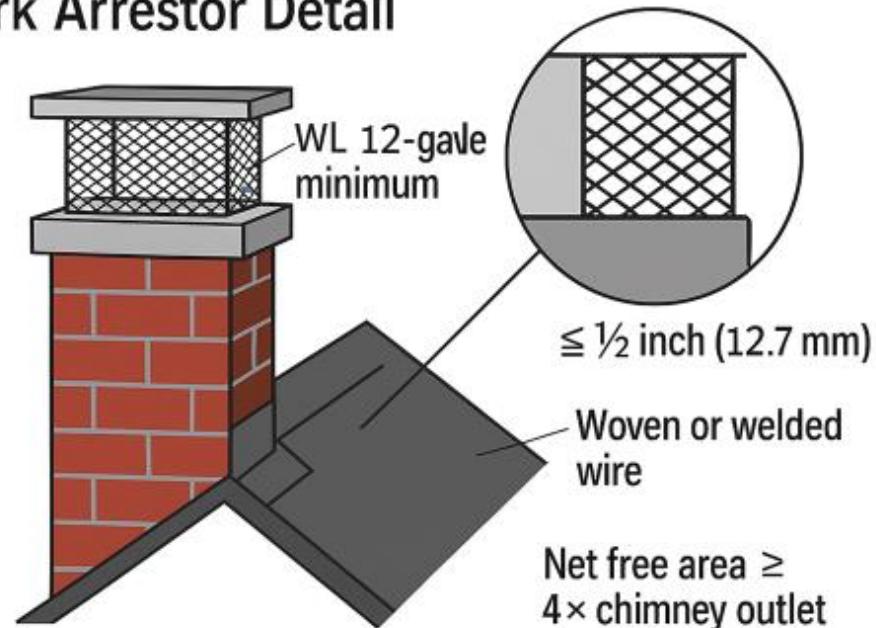
- Defensible space strategies have focused on how to reduce direct flame contact.
- **Preparing for embers and radiant heat exposures takes a different approach.**



Spark Arrestors

- Chimneys serving fireplaces require spark arrestors
- Constructed of wire mesh $\leq 1/2$ inch openings
- Net free area ≥ 4 times chimney outlet

Spark Arrestor Detail



Install spark arrestor per IWUIC Section 605:
12-gauge wire mesh, openings $\leq 1/2$ inch,
net free area $\geq 4 \times$ chimney outlet.

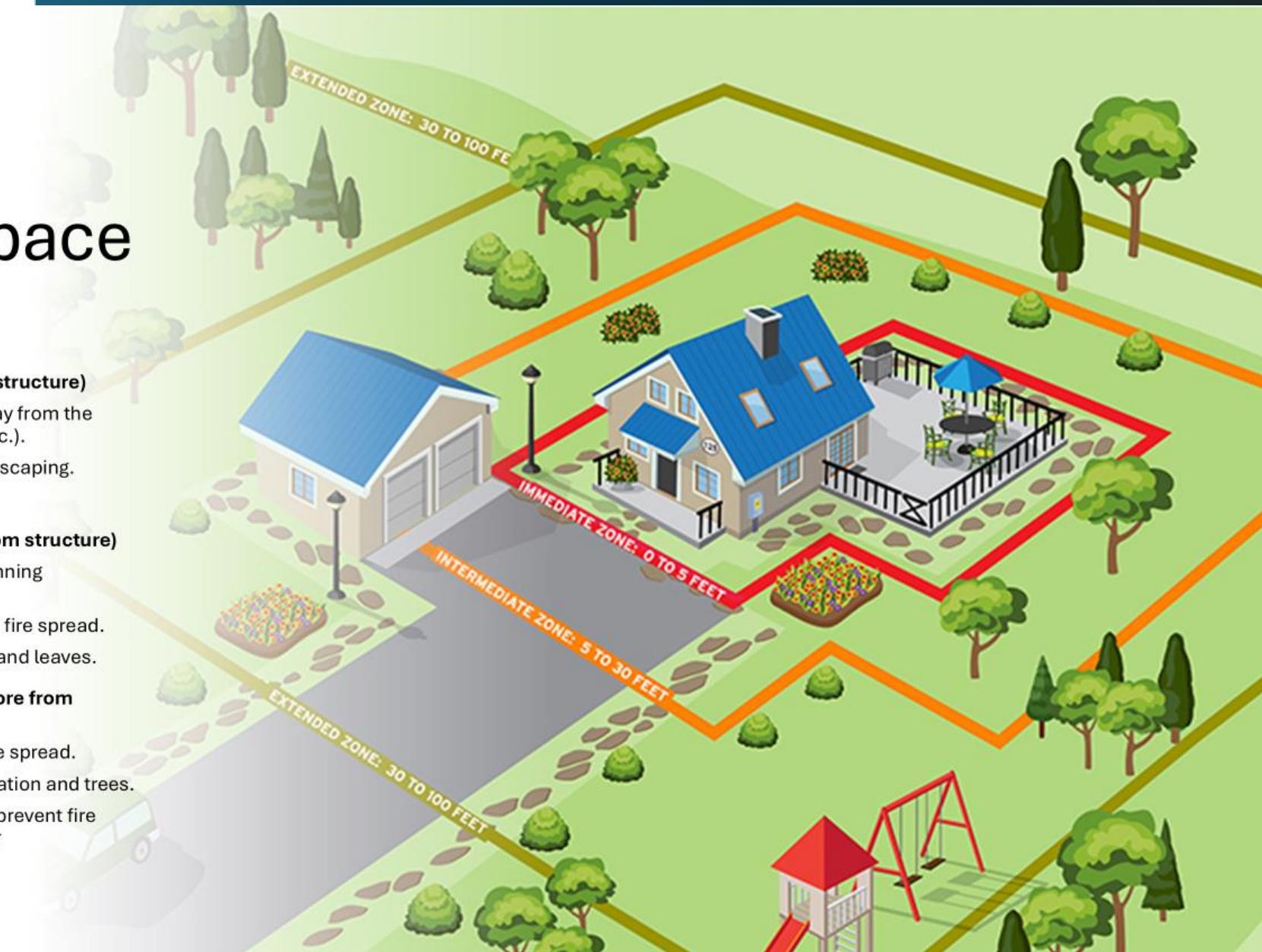


Storage & LP- Gas Requirements

- LP-Gas installations must comply with IFC and be within defensible space
- Combustible materials be kept at least 10 feet from LP-gas tanks
- Firewood and combustibles: Not stored under decks or eaves
- Minimum 20 ft from structures and 15 ft from tree crowns

Zones of Defensible Space

- **Zone 1: Immediate Zone (0-5 feet from structure)**
 - Keep all flammable materials away from the home (e.g., wood piles, mulch, etc.).
 - Use fire-resistant plants and hardscaping.
 - Clear roof and gutters of debris
- **Zone 2: Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet from structure)**
 - Maintain a defensible zone by thinning vegetation.
 - Space trees and shrubs to reduce fire spread.
 - Remove dead and dry vegetation and leaves.
- **Zone 3: Extended Zone (30-100 feet or more from structure)**
 - Create a natural buffer to slow fire spread.
 - Remove excess dead or dry vegetation and trees.
 - Maintain space between trees to prevent fire from jumping from one to another





Defensible Space

Fuel modification distances

- Moderate hazard: 30 ft | High hazard: 50 ft | Extreme hazard: 100 ft
- Los Alamos County is designated as the most extreme level of risk of a wildland event.

Defensible Space

- Trees are allowed within the *defensible space*, horizontal distance between crowns of adjacent trees and crowns of trees and structures not less than 10 feet



Commentary Figure 603.2.2
10-FOOT SEPARATION BETWEEN TREE CROWNS AND STRUCTURES

- Deadwood and litter shall be regularly removed from trees.
- If grass, ivy, succulents or similar plants are used as ground cover, they are allowed to be within the *defensible space*, provided that they do not form a means of transmitting fire from

Set....Fire Approaching

Outside

- **Gather flammable items and move them away from house**
- **Connect garden hoses and turn on sprinklers-TURN OFF WHEN/IF YOU LEAVE**
- **Patrol your property to extinguish small fires**

Inside

- **Close windows and doors**
- **Move furniture away from windows and doors**
- **Shut off air conditioning**
- **Move what you are taking to the car**

2011 Las Conchas Fire



....GO!

- Leave before someone tells you! If you feel unsafe, Leave!
- Follow instructions from the police, fire, or other emergency services.
- In evacuations from the area, leave when you are instructed by your zone, and follow evacuation routes!

Questions?

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