

Ready, Set, Go!

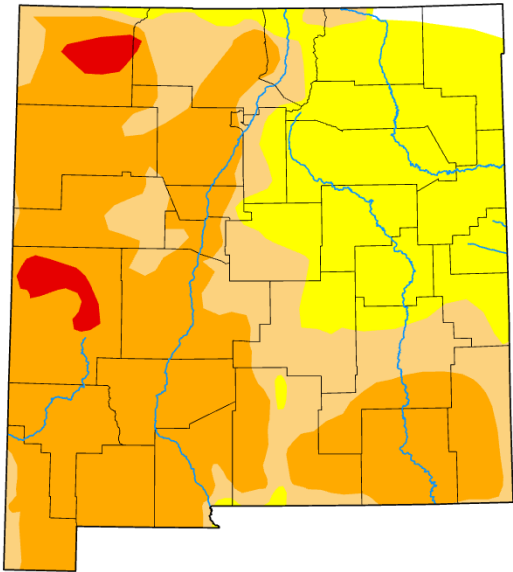
Wildfire Preparedness in Los Alamos County

Los Alamos County Fire Department

Weather Forecast

New Mexico

[Home](#) / New Mex



Map released: Thurs. January 29, 2026
Data valid: January 27, 2026 at 7 a.m. EST

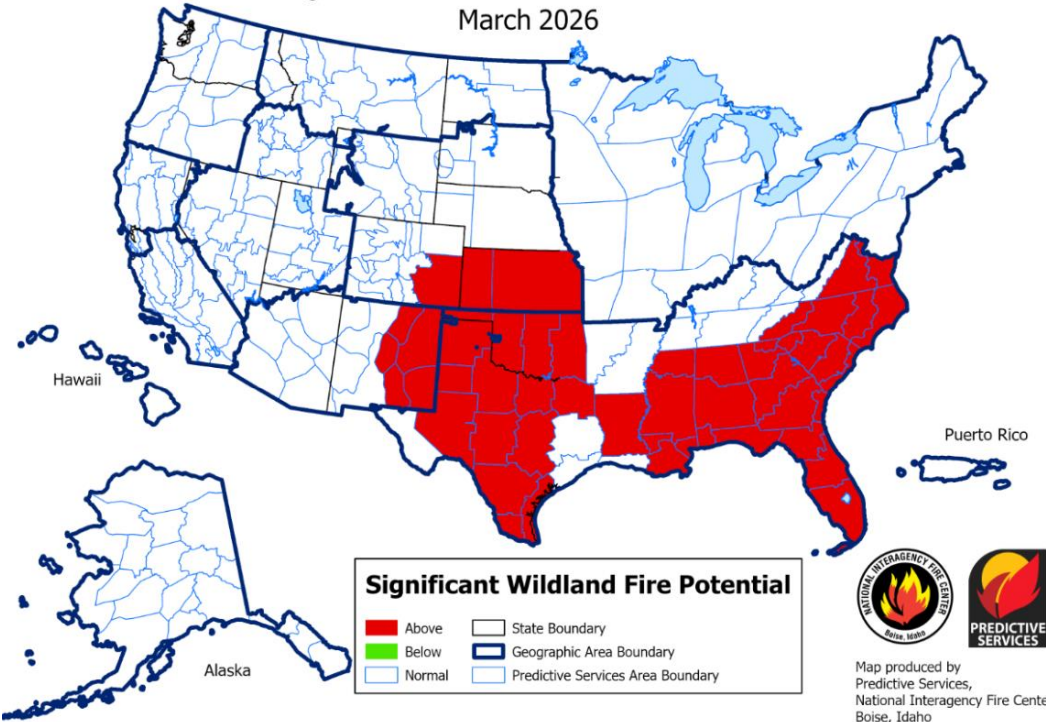
Intensity

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

Authors

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Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook March 2026



Significant Wildland Fire Potential

- Above
- Below
- Normal
- State Boundary
- Geographic Area Boundary
- Predictive Services Area Boundary

Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
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Are we wildfire ready?





A photograph of a street scene with trees, buildings, and mountains in the background. The text 'Ready!' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Ready!

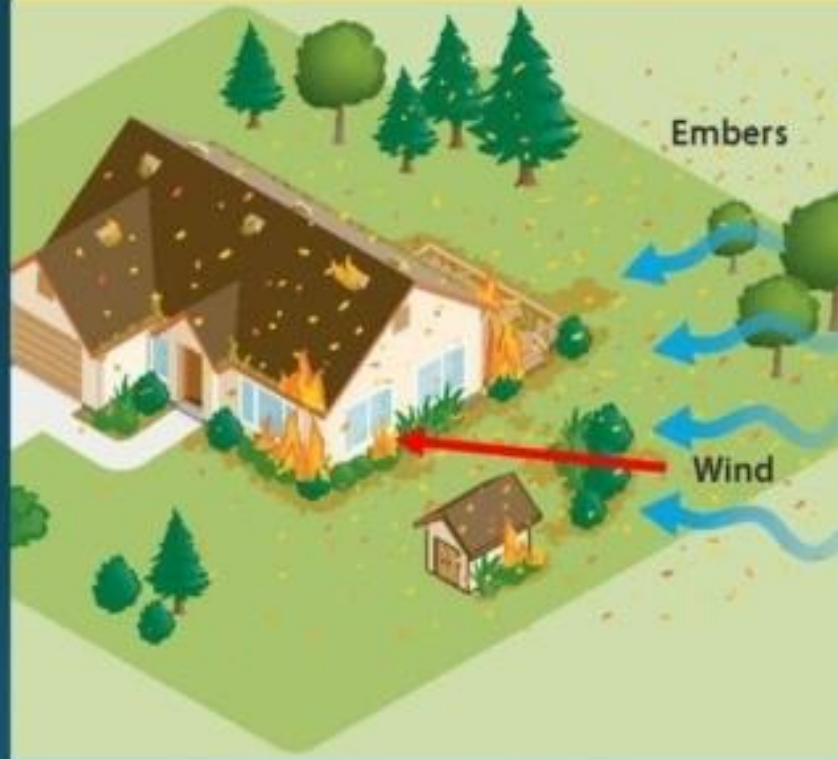
- Have evacuation plan for your family and animals.
- Put together a go kit.
- Create a checklist of valuables if you need to leave quickly.
- Register for Public Warning Messages to get updates.

Three types of fire exposures

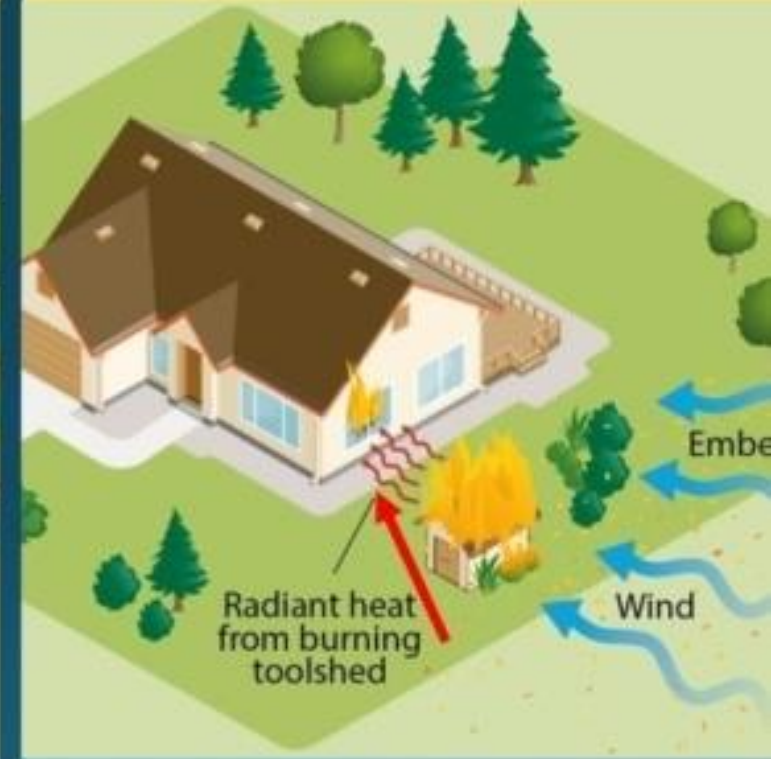
Direct flame contact



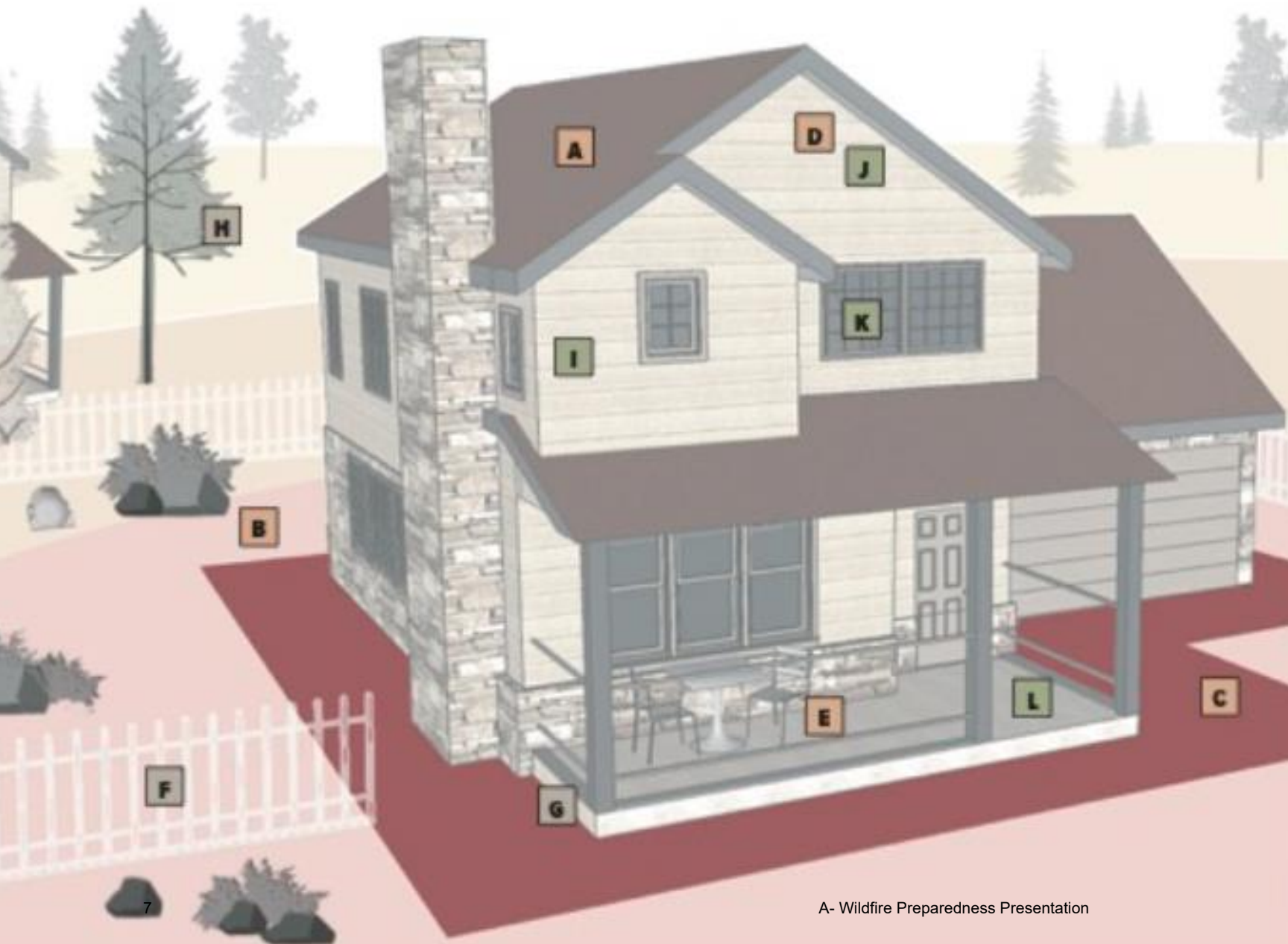
Embers



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.**

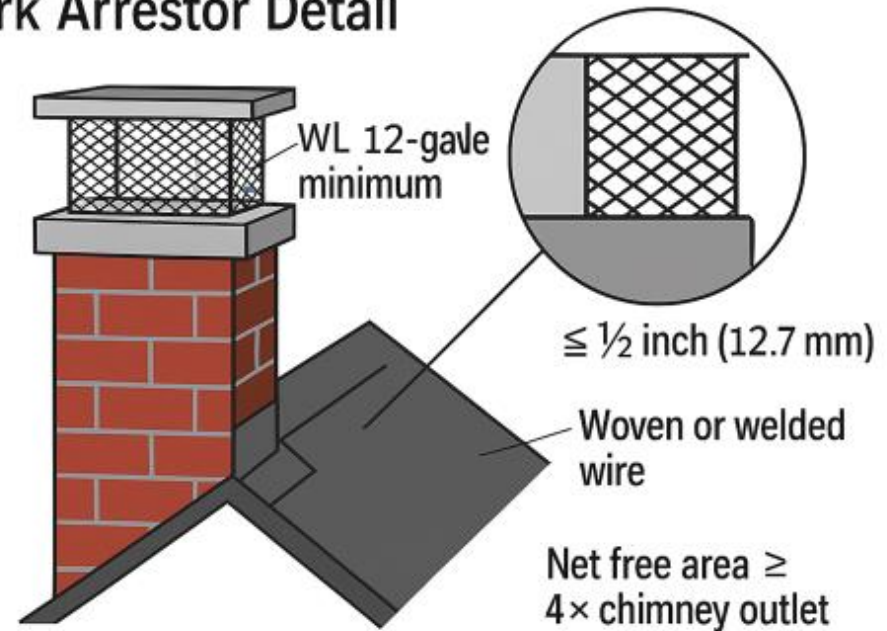


1ST PRIORITY			
A	Roof	Install a Class A-rated roof such as asphalt fiberglass shingles or metal panels.	\$
B	Roof and yard debris	Clear leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and areas around fences.	D
C	Buffer zone	Clear vegetation and other combustible materials to create a 5-foot buffer zone around the home.	\$
D	Vents	Install flame- and ember-resistant vents.	
E	Deck	Remove vegetation, firewood, and other combustible materials from on top and under decks.	D
2ND PRIORITY			
F	Fencing	Replace wood or plastic fences attached to the home with noncombustible metal fencing.	\$
G	Enclose decks	Enclose low decks and areas under bay windows with mesh screening or ventilated noncombustible material.	
H	Trees	Remove branches that overhang the roof and gutters.	
3RD PRIORITY			
I	Siding	Replace at least the lower foot of wood or vinyl siding with fiber cement, stucco, brick, or stone siding.	\$
J	Eaves	Enclose open eaves with noncombustible soffit material.	\$
K	Windows	Use dual-paned, tempered glass in windows and doors.	\$
L	Deck surface	Replace wooden decking with fire-rated composite material, metal, or lightweight concrete.	\$


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.

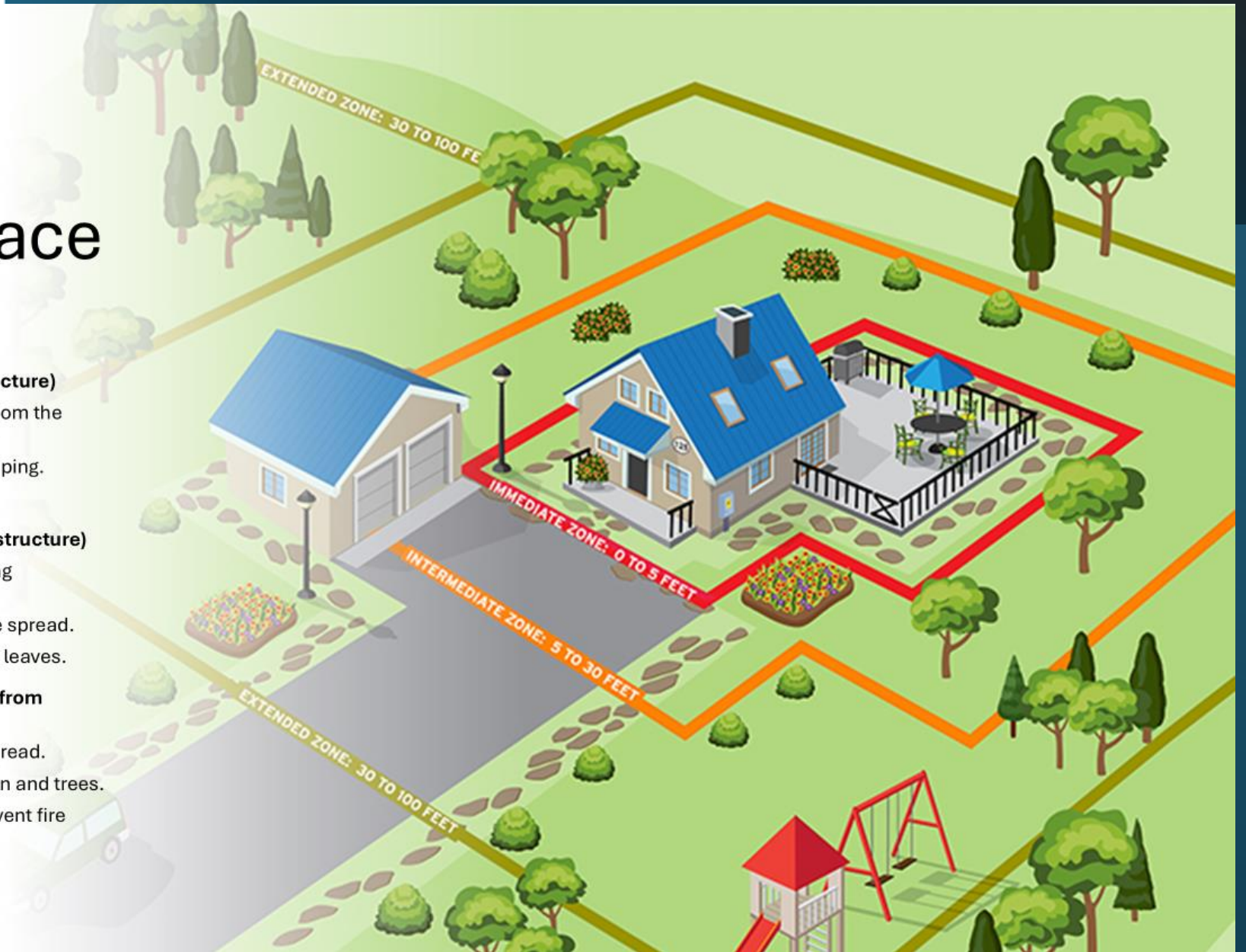


Storage & LP-Gas Requirements

- 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

A photograph of a street scene during an evacuation. In the foreground, a white Ford SUV is parked. To its right, a police officer in a high-visibility vest and helmet stands facing away from the camera. In the background, a fire truck is visible, and a traffic light shows a yellow light. The sky is overcast.

....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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