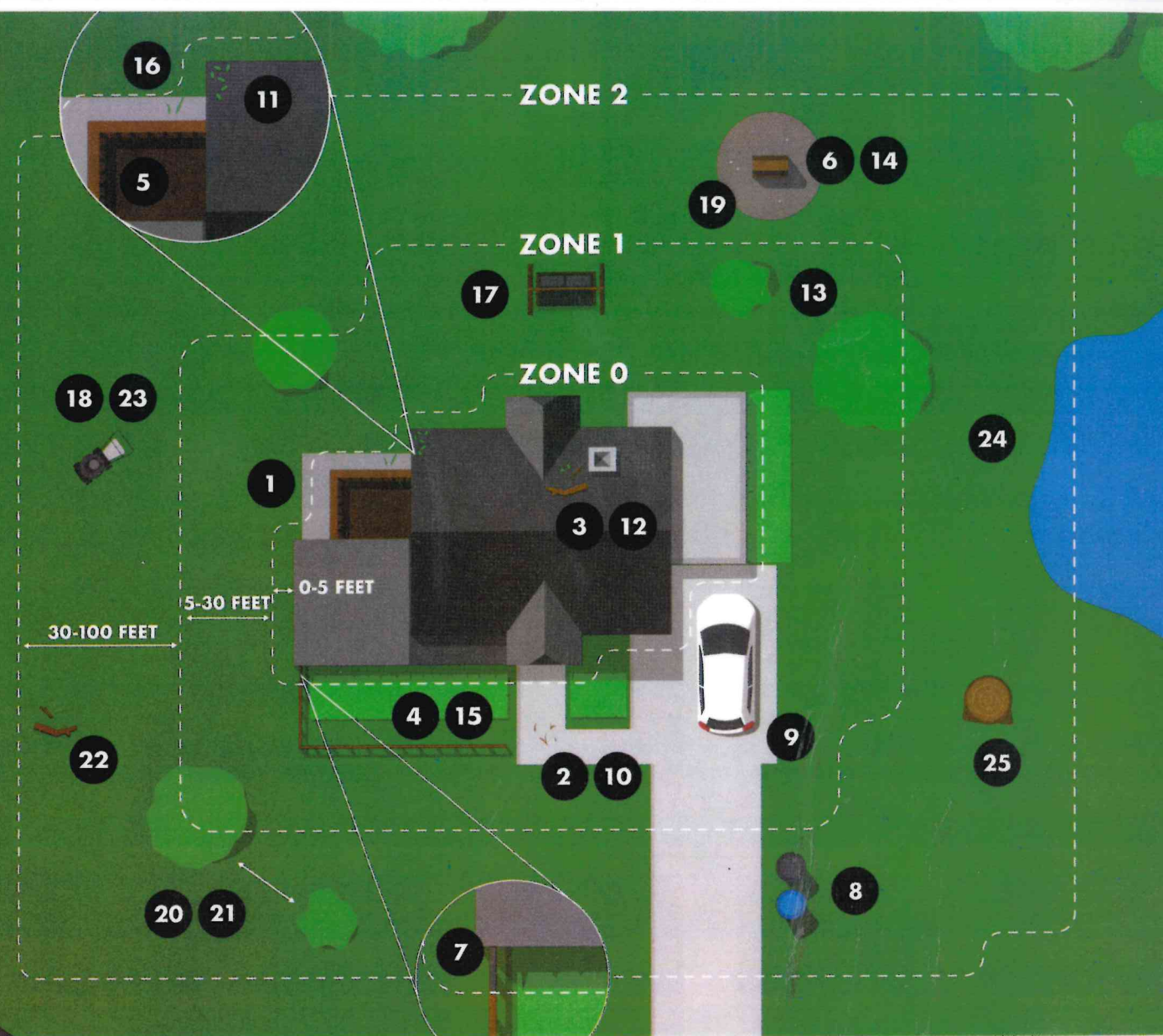
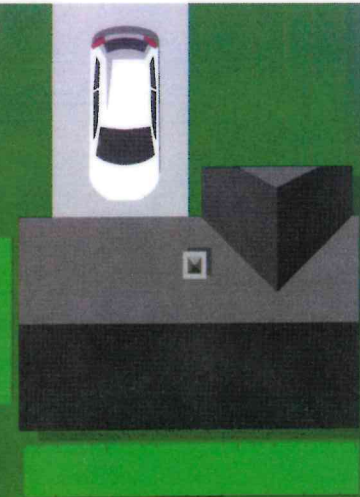


DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Creating and maintaining Defensible Space is essential to reducing the impact of wildfire on your home and property. Defensible Space is the buffer created between a building on your property and the plants, brush, trees, or other combustible items in the near vicinity. This buffer helps to keep wildfire away from your home by reducing the fire's intensity and slowing or halting the spread of wildfire. The less there is to burn near your home, the less exposure your home will have to wildfire. Creating this space also provides protection for the firefighters defending your home.

CREATING AND MAINTAINING YOUR DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Within the 100-foot perimeter of a home, there is a need for more intense reduction of wildfire fuels. Start at the home and work your way out 100 feet or to your property line, whichever is closer.



KNOW THE LAW - BE FIRE SMART

One hundred feet of Defensible Space is required under the Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291. Zones 1 and 2 currently make up the 100 feet of Defensible Space required by law. Assembly Bill 3074, passed into law in 2020, requires an ignition-resistant Zone 0 for Defensible Space.

Many local government agencies have ordinances for Defensible Space. These local ordinances will often be more stringent than the state of California's minimum requirement in PRC 4291. Check with your local fire department or fire protection district for any additional Defensible Space requirements. fire.ca.gov/dspace



Zone 0 extends from zero to five feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

1. Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete, and other noncombustible mulch materials. No combustible bark or mulch.
2. Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, branches, and vegetative debris. Check your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
3. Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet.
4. Limit plants in this area to low growing, nonwoody, properly watered, and maintained plants.
5. Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, planters, etc.) on top of decks.
6. Relocate firewood and lumber to Zone 2.
7. Replace within Zone 0 combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attached to the home with noncombustible alternatives.

8. Relocate garbage and recycling containers outside this zone.
9. Relocate boats, RVs, vehicles, and other combustible items outside this zone.

Zone 1 extends five to 30 feet from buildings, decks, and other structures.

10. Remove all dead plants, grass, and weeds (vegetation).
11. Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof, and rain gutters.
12. Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney or stovepipe outlet.
13. Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
14. Relocate exposed wood piles outside of Zone 1.

15. Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
16. Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
17. Create a separation between trees, shrubs, and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

Zone 2 extends from 30 feet to 100 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

18. Cut or mow annual grasses to a maximum height of four inches.
19. All exposed wood piles must have a minimum of 10 feet clearance around them, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.
20. Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees. (See diagram on page 11)

21. Create vertical space between grass, shrubs, and trees. (See diagram on page 11)
22. Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of three inches.

All zones

23. Mow before 10 a.m., but never when it's windy or excessively dry.
24. Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion—especially on steep slopes.
25. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed in Zone 0. In Zones 1 and 2 they need to be removed or isolated from other vegetation.