



# The Science Behind Zone 0

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# WHY IBHS?

An aerial photograph of a large industrial or research facility. The facility consists of several large, light-colored buildings, a parking lot filled with cars, and a large array of solar panels. The facility is situated in a clearing surrounded by a dense forest of green trees. A winding road or path is visible in the foreground. The sky is clear and blue.

*Severe weather disrupts lives, displaces families, and drives financial loss. IBHS delivers top-tier science and translates it into action so we can prevent avoidable suffering, strengthen our homes and businesses, inform the insurance industry, and support thriving communities.*



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- 1. Embers***
  - 2. Flames***
  - 3. Radiant Heat***



## INCLUDED MITIGATIONS

- ✓ Roof
- ✓ Building Features
- ✓ Defensible Space (Zone 0)

## ADDITIONAL MITIGATIONS

- ✓ Remove back-to-back fencing
- ✓ Eliminate combustible siding
- ✓ Enclose eaves
- ✓ Enclose under bay windows
- ✓ Upgrade to a wildfire-resistant deck
- ✓ Upgrade windows & doors
- ✓ Cover gutters
- ✓ Move outbuildings at least 30 feet away

**Embers & Flames**



# Noncombustible Zone 0

Embers accumulate at the base  
of walls and within 5 ft  
(Quarles et. al, 2023)



## Zone 0: Create a 5-foot Noncombustible Buffer

- ✓ Remove all vegetation, including overhanging branches
- ✓ Remove wood mulch
- ✓ Remove combustible fences
- ✓ Replace with rock, pavers, or stepping stones.

✓ Reducing vegetation in the 0-5 ft zone *nearly doubles* a property's wildfire survival rate





✓ Homes with heavy vegetation coverage 0-10 feet have **115%** higher wildfire claim frequency and **272%** higher loss ratio *than homes with defensible space.*



# LA County Wildfires



# LA County Wildfires





# Zone 0: Noncombustible Fences

- ✓ Replace combustible fencing within 5 feet of a home.

*Fences provide a pathway for fire to reach the home (Butler et al., 2022; Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, 2020)*



## Zone 0:

- ✓ 5-foot noncombustible zone around the deck





***CAL FIRE Demo, Sacramento***



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