

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Santa Clara Unit

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RELEASE
DATE: April 5, 2021

2021 Defensible Space Inspections Begin

Morgan Hill – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Santa Clara Unit has begun Defensible Space Inspections throughout the State Responsibility Area (SRA) within Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Western Stanislaus and Western San Joaquin counties.

This year Defensible Space Inspectors will practice social distancing while conducting inspections. In order to safely inspect homes while keeping residents and inspectors safe, inspections may include drive by inspections or inspections taking place on foot from the sidewalk or street. It is more important than ever that all residents create and or maintain their 100-foot defensible space around their home.

California Public Resources Code 4291 requires homeowners living in State Responsibility Area to maintain 100 feet of Defensible Space around structures. CAL FIRE inspectors will be educating residents and evaluating properties to ensure they are in compliance with state law.

Here are some tips that can help homes survive wildfires:

- Maintain 100 feet of Defensible Space around all structures.
- Clear all needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- Trim branches 6 feet from the ground.
- Use trimming, mowing and power equipment before 10 a.m.
- Landscape with fire resistant and drought tolerant plants that require little water.
- Remove branches away from roofs and 10 feet from the chimney.
- Keep wood piles and flammable materials at least 30 feet from the home.
- Use fire ignition resistant building material.

For more information on preparing for wildfires and defensible space visit:
www.readyforwildfire.org.

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