San José Fire Department
The San José Fire Department's core mission is to serve the community by protecting life, property and the environment through prevention and response.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and Defensible Space

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Definitions

- ## Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)

  The transitional area, where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland, is defined as the wildland-urban interface.

- ## Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ)

  While all WUI areas are vulnerable to wildfires to some degree, there are specific environmental factors that make some areas more hazardous than others. These areas are identified on the FHSZ map on the San Jose Fire Department (SJFD) website.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Area map

WUI map and Cal Fire's Fire Hazard Severity Zone for the City of San Jose.
The interactive map allows you to check if you live in the wildland-urban interface and the fire hazard severity zone of your home.
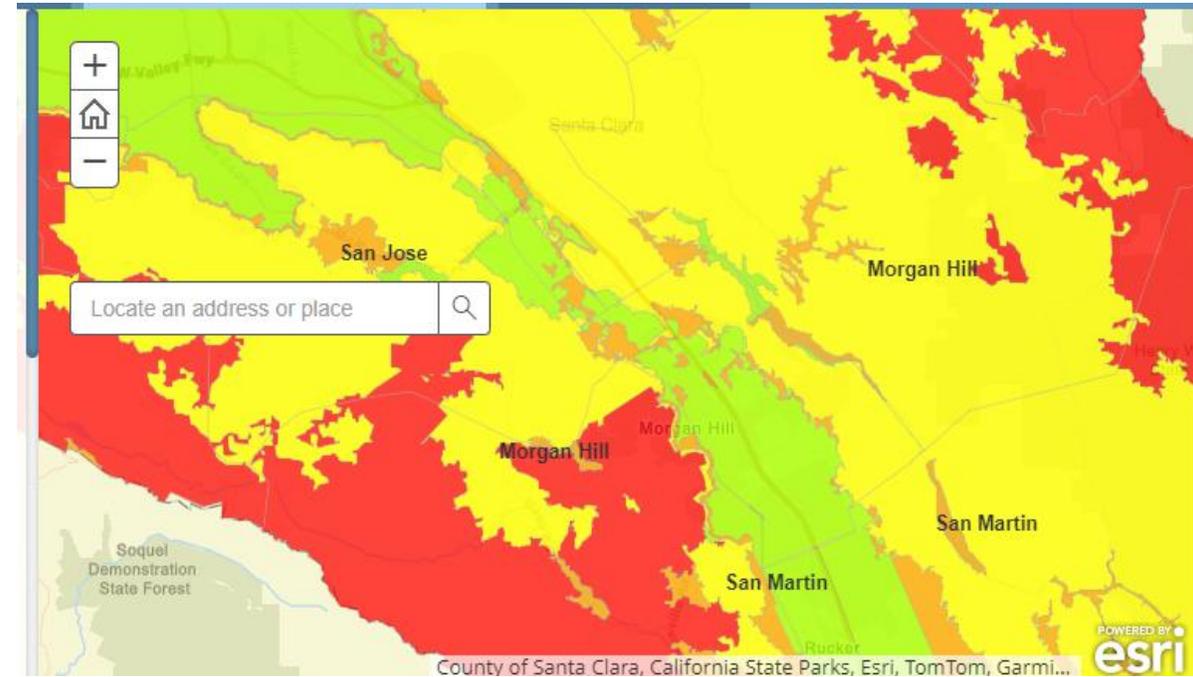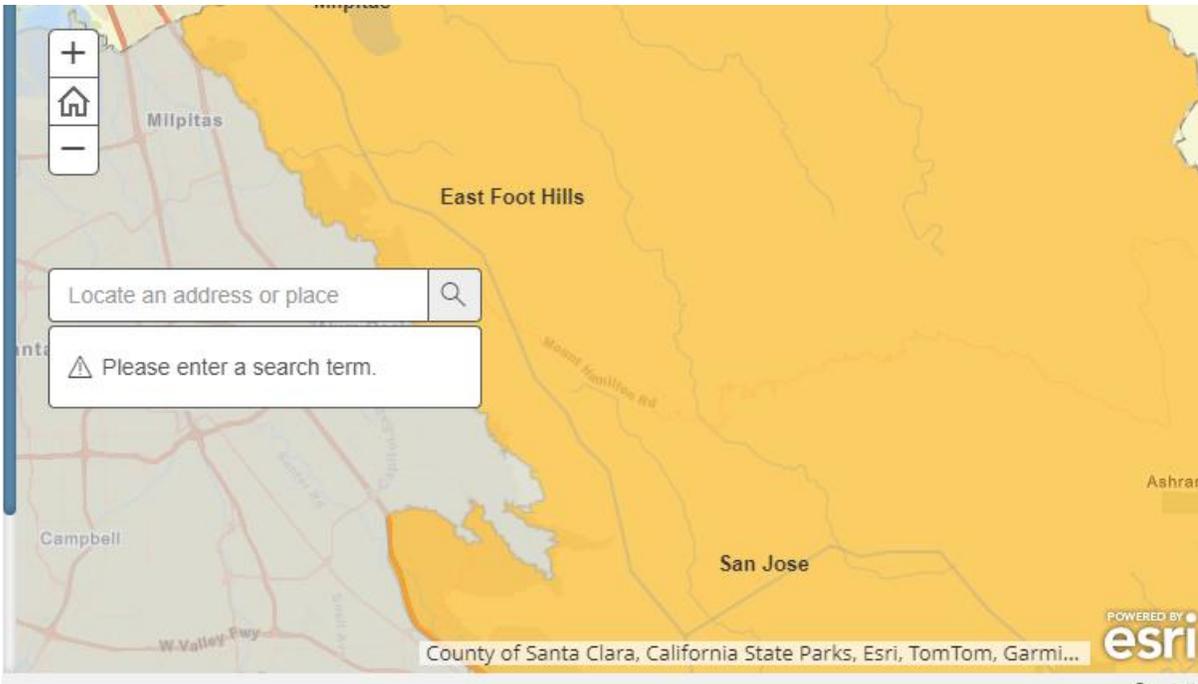
https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/fire-department/public-education/wildfire-preparedness/wildland-urban-interface

SJFD webpage

- Important information related to Wildfire Preparedness is located on SJFD.org
- 2019 Wildland-Urban Interface policy

Defensible Space Zones

- Defensible Space
  - A defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland areas that surround it.
  - This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire - either from embers, direct flame contact, or radiant heat.
  - A proper defensible space also provides emergency responders with a safe working area to defend your home.

- **Zone 0 (Immediate): Ember Resistant Zone**
  - Extend 5 feet from the building, decks and other structures
- **Zone 1 (Intermediate): Lean, Clean, and Green Zone**
  - Extend 30 feet from the building, decks, and other structures or to your property line
- **Zone 2 (Extended): Reduce Fuel Zone**
  - Extend 30 feet to 100 feet from the building, decks, and other structures or to your property line

Defensible Space

- Immediate Zone
  - 0' to 5'

- Intermediate Zone
  - 5' to 30'

- Extended Zone
  - 30' to 100'

Genasys Protect Evacuation Tool

- **Free and easy to use**: Genasys Protect is completely free to download and use—no ads, no subscriptions, and no account needed. Just install it, set your preferred address(es), and enable notifications.

- **Real-time, hyper-localized alerts:** Receive evacuation orders, warnings, advisories, shelter-in-place notices, and repopulation updates based only on your location or saved "zones." You won't be overwhelmed or bothered by irrelevant alerts.

- **Interactive evacuation maps and zone tracking:** Search addresses, monitor up to five locations (like family homes or schools), and get status updates as conditions change.

- **Privacy-first design:** The app does not track or share your personal identity. Alerts are zone-based and completely anonymous.

genasys Protect

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App Store

Learn more at
protect.genasys.com

Genasys Protect Evacuation Tool

SJFD activates Genasys Protect app just before Ranch Place Fire sparks in San Jose hills

SJFD says the new Genasys Protect application is a helpful tool for very targeted evacuation orders. We spoke with the company who makes the app, and learned more about the steps the County of Santa Clara is taking for fire safety in the South Bay.

Posted June 18, 2025 5:54pm PDT

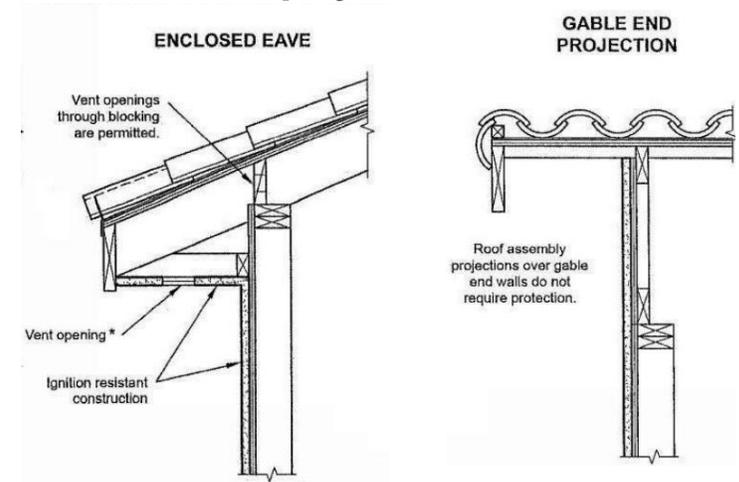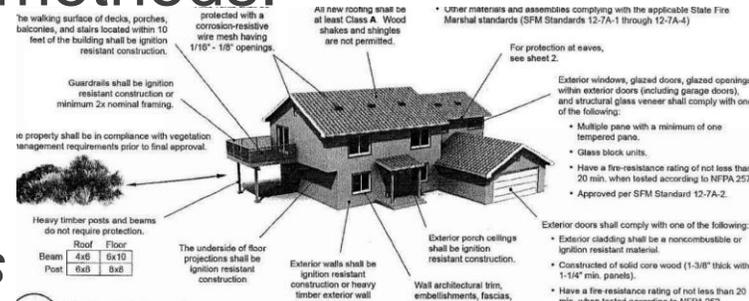**WATCH NOW**

- Buildings proposed to be built within the SJFD WUI shall comply with all WUI materials and construction methods:
  - *Roofing Detail*
  - *Attic Ventilation*
  - *Exterior Coverings*
  - *Exterior Windows and Doors*
  - *Decking Floors and Underfloor Protection*
  - *Accessory Structures*

- California Fire Code, San Jose Municipal Ordinance, and San Jose Policies related to WUI requirements for construction, plan review, and inspections are available at **SJFD.org** (click on Resources)

- Assembly Bill 38: Defensible Space and Inspection

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and Defensible Space

- For additional resources, please visit **SJFD.org**

- Information, handouts, and QR codes related to WUI and FHSZ are available at the Fire Department table

- Fire Staff is available at the Fire Department table for any questions

Thank You