

# 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)**

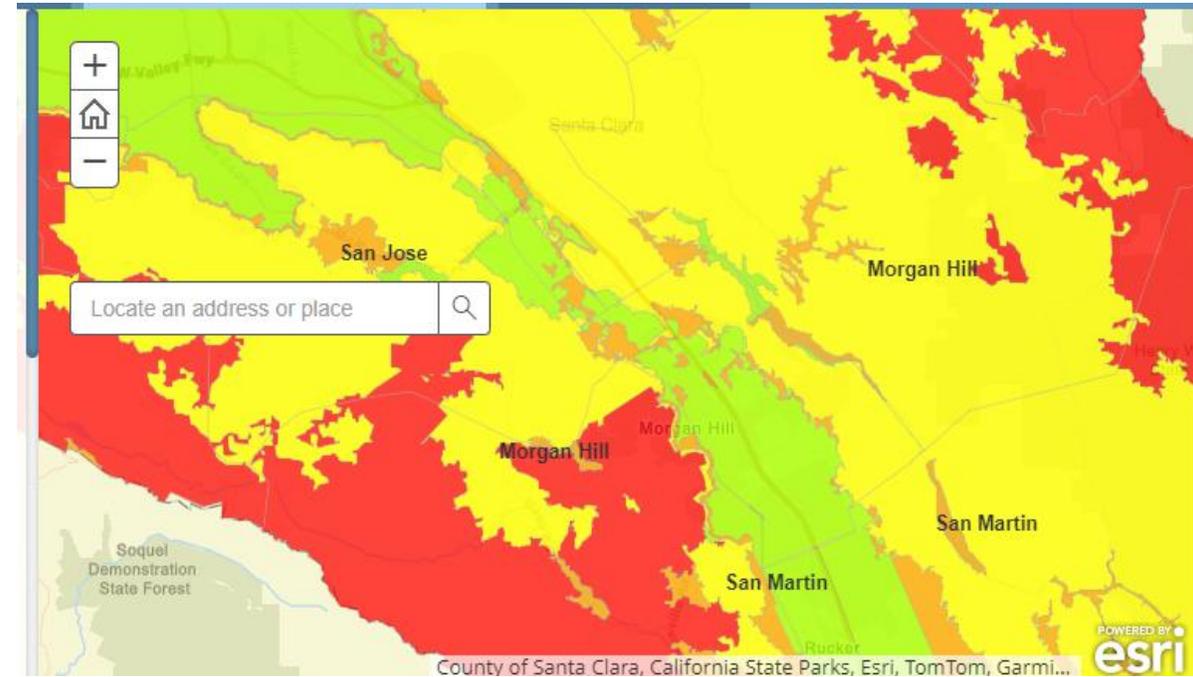
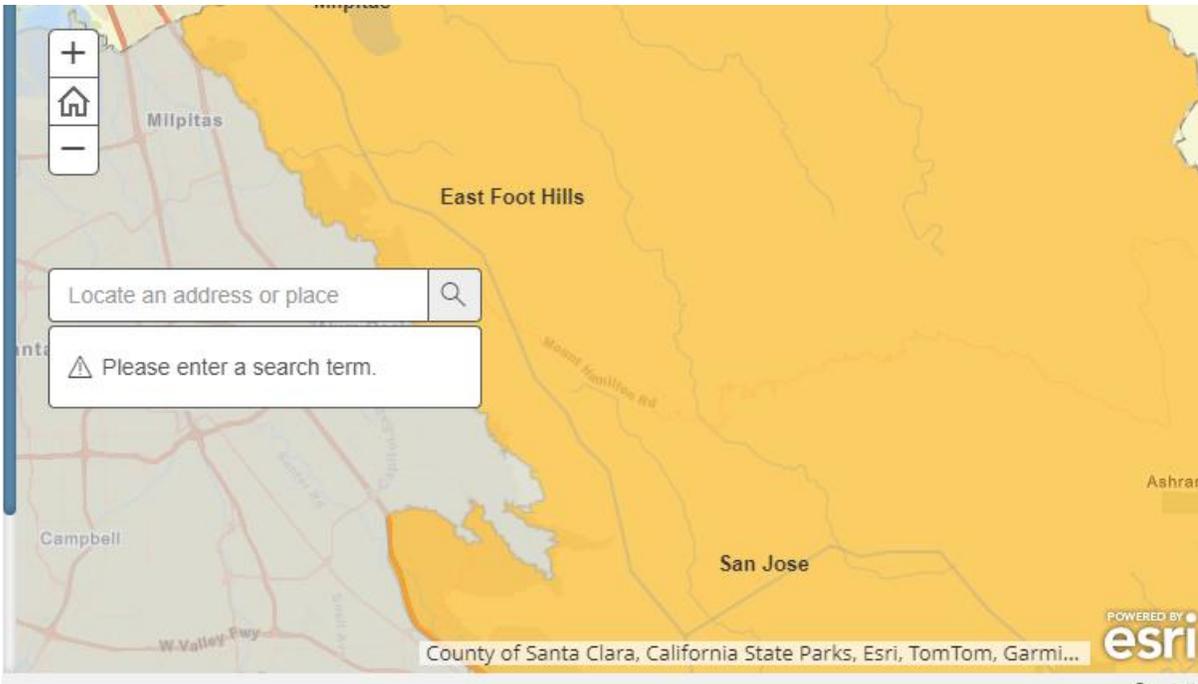
While all WUI areas are vulnerable to wildfires to some degree, there are specific environmental factors that make some areas more hazardous than others. These areas are identified on the FHSZ map on the San Jose Fire Department (SJFD) website.

# 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



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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

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



- Fire Department
  - + Fire Prevention & Permits
  - + Recruitment
  - + Fire Communications
  - Public Education
    - Wildfire Preparedness
      - Wildland-Urban Interface
      - Pre-Evacuation
      - Wildfire Evacuation
      - Defensible Space
      - Hardening Your Home
      - Fire-Resistant Landscaping
      - Wildfire Action Plan
      - Emergency Supply Kit
      - Insurance Preparedness
    - + Disaster Preparedness
    - + Fire Prevention
    - + Fire Safety Equipment
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    - Fire Stations
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### PREPARING FOR WILDFIRE



📹 Did you know? You can view current wildfire conditions in California using [ALERT Wildfire](#). This is a network of live cameras that monitors wildfire activity on the West Coast.

Every year, California experiences major wildfires that affect countless communities throughout the state and the City of San José is no exception. The East Foothills and Almaden Valley communities are especially vulnerable; however, any home that resides in or near the [wildland-urban interface](#)\* area is at risk. While proximity to wildlands can impact wildfire risk, the good news is there are proactive steps you can take to help protect your home.

### HOW TO PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE

Wildfires are fast, unpredictable, and they can happen almost anywhere. The best way to protect you, your family, and your home is to plan, prepare, and stay aware. San José property owners and residents who live in or near a wildland-urban interface area are encouraged to take the following steps:

- **Create a Defensible Space:** Create a buffer between your home and surrounding vegetation to protect your home from catching fire.
- **Harden Your Home:** Use building materials and installation techniques to help your home resist heat, flames and embers.
- **Install a Fire-Resistant Landscape:** Plant fire-resistant vegetation around your home or property to help resist wildfire.
- **Check if You Live a Wildland-Urban Interface.** Determine what is the wildfire risk in your community.
- **Draw up a Wildfire Action Plan:** Identify escape routes in your home and designate an out-of-area contact in case of separation.

### RESOURCES

- [CAL FIRE: Ready, Set, Go!](#)
- [Santa Clara County FireSafe Council](#)
- [Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#)

# 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.

# Defensible Space: Zones



- **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.

A promotional graphic for the Genasys Protect app. It features a dark red background with a black banner at the top containing the Genasys Protect logo and name. Below the banner are three QR codes arranged vertically. To the right of each QR code is a call to action: the first QR code is for Google Play, the second is for the App Store, and the third is for the website protect.genasys.com.

 **genasys Protect**

  Download on  
**Google Play**

  Download on the  
**App Store**

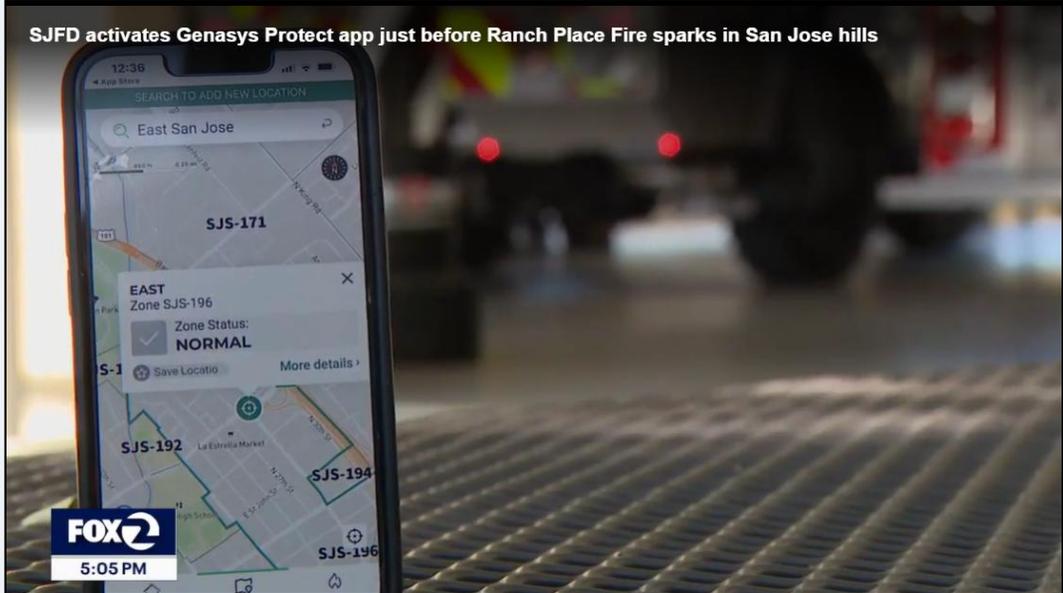
  Learn more at  
[protect.genasys.com](https://protect.genasys.com)

# Genasys Protect Evacuation Tool



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



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**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 | [🔗](#)

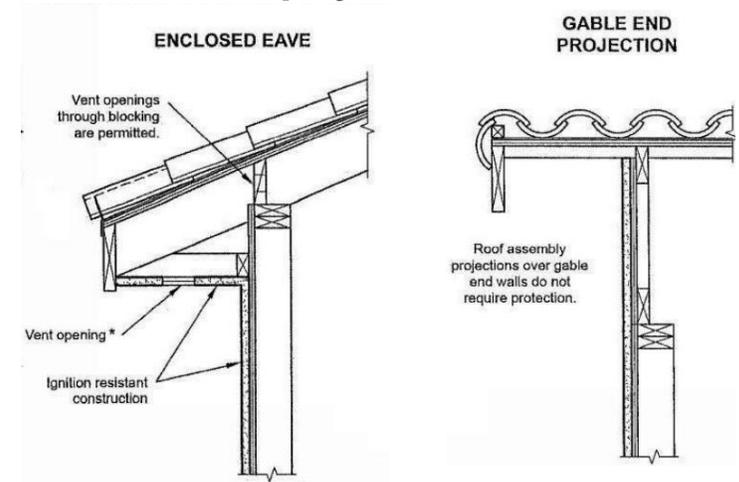
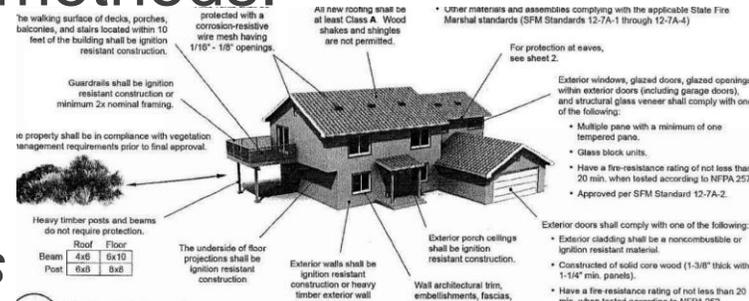
[WATCH NOW](#)

# New construction or additions



- 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](http://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](https://www.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**