



Move It Out: Clear Zone 0 to Protect Your Home from Wildfire

If you're serious about wildfire safety, it's time to take a hard look at what's right up against your home—and move it out. Zone 0, the first **five feet around your home**, is now recognized as the most critical area to keep clear to prevent wildfire ignition. This includes all attachments to homes such as decks, gates or fences, and gutters. Governor Newsom's recent [executive order](#) puts a spotlight on this high-risk zone, with new ordinances on the way. What does that mean for you? Simple: **if it can burn and it's near your home, it needs to be moved out at least 5 feet.**

Five feet might sound like too small of a space to make a big difference. According to the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), keeping Zone 0 clear of anything that can burn dramatically reduces the chances of flames reaching your home, even in high winds. Post-fire studies show that embers—those tiny, wind-driven firebrands—are responsible for up to 90% of structure losses during wildfires. When embers land on combustible materials next to a house, like patio cushions, doormats, wooden trellises, firewood, and vegetation, they can ignite and spread quickly to the home. Clearing this area around the house removes these common ignition sources.

So what needs to move? Anything that can burn. Relocate outdoor storage, remove plants, and replace bark mulch with stones, gravel or pavers. (You can use composted bark mulch a little farther from your home.) Find new places to store any woodpiles and plastic garbage and recycling bins—well away from the house. And pay special attention to fences and gates connected to the home; these can serve as a direct pathway for fire to travel to your house. Replace wooden fence attachments with metal or fiber cement options.



Zone 0 is no longer just a recommended feature of defensible space—it's quickly becoming a requirement in updated fire codes and local ordinances across California. Creating a fire resistant Zone 0 now is proactive and one of the smartest, most affordable ways to protect your home and slow the spread of fire in your neighborhood.

For more practical tips and resources on how to create a safer Zone 0, visit FireSafeMarin.org.

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

