



# WELCOME

Tonight's presentation **Wildland Fire and Emergency Preparedness Town Hall Meeting Presentation of September 19, 2023**, is available to download from our website:

<https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/government/departments/fire>

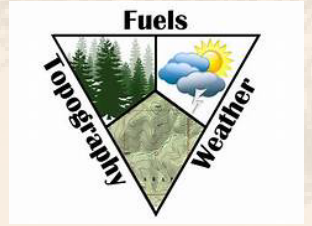




# **WILDLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TOWN HALL MEETING**

City Council  
September 19, 2023

# Purpose



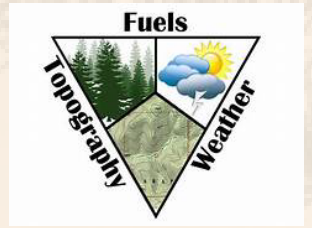
2018–Wildfire Mitigation and Safety Subcommittee was created at the request of the City Council

- Camp Fire in Paradise, CA
- Historic Fires in Laguna Beach: 1993, 2015, 2018, 2021, 2022

## Two Conclusions

- (1) It is not possible to reduce the risk of wildfire in the City to the point of insignificance, and
- (2) There are many tangible steps that we can take to make our community more resistant to wildfire and better able to respond in case disaster strikes and we need to alert and evacuate the City.

# Wildfire Mitigation Plan Recommendations



## *Categories*

- Emergency Alert Systems
- Evacuation Plans and Improvements
- Fuel Modification Zones
- Public Infrastructure Improvements
- Undergrounding Utilities



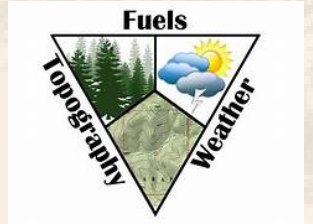


# Community Preparedness

## *Wildfire Mitigation & Fire Safety Report*

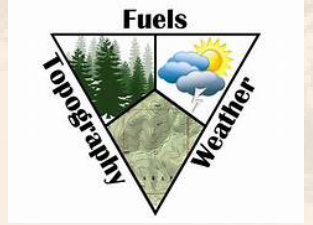
### *Highlights*

- Bluebird Canyon Widening
- Install a city-wide outdoor warning system
- Interactive Evacuation Map
- Evacuation Time Estimate Study
- Defensible Space Ordinance
- Maintain & Expand Fuel Modification Program
- Install 2 helicopter filling stations



# Community Preparedness

## *Planned Events*



### Red Flag Warning

- Santa Ana Wind Conditions
  - Dry, hot, windy
- Additional public safety personnel
- Coordination with partners
- Parking Restrictions – Diamond/Crestview



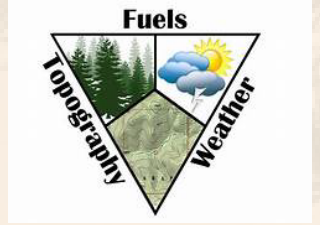
### Public Safety Power Shutoff PSPS

- If high-fire risk weather conditions exist, SCE & SDG&E may de-energize circuits
- Sign up for notifications from power provider



# Community Preparedness

## *Evacuation*



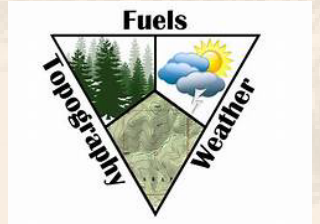
### **Completed Evacuation Time Estimate Study – 2021**

- City-wide evacuation – over 4:20 hours
- If 133 unavailable – an additional 40 mins
- If 133 & North or South Coast Hwy unavailable – an additional 3:45
- If households only use 1 vehicle – evacuation time drops by up to 1:20



# Community Preparedness

## “Know Your Zone”



- Evacuation Order vs
- Evacuation Warning

The screenshot shows a web-based map interface for the City of Laguna Beach, titled "Evacuation Zones" under the "Emergency Preparedness" section. The map displays various evacuation zones color-coded and labeled, such as LAB01 Arch Beach Heights, LAB02 Balboa Nyes, LAB04 Bluebird Canyon, LAB05 Boat Canyon, LAB06 Big Bend, LAB08 Big Bend, LAB09 Canyon Acres, LAB10 Downtown, LAB11 El Toro, LAB12 Emerald Bay, LAB15 Old Top of the World, LAB16 Park Avenue, LAB18 Temple Hills, LAB19 Top of the World, LAB01a North Coast, LAB01b Central Coast, LAB01c Point, LAB01d Arch Beach Heights, LAB02 Balboa Nyes, LAB04 Bluebird Canyon, LAB05 Boat Canyon, LAB06 Big Bend, LAB08 Big Bend, LAB09 Canyon Acres, LAB10 Downtown, LAB11 El Toro, LAB12 Emerald Bay, LAB15 Old Top of the World, LAB16 Park Avenue, LAB18 Temple Hills, LAB19 Top of the World. A legend on the left lists the zones and their corresponding colors. A search bar at the top left allows for finding addresses or places. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates 0.6 miles. The map is overlaid on a topographic background showing terrain features like Emerald Canyon, Maro Canyon, and Wood Canyon. A "Fuels, Topography, Weather" logo is visible in the top right corner of the map area. A "City of Laguna Beach" watermark is visible in the background of the map.

**Evacuation Terminology**

**Evacuation Order**

- LBPD orders all persons and their animals in the designated evacuation area(s) to immediately relocate to safer locations.
- Risk of loss of life and property is extreme and imminent.
- Evacuation is mandatory.
- Persons refusing to comply with an immediate evacuation order will not be forcibly removed from their homes but cannot expect rescue or other lifesaving assistance once the incident is underway.

**Evacuation Warning**

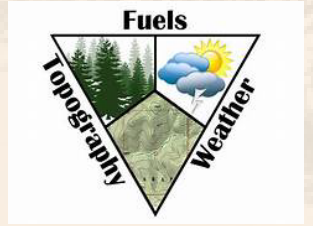
- LBPD urges persons and their animals in the evacuation area(s) to relocate to safer locations.
- Those with access and functional needs and those with large animals should leave now.
- Loss of life and property is a risk but is not imminent.
- Personal discretion whether to evacuate is allowed but not advised.



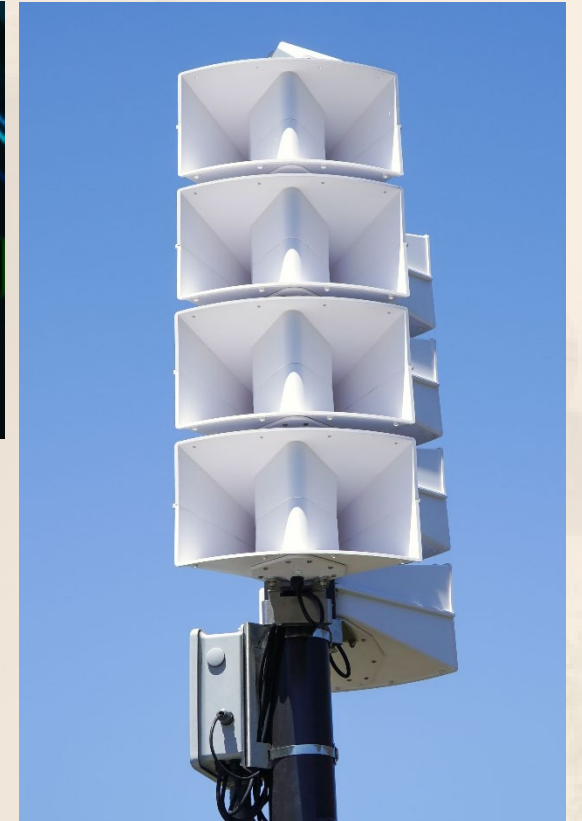


# Community Preparedness

## *Alert & Warning*



- Nixle
- AlertOC
- Outdoor Warning System
- Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)
- Social Media
- 104.7 - KXFM

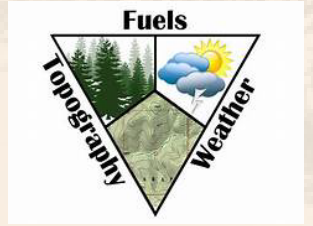




# Community Preparedness

*What the Community can do to be ready*

- Sign up for alerts and be ready
- Follow instructions and have a plan for the entire family
  - ✓ Emergency go-bags (consider pets, children, elderly & documents)
  - ✓ Communications Plan
- Stay engaged and watch out for your neighborhood
- [Home hardening—free inspections](#)

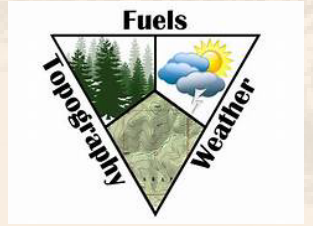


[Defensible Space  
Inspection](#)





# Public Infrastructure Improvements



## Summit Way Slope Stabilization

- Provided road support in area of severe erosion
- Roadway is only access route for approximately 20 homes
- Completed in September 2021



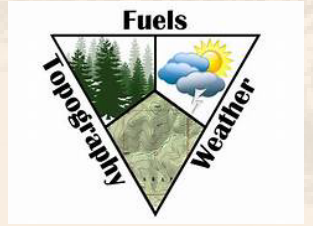
## Bluebird Canyon Drive Slope Stabilization

- Provided road support in area of severe erosion
- One of only two means of access to nearly 300 homes within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHS)
- Completed in October 2022





# Public Infrastructure Improvements



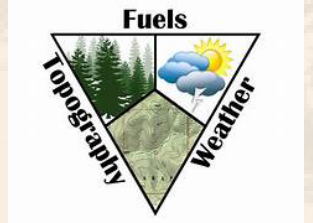
## *Bluebird Canyon Drive Evacuation Route Widening*

- Identified in the 2019 Wildfire Mitigation and Fire Safety Report
- Only means of access to nearly 300 homes within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHS)
- Provides up to three 10-foot lanes for emergency ingress/egress
- Retaining wall provides improved slope stability
- Completed in September 2023



# Public Infrastructure Improvements

## *Diamond Street Utility Undergrounding*



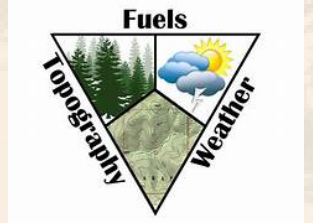
- Improves reliability of only access to approximately 100 homes
- Removes 8 existing utility poles
- Removes approximately 1,050 LF of overhead utility lines
- Anticipated completion – Early 2024





# Public Infrastructure Improvements

## *Laguna Canyon Road Improvements (Caltrans)*

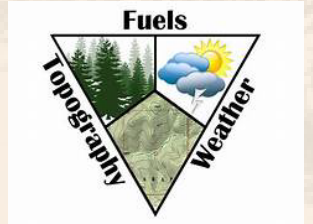


- Improves reliability of a major evacuation route
- Adds continuous second outbound lane
- Removes 12 existing utility poles and over 3,000 feet of overhead utility lines
- Includes previously mentioned drainage improvements
- Anticipated completion by the end of 2025

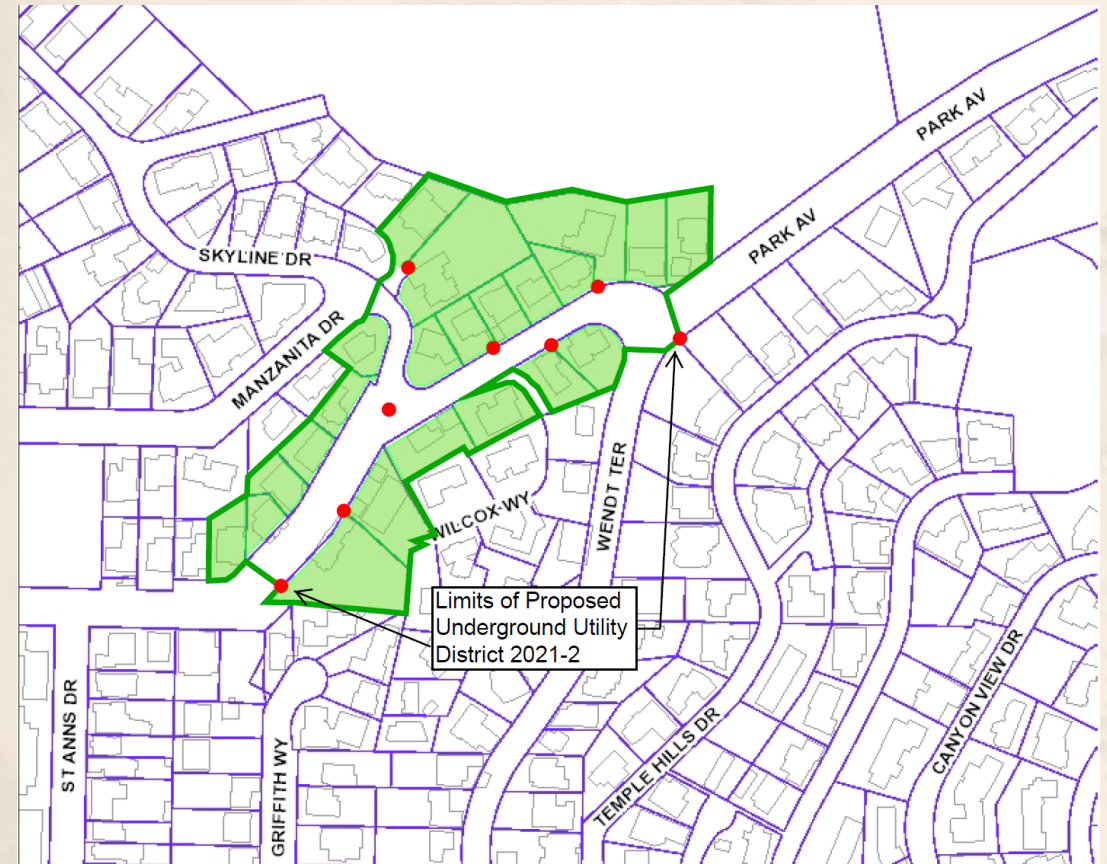


# Public Infrastructure Improvements

## *Park Avenue Utility Undergrounding*

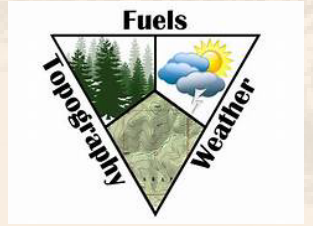


- Key Evacuation Route identified in the 2019 Wildfire Mitigation and Fire Safety Report
- One of only two access routes to approximately 600 parcels
- Removes 8 existing utility poles
- Removes approximately 1,035 Feet of overhead utility lines
- Anticipated Completion – Summer 2024





# Public Infrastructure Improvements

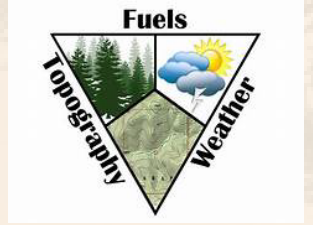


## *Laguna Canyon Road Utility Undergrounding*

- Removes approximately 2.5 miles of overhead utilities and related poles
- Eliminates fire danger in preserved open space by undergrounding utilities
- Removes traffic crash risks by removing power/utility poles
- SCE design underway
- City actively seeking grant funding



# Mitigation



## *What is Fuel Mitigation?*

**The strategic reduction of vegetation to lessen the potential of wildfire hazards, catastrophic fire and its threat to public and firefighter safety, and damage to property.**

*These are the Fuel Mitigation programs the Laguna Beach Fire Department has in place.*

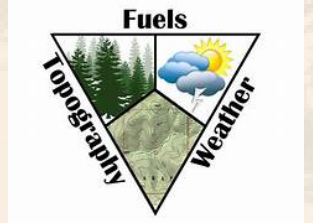
- Fuel Management Zones
  - Fuel Modification
  - Weed Abatement
  - AB 38 Inspections
- Fire Hazard Investigation





# Mitigation

## *Fuel Management Defined*

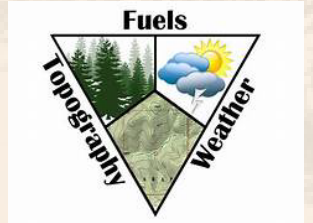


- **Fuel Management Zones** (281 acres – 10 Zones) Goat grazing Non-sensitive/Unprotected
- **Fuel Management Zones** (200 acres – 15 Zones) Handwork/Treatment, Sensitive/Protected Areas
- **Fuel Management Zones** (28.6 acres – 3 Zones) Managed by LBCWD/Irvine Cove/Emerald Bay)



# Mitigation

## Fuel Management Schedule (FY 23)



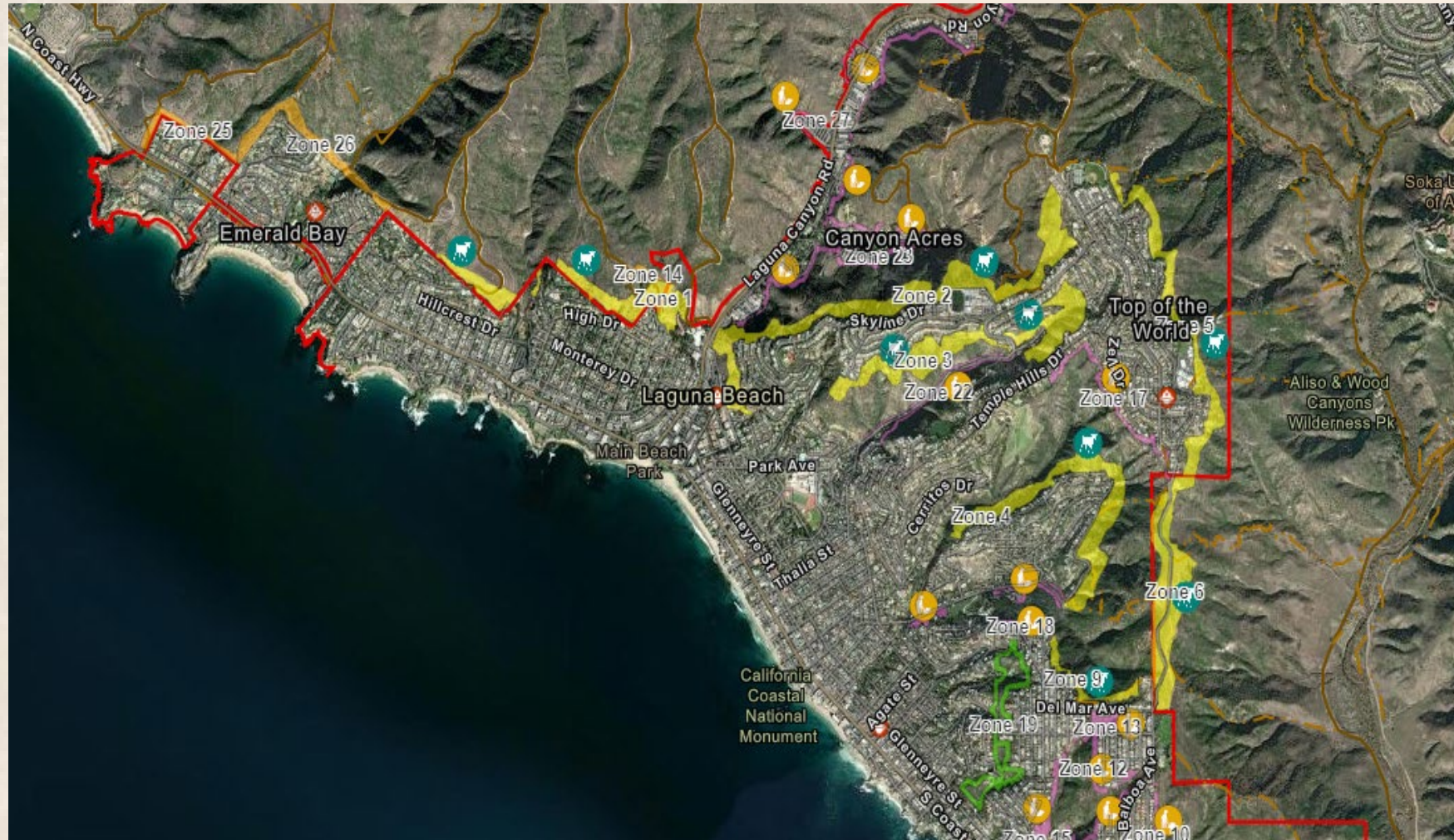
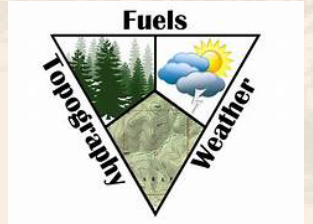
Goat Grazing														
FMZ	Area Name	Acreage	First Pass	Second Pass	Third Pass	December (202)	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
FMZ 1	Dartmoor	31.2	Herd - 1							Herd - 1	Herd - 1			
FMZ 2	Skyline-Alta Laguna - (City Hall to Bermuda)	60.2	Herd - 1						Herd - 1					
FMZ 2	Skyline-Alta Laguna - (Bermuda to Alta Laguna)		Herd - 1									Herd - 1	Herd - 1	
FMZ 3	Hidden Valley/Pacific	43	Herd - 1											Herd - 1
FMZ 4	Bluebird Canyon	40	Herd - 2							Herd - 2	Herd - 2			
FMZ 5	Nestall - Top of the World	30.5	Herd - 2											Herd - 2
FMZ 6	Fire Road	37.8	Herd - 2									Herd - 2	Herd - 2	
FMZ 7	Ceanothus	10.3	Herd - 3								Herd - 3			
FMZ 8	Three Arch Bay	15.9	Herd - 3									Herd - 3		
FMZ 9	Del Mar	7.5	Herd - 2									Herd - 2		
FMZ 10 (West)	Barraouda - West/Nyes	4.5	Herd - 2						Herd - 2					
	Sub Total	280.9												
Hand Crews														
FMZ	Area Name	Acreage	First Pass	Second Pass	Third Pass	December (202)	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
FMZ 10 (East)	Barraouda - East	3.76	Crew/Herbicide											Crew/Herbicide
FMZ 11	Driftwood	2.6	Crew/Herbicide											Crew/Herbicide
FMZ 12	Arch Beach Heights View Park	1.4	Herbicide	Crew/Herbicide			Herbicide			Crew/Herbicide				
FMZ 13	Oro Canyon	6.7	Herbicide	Crew/Herbicide			Herbicide			Crew/Herbicide				
FMZ 14	LBCWD Responsibility	3.63												
FMZ 15	Nyes & Oro Canyons	24.1	Herbicide	Crew/Herbicide			Herbicide			Crew/Herbicide				
FMZ 16	Hobo Canyon - Proposed	18.8												
FMZ 17	Upper Bluebird - Permitting	8.6	Crew/Herbicide											Crew/Herbicide
FMZ 18	South Bluebird - Permitting	8.7	Crew/Herbicide											Crew/Herbicide
FMZ 19	Diamond Canyon - Proposed	26.9												
FMZ 20	Sunset	7.02	Herbicide	Crew/Herbicide				Herbicide			Crew/Herbicide			
FMZ 21	South Laguna	12.25	Herbicide	Crew/Herbicide				Herbicide			Crew/Herbicide			
FMZ 22	Park Ave	7.16	Herbicide	Crew/Herbicide						Crew/Herbicide				
FMZ 23	Canyon Acres	13.6	Herbicide	Crew/Herbicide	Herbicide	Herbicide							Crew/Herbicide	
FMZ 24	Laguna Canyon	25	Herbicide	Crew/Herbicide		Herbicide							Crew/Herbicide	
FMZ 25	Irvine Cove - HOA	7.57												
FMZ 26	Emerald Bay - HOA	17.4												
FMZ 27	City Corporate Yard	1.5	Herbicide	Crew/Herbicide		Herbicide							Crew/Herbicide	
	Sub Total	200.69												
	City Responsibility Current FMZs Only (Incl. FMZ 17 & 18)	126.39												
	All FMZs Grand Total	481.59												





# Mitigation

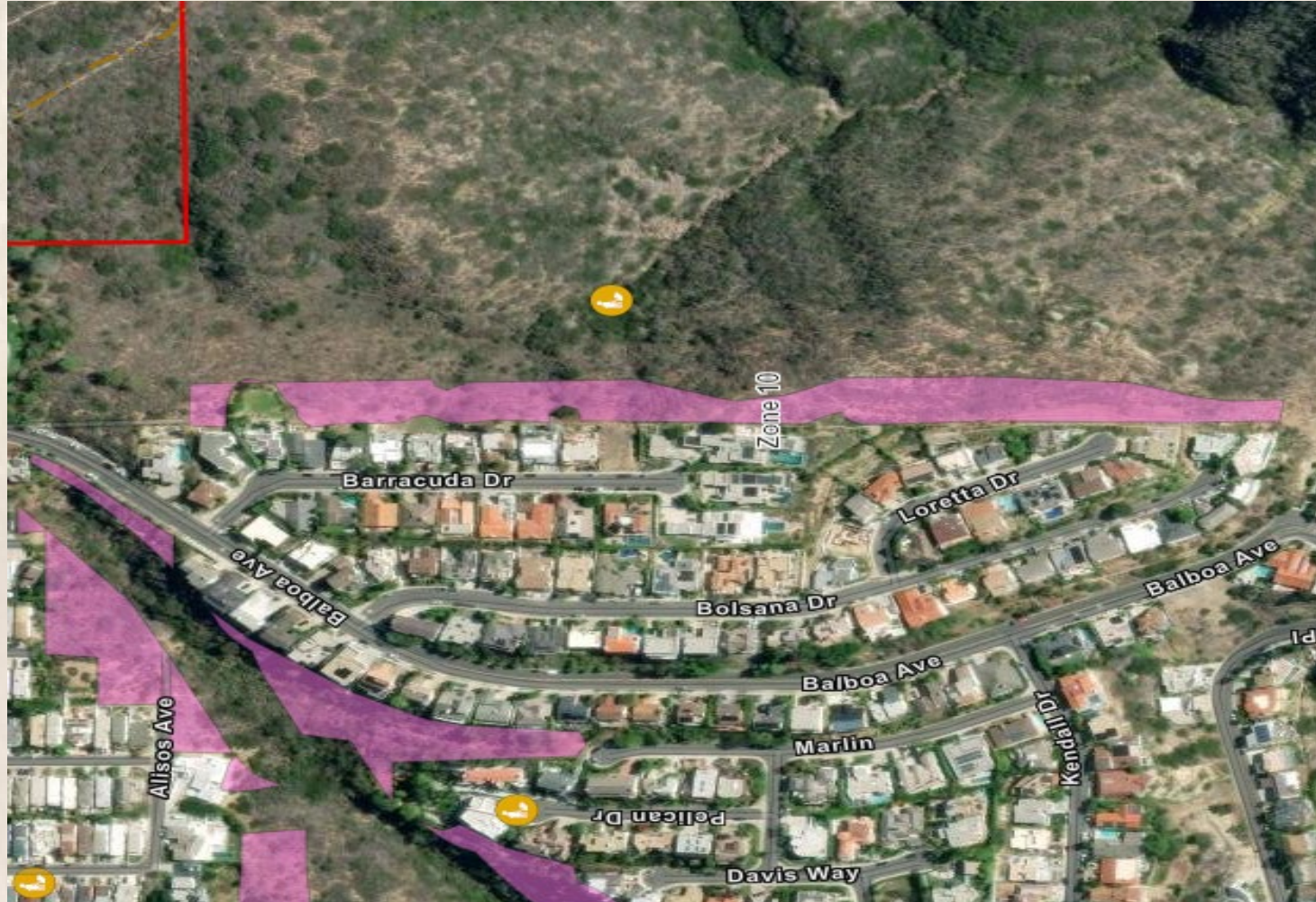
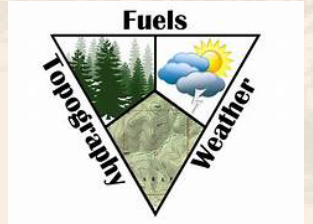
## 10 City-wide Fuel Management Zones





# Mitigation

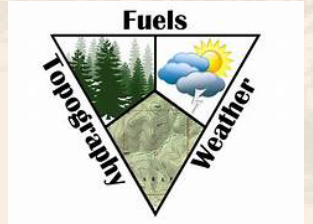
*(NEW) Fuel Management Zone 10*





# Mitigation

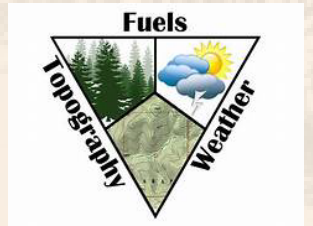
## *(New) Fuel Management Zone 11*





# Mitigation

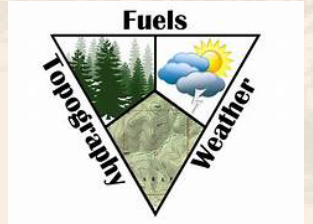
## *FUTURE* Fuel Management Zone 16





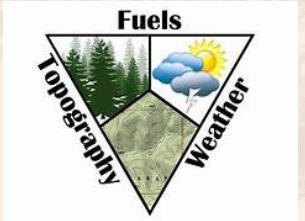
# Mitigation

## *FUTURE Fuel Management Zone 19*





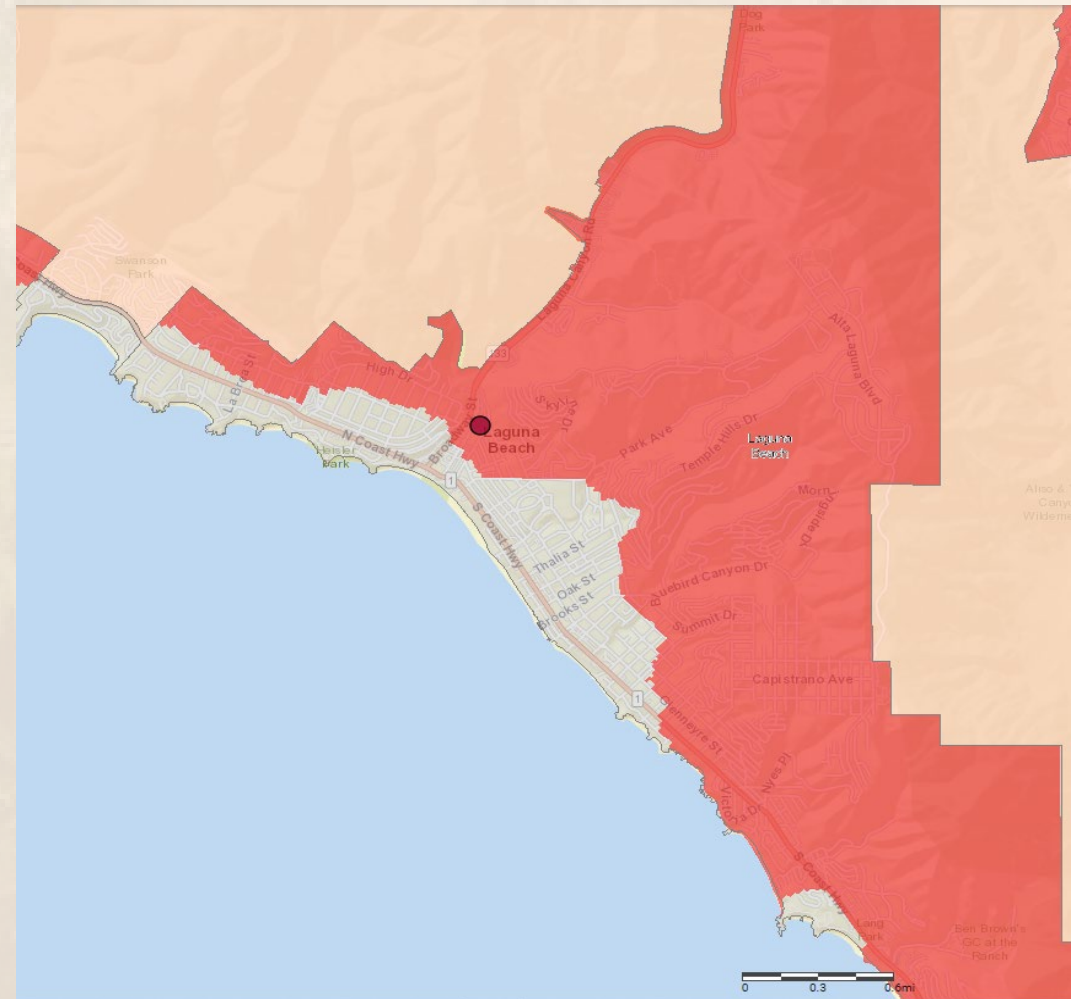
# Mitigation



## Home Sales Inspections (VHFHSZ)



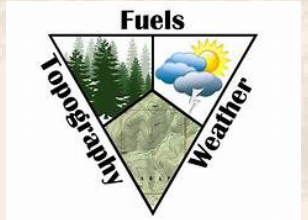
DEFENSIBLE SPACE GUIDELINES APPLIED  
(AB 38 DISCLOSURE) ([fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/](http://fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/))





# Mitigation

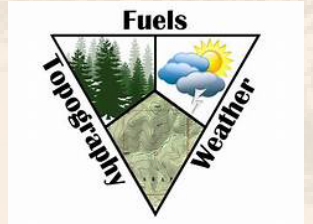
## Fuel Modification Zones New & Major Reconstruction



**LBMC §15.01.030 &  
Resolution 89.104**



# Mitigation



## *Weed Abatement Program*

### [Municipal Code Section 12.12 and Ordinance No. 1510](#)

Approximately 20-40 Properties abated annually



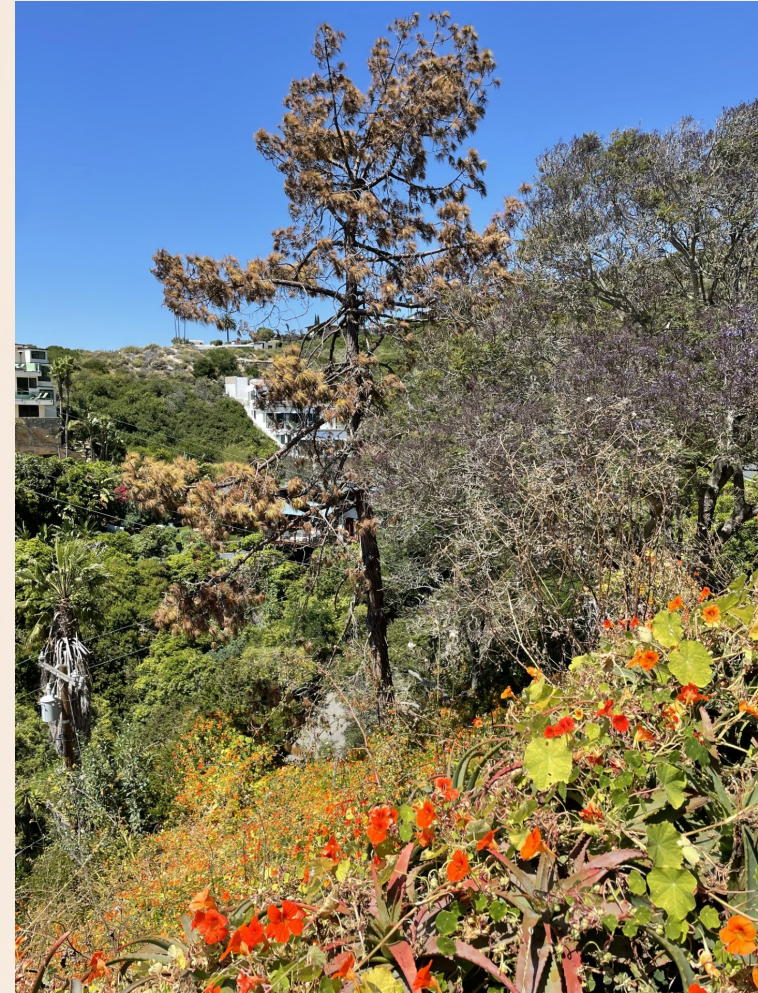
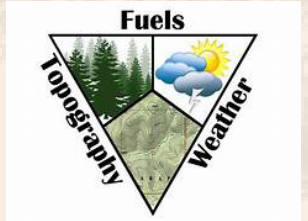
300-400 Properties inspected annually





# Mitigation

## *Investigation of Fire Hazards*



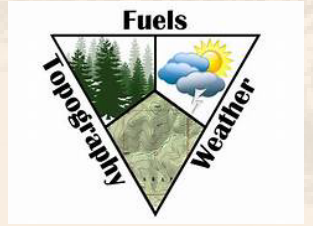
[firemarshal@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:firemarshal@lagunabeachcity.net) or

949-497-0352





# Mitigation



*What Can You Do To Be Ready?*

Request For a Defensible Space Inspection

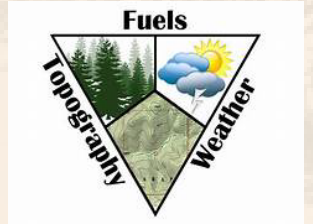
[dsinspector@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:dsinspector@lagunabeachcity.net)



# Response

## *We Prepare **Before** the Fire*

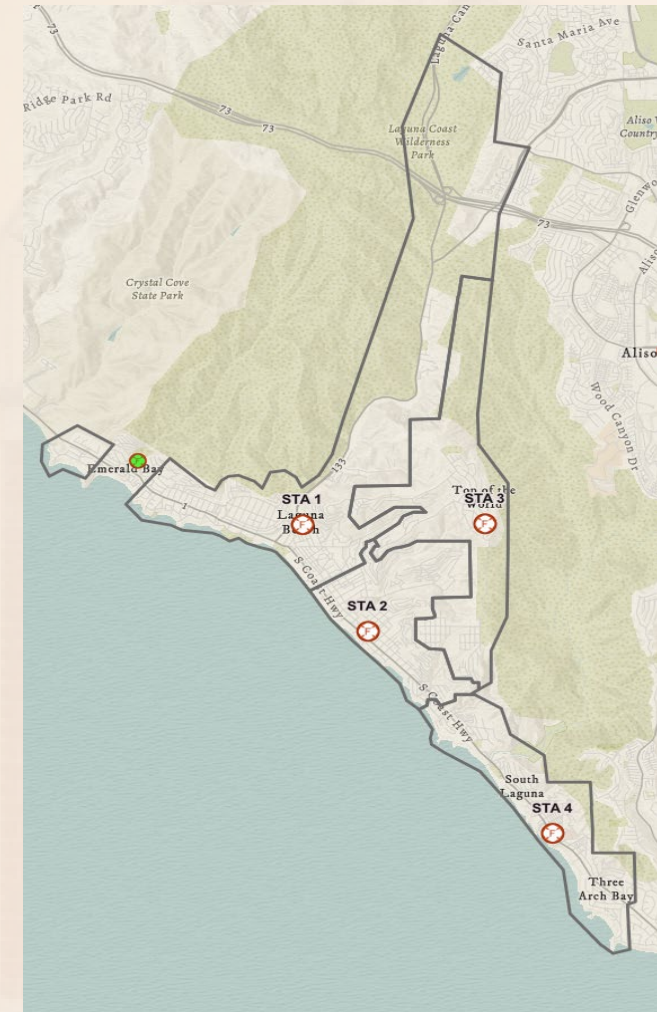
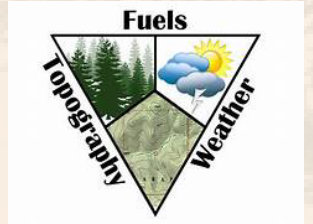
- Monitor the status of fuel moisture levels and anticipate expected fire conditions
- Watch the weather and establish triggers (Red Flag Watch and Warning Conditions) locally and county-wide
- Awareness of other local area fires – resource commitment
- Local and County Resource Coordination calls
- Participate in Pre-Positioned Strike Team
- Staff additional engines and personnel in the city
- Personnel conduct area checks and prep helicopter filling stations
- Place Red Flag signs in designated neighborhoods for limited parking allowing for ingress/egress if needed
- Communicate with Community and Stakeholders



# Response

## *Four Fire Stations Geographically Located*

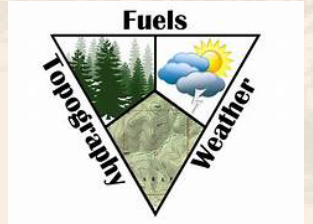
- Four Type 1 Engines
- Two Type III Engines (Cross Staffed)
- Two Ambulances
- One Duty Battalion Chief
- Totaling 13 Firefighters On Duty Each Day





# Response

## *Mutual Aid Agreements*

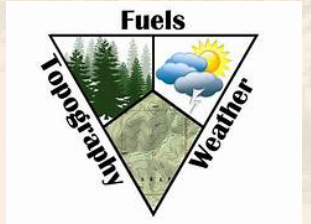


**What does that mean? We have various cooperative agency agreements in place providing confidence that resources are coming when we need them**

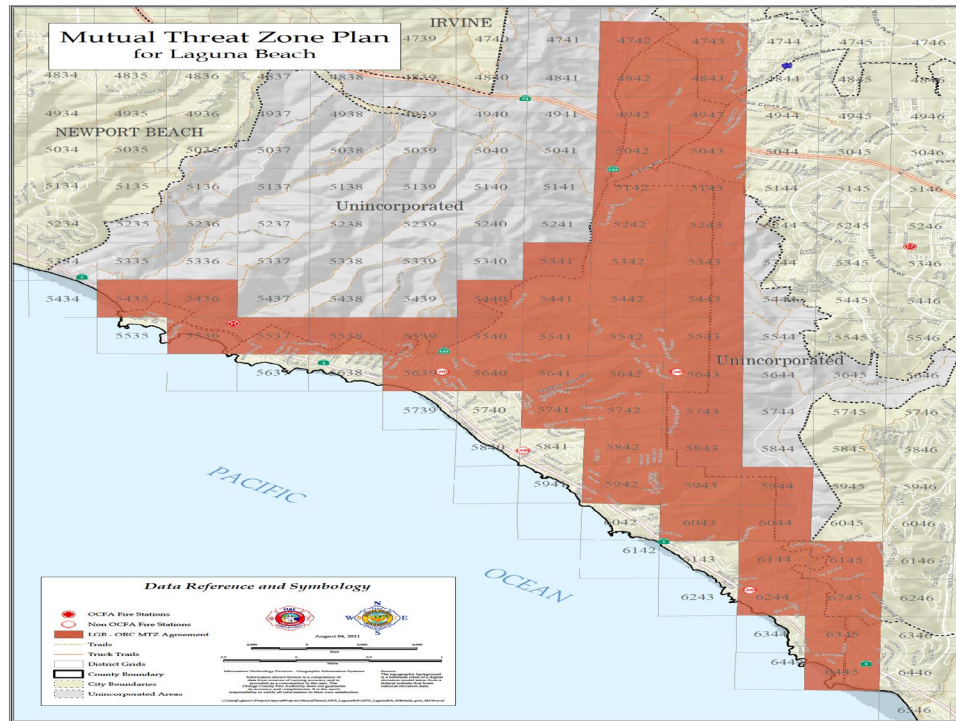
- Mutual Threat Zone (MTZ) Agreements
  - LAB/ORC
  - LAB/ORC/NB
- Operational Area Mutual Aid Plan (Orange County Fire Agencies)
  - Plan outlines mutual aid policies, procedures, resources, and personnel information on local, net, and area operations
- California Fire Assistance Agreement
  - Agreement between the Cal OES, Cal Fire, and Federal Fire Agencies



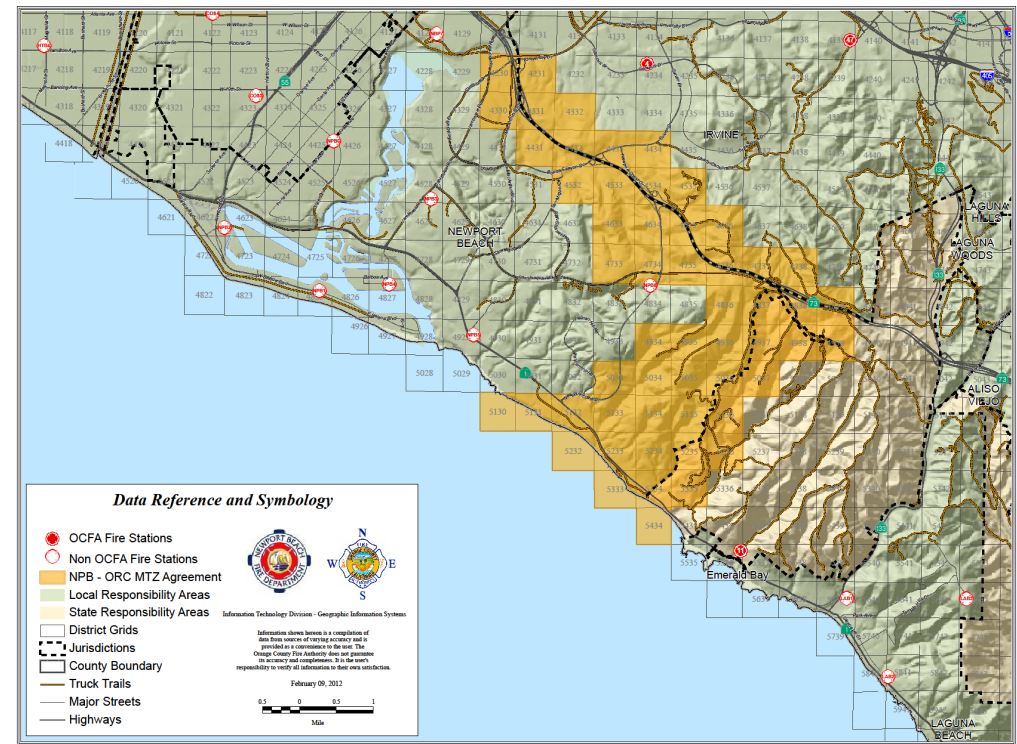
# Response



## LAB/ORC MUTUAL THREAT ZONE AGREEMENT



## LAB/ORC/NEWPORT BEACH MUTUAL THREAT ZONE AGREEMENT



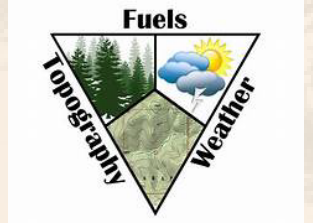


# Response

Firefighters



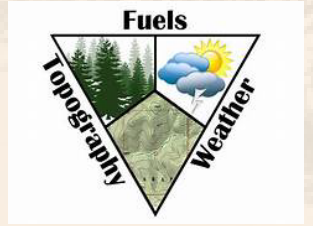
Engines





# Response

## Incident Command Staff



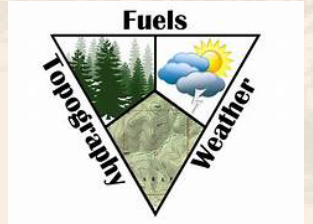
## Aircraft and other Resources





# Response

## *Two Helicopter Fire Hydrant Filling Stations*



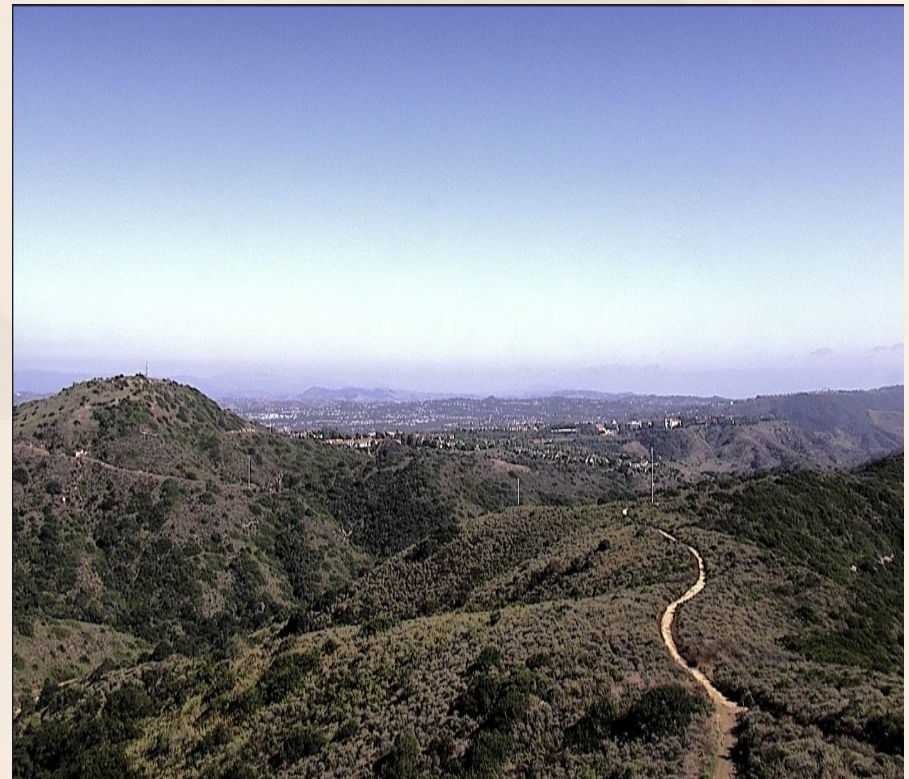
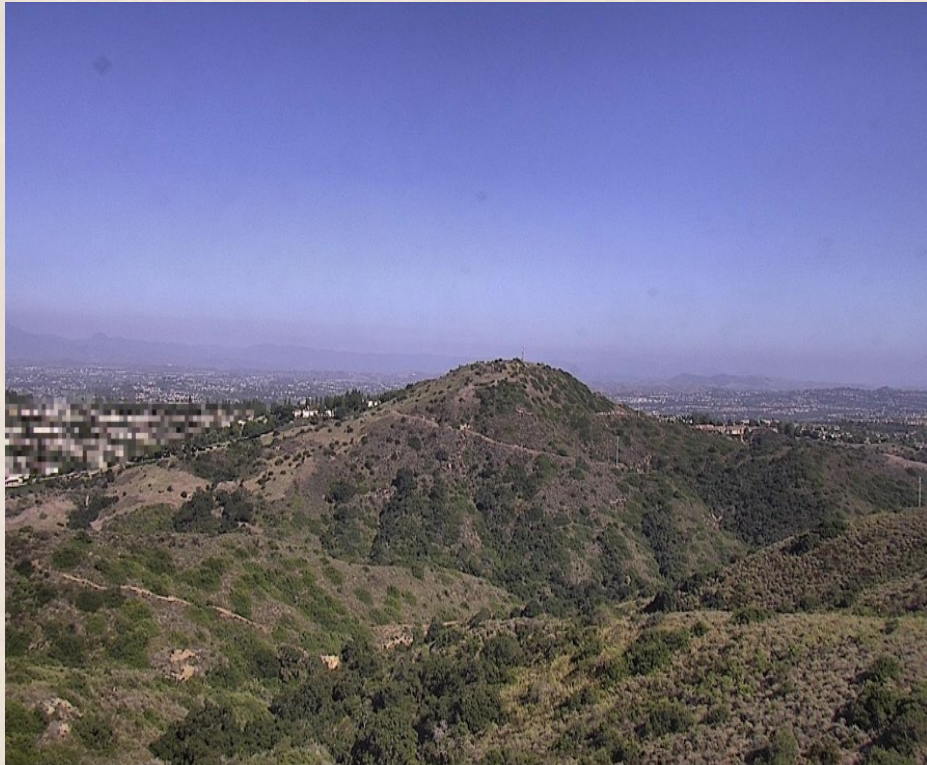
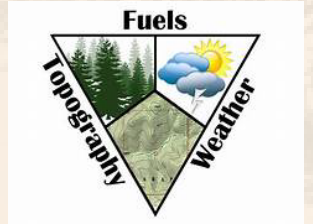
- Top of the World
- Zitnik Reservoir (Dartmoor)



# Response

## *Significant Accomplishments*

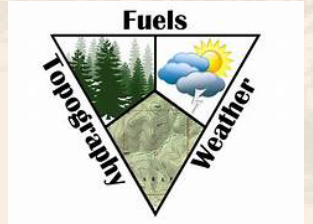
### ***Installation of Cameras in the Wildland***





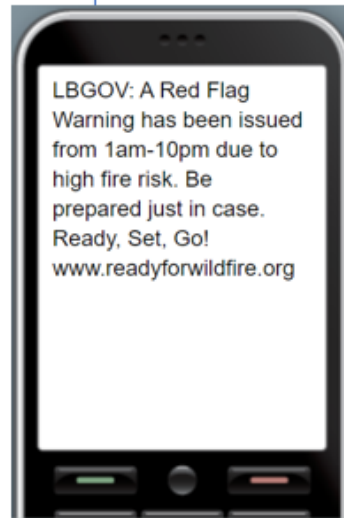
# Sample Fire/Weather Event

## Step-by-Step



Sept 19th

- NWS notification of potential Red Flag Conditions on Sept 21
- City Manager holds coordination call with City Depts.



Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

- NWS declares "Red Flag Watch" for 9/21-9/23
- EOC Activates Red Flag Plan
- City posts Red Flag information to Social Media
- Nixle sent to City advising of upcoming Red Flag
- Nixle sent to "Red Flag" group for parking restrictions
- City determines staffing needs
- CERT put on standby

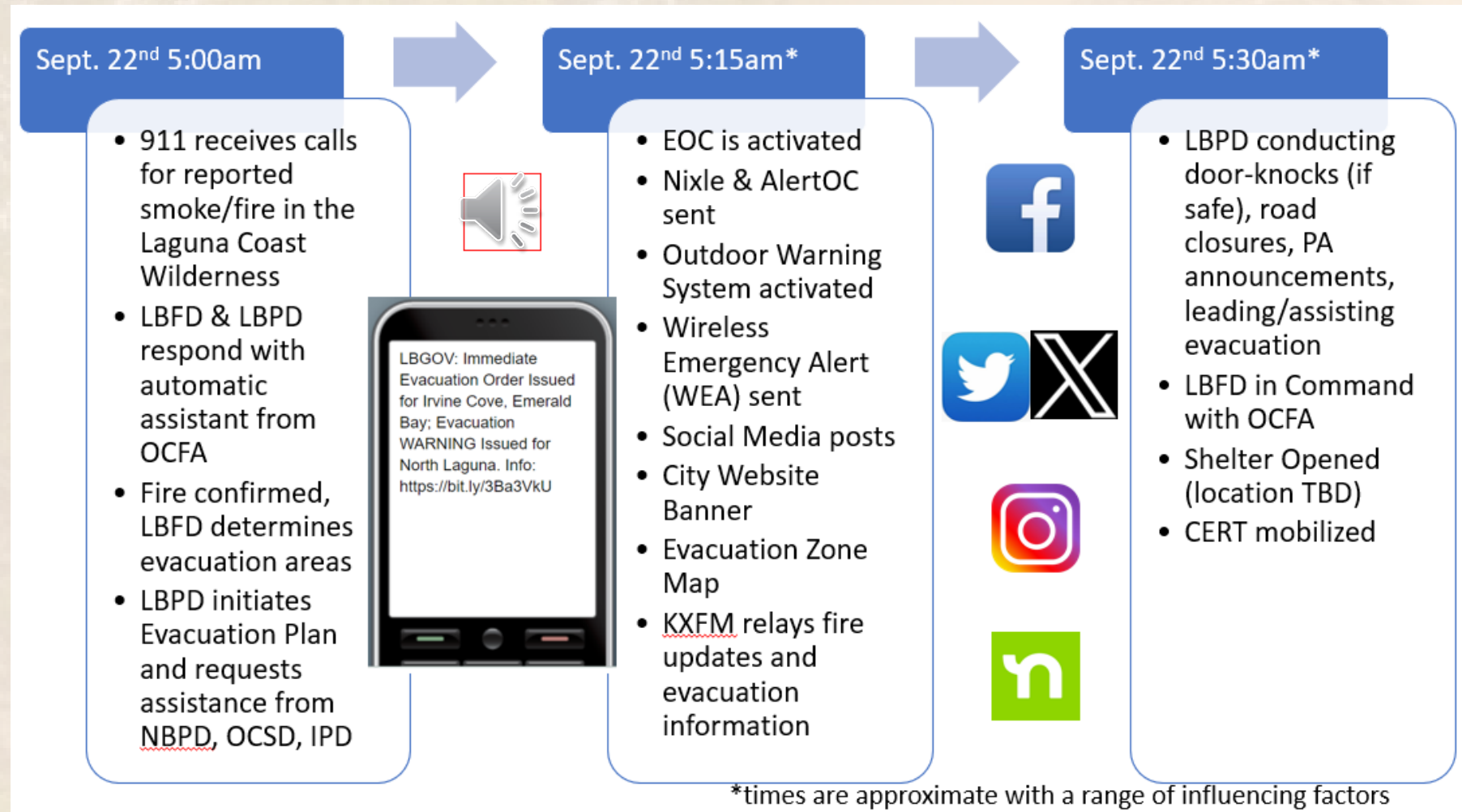
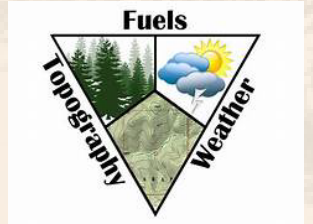


Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>

- NWS declares "Red Flag Warning"
- Diamond/Crestview Parking Restrictions go into effect
- Aliso Beach Fire Pits closed
- Red Flag teams posted at trail heads
- Additional FD and PD personnel staffed
- Additional city staff on standby

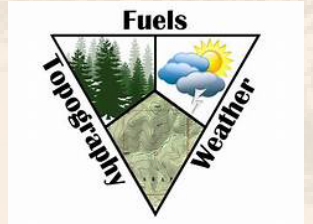
# Sample Fire/Weather Event

## Step-by-Step

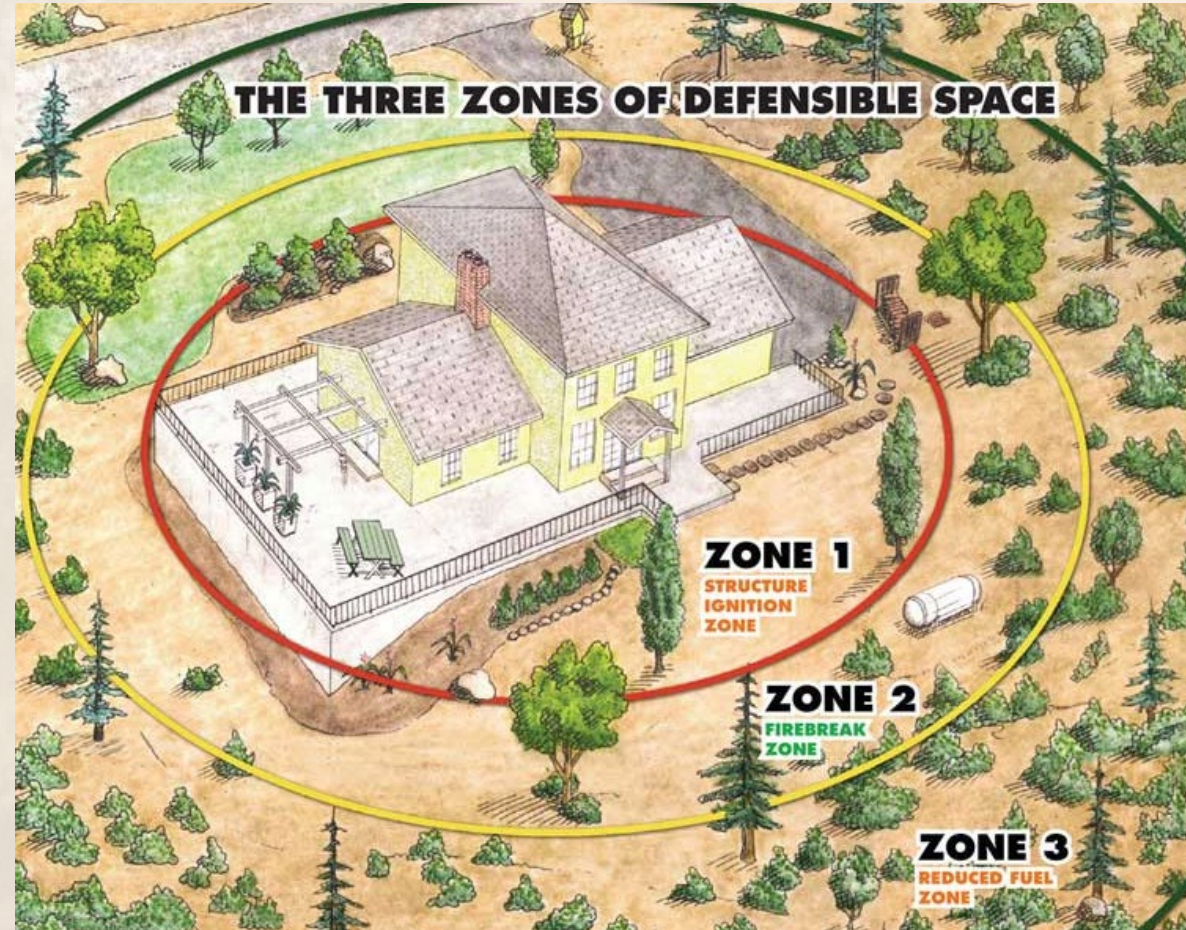




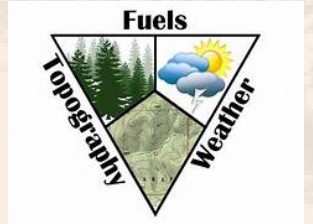
# What the Community Can Do To Be Ready



- Class A fire-rated roofs
- Noncombustible gutter covers
- Chimney and stovepipe outlets with mesh screen (spark arrestor), with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch
- Install ember and flame-resistant vents
- Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/8-inch around exposed rafters
- Fire resistive exterior siding
- Install weather-stripping
- Install multi-paned windows that have at least one pane of tempered glass
- Deck material, non-combustible, ignition-resistant
- Remove combustible materials away from home
- LBFD Conducts home inspections



# Reference Information



Fire Hazard Severity Zone  
Map



Defensible Space  
Inspection



Laguna Beach Fire Dept.  
Website



Nixle Alert Sign-up

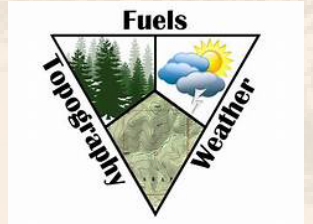


AlertOC Sign-up

Please download the **Wildland Fire and Emergency Preparedness Town Hall Meeting Presentation of September 19, 2023**, from our website:  
<https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/government/departments/fire>



# Reference Information



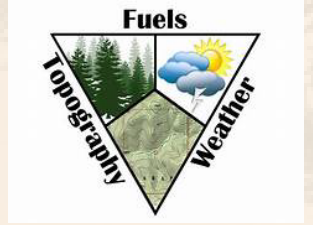
## *Email Addresses*

Fire Chief King	<a href="mailto:nking@lagunabeachcity.net">nking@lagunabeachcity.net</a>
Dep. Chief Teichman	<a href="mailto:cteichmann@lagunabeachcity.net">cteichmann@lagunabeachcity.net</a>
Fire Marshal Montaghami	<a href="mailto:rmontaghami@lagunabeachcity.net">rmontaghami@lagunabeachcity.net</a>
Emergency Ops Coord. Manning	<a href="mailto:bmannings@lagunabeachcity.net">bmannings@lagunabeachcity.net</a>
<b>Police</b> Chief Calvert	<a href="mailto:jcalvert@lagunabeachcity.net">jcalvert@lagunabeachcity.net</a>
<b>Marine Safety</b> Chief Snow	<a href="mailto:ksnow@lagunabeachcity.net">ksnow@lagunabeachcity.net</a>
<b>Public Works</b> Director McAvoy	<a href="mailto:mmcavoy@lagunabeachcity.net">mmcavoy@lagunabeachcity.net</a>
<a href="mailto:firemarshal@lagunabeachcity.net">Fire Marshal</a>	<a href="mailto:firemarshal@lagunabeachcity.net">firemarshal@lagunabeachcity.net</a>
<a href="mailto:dsinspector@lagunabeachcity.net">Defensible Space</a>	<a href="mailto:dsinspector@lagunabeachcity.net">dsinspector@lagunabeachcity.net</a>

## *Website Addresses*

- [Free Wildfire Consultation - How to prepare your structure and landscape](#)
- [Protect Your Home with Defensible Space](#)
- [Laguna Beach Fire Department – MAP, Fuel Management Zones](#)
- [Fuel Management Schedule \(FY 23\)](#)
- [Laguna Canyon Foundation](#)
- [fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/](http://fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/)
- [Interactive GPS-based Evacuation Map](#)

# Reference Information



## California Department of Insurance

Community Relations and Outreach Branch  
300 South Spring Street, South Tower  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Brenda Caloca, Outreach Analyst

[Brenda.Caloca@insurance.ca.gov](mailto:Brenda.Caloca@insurance.ca.gov)

Office: 213-346-6401

General Information: 800-927-4357

- [Top Ten Tips for Finding Residential Insurance](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Impact of Wildfires on Insurance Non-Renewals and Availability](#)
- [One Year Moratorium on Non-Renewals Zip Codes](#)
- [File a Complaint Online/Consumer Complaints](#)
- [Hotline and other CDI Contact Numbers](#)

