



ZONE ZERO

SACRAMENTO

WILDFIRE SAFETY TODAY. STRONGER HOMES TOMORROW.

HOMEOWNER CHECKLIST

The First 5 Feet: A Practical Zone Zero Planning Guide

A Sacramento-area checklist for checking your property, reviewing the fence-to-home connection, and planning wildfire-resilience improvements without assuming a statewide Zone Zero requirement already applies.

Current statewide status - September 2026: OAL records Board of Forestry and Fire Protection file **2026-0828-03E** (Zone 0 Defensible Space) as **withdrawn September 8, 2026**. The proposed statewide implementing regulation is not currently in effect. Existing defensible-space requirements and separate local rules may still apply.

Six steps before you spend money

1 Check the exact property - not just the city.

Use the official CAL FIRE / Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire Hazard Severity Zone viewer. Record SRA or LRA and the hazard classification. Do not assume every property in the same community has the same designation.

2 Measure the first 5 feet from the exterior wall.

Identify fencing, gates, vegetation, mulch, stored items, wood piles, furniture, or other materials entering the area. Pay special attention to the fence section that connects to the home.

3 Identify the fence-to-home ignition pathway.

If a combustible fence touches the structure, note its material, the gate location, nearby plants, and whether a short metal or masonry transition could separate the fence from the building.

4 Check local requirements before calling anything 'required.'

Review the city, county, fire district, building department, and HOA. Local requirements can exist separately from the statewide Zone Zero rulemaking.

5 Ask your insurer what documentation it wants.

California's Safer from Wildfires framework recognizes a 5-foot ember-resistant zone, including fencing, as a mitigation action. Ask about discounts and required photos, receipts, inspections, or other proof.

6 If you are considering fence work, talk to a licensed contractor.

Ask for the proposed material, transition length, gate details, post and footing method, HOA considerations, warranty, and confirmation that the design fits your property.



Check My Property

Property-check workflow + official mapping links.



Request an Assessment

Connect with an independent CSLB-licensed fencing contractor.



PROPERTY WORKSHEET

Walk the Property and Mark What You See

Printable worksheet - not an official inspection or compliance determination.

Property address		Date checked	
Fire authority / jurisdiction		SRA or LRA	
FHSZ classification		HOA?	

First 5 Feet - What I See

- ☐ Fence / gate touches the home
- ☐ Wood or vinyl fence enters the first 5 feet
- ☐ Combustible gate is attached near the structure
- ☐ Wood mulch or bark is within the first 5 feet
- ☐ Shrubs / plants are touching or very close to the wall
- ☐ Leaves, pine needles, or debris collect near walls / fence

Planning Checks

- ☐ Firewood or combustible storage is near the home
- ☐ Patio furniture or movable combustibles are in the first 5 feet
- ☐ Deck / stairs / attachments create a combustible connection
- ☐ A short fence transition may be possible
- ☐ HOA approval may be required
- ☐ Confirm insurer documentation before work begins

Questions to ask before approving fence work

- ☐ What exact section of fence or gate are you proposing to change, and why?
- ☐ What material will be used in the first 5 feet? Is the product non-combustible?
- ☐ Can the existing fence remain beyond the transition, if local rules allow?
- ☐ How will posts, footings, gates, hinges, latches, and transitions be installed?
- ☐ Are permits, HOA approval, utility clearance, or fire-authority review needed?
- ☐ What warranty applies to workmanship and materials?

Notes / measurements

Official resources to verify before acting

CAL FIRE / OSFM Fire Hazard Severity Zones	osfm.fire.ca.gov/.../fire-hazard-severity-zones
Board of Forestry - Defensible Space Zones	bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/defensible-space-zones-0-1-and-2
Office of Administrative Law - Recent Emergency Actions	oal.ca.gov/emergency_regulations/recent_actions_taken_on_emergency_regulations/
Department of Insurance - Safer from Wildfires	insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/Safer-from-Wildfires.cfm

Important: Zone Zero Sacramento is a privately operated informational and contractor-referral website. We are not affiliated with CAL FIRE, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, OAL, Sacramento County, or any government agency. This checklist is educational only and is not an official inspection, legal opinion, code determination, insurance determination, or guarantee of compliance. We may receive compensation when we connect you with a participating contractor. There is no obligation to hire.