FireSafe COUNCIL
VENTURA REGIONAL

VENTURAFIRESAFE.ORG

2025
IMPACT REPORT





What are community members saying about us?

Home Hardening Assessment Participant, *Camarillo*:
“Such important information could end up saving my home in the event of a disaster. The modifications I have to make are not as extensive as I feared. Although I'll be sad to [lose] my beautiful garden, I'd be even sadder if I lost my home!”

Firewise USA® Assistance Recipient, *Thousand Oaks*:
"My experience with Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council has been nothing short of amazing. From initial contact at a city event, to a personalized fire safety assessment of my neighborhood and my home, to multiple Zoom sessions to help me get my community FireWise verified, and on to the generous grant to defray some costs of home hardening, they have been communicative, helpful, professional, friendly. Just fantastic all around really."

Resident Grant Program Participant, *Simi Valley*:
“I’m very happy with the new 5 foot [non-flammable] barrier both front and back of my house...The current/recent fires winds have been coming directly toward front of house, so this will definitely be good without that 30+ year hedge. With the open space behind me, having a non flammable barrier behind my bedroom makes me feel much better."

Chipper Event Participant, *Santa Paula*:
It was so generous and helpful to have the VRFSC come to my house. They took removed so much brush; it would have taken me most of the year to do what they did in half a day. I'm really grateful for this type of local support.

If you’d like to help continue making these services possible at no cost to the community, we invite you to donate to Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council.



Ventura County Fair, August 2025

Wildfire Education, One Event at a Time



Wildfire Workshops

177 Workshops Provided

VRFSC mobilizes residents by to protect themsleves and their homes by educating them on topics including ember resistance, home hardening, defensible space, evacuation safety, Firewise USA®, and available resources.



Public Outreach

6,600+

People reached at in-person events out of 177 total events

53,000+

Reached Digitally through Website, Newsletter, and Social Media Platforms



Education for the Next Generation

At the Wildfire Safety Day at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on June 25, 2025, kids are shown interacting with the fire safe council's model home. The model home features one wildfire-resilient side and one vulnerable side. Visitors are encouraged to wonder which side is more resilient and to compare it to their own homes.



Photo Credit: Institute for Business and Home Safety

We take home hardening and defensible space seriously.

Our no-cost home wildfire assessments document homes' vulnerabilities to wildfire. We educate residents about steps they can take today to harden their home and improve their defensible space around the home. When a resident implements both measures, **the risk of wildfire to the home can be reduced up to 75%**. VRFSC also provides retrofits and defensible space clearance when possible to vulnerable and high-risk homes.

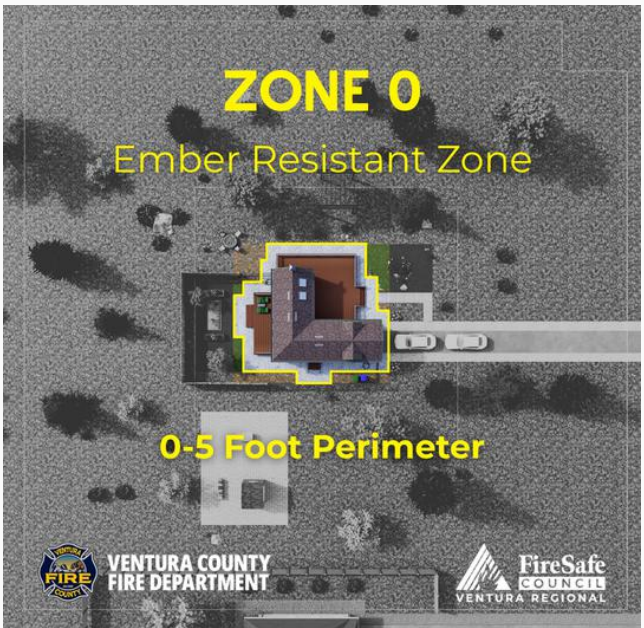
724 Homes Assessed for Wildfire Safety

1,500+ Residents Educated with Personalized Reports

7 High Risk Homes Retrofitted

"This program is very informative and provides recommendations that appear to both benefit the individual property owners and the community in general. I have already suggested friends and neighbors to engage in this program. I hope this program is used by all property owners in the community."

– Brian DiBarnaba, Oak Park, CA
Jan 2025







Firewise Lunch & Learn, June 2025

Firewise USA® Assistance

Our Fire Safe Council helps communities become Firewise USA® recognized sites.

The Firewise USA® program, run by the National Fire Protection Association and reviewed by CAL FIRE, helps communities enhance fire safety in wildfire-prone areas. VRFSC and Ventura County Fire Department aid communities in becoming Firewise. We expanded our assistance program in 2025 by distributing funds to recognized communities to implement projects named in their Firewise Action Plans.

18 New Communities Recognized

43 Total Recognized Communities by the end of 2025

$26,600 Provided to Fund Firewise Action Plans

45 Communities Provided with Application and/or Renewal Assistance



"The Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council is doing an outstanding job. My contact person there, Natasha Saxena, is always exceptionally helpful and professional."

– Peter Romming, Persimmon Hill Firewise Jan 2025



Curbside Chipping Event, Santa Paula, CA, April 2025

Fuels Reduction & Chipper Days

Fillmore Foothills Fuel Reduction Project













145 Chipper Event Participants

1869 Cubic Yards of Vegetation Chipped

102 Acres Treated by Fuels Reduction Projects and Chipper Events

In addition to educating residents, our fire safe council gets work done on the ground throughout Ventura County. In 2025, we hosted 10 chipper events for communities, providing opportunities for residents to easily dispose of green waste before defensible space clearance deadlines. VRFSC also piloted its first fuels reduction program, targeting overgrown and flashy vegetation in the Fillmore foothills as part of the Ventura County Fuels Mitigation Initiative Vegetation Treatment Program.



Wildfire County Coordinators Workshop, Oct 2025
Photo Credit: California Fire Safe Council

Wildfire safety needs wildfire planning.



Community Wildfire Protection Plans

State of the City Address, City of Ventura, Sept 2025

How does VRFSC decide which areas to work in and what projects to take on? We rely on collaborative planning. Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are created in collaboration with community members, fire agencies operating in the area, local government, and other relevant partners. CWPPs outline community background information, wildfire history, priority projects, and available resources.

Plans are useful for organizations and agencies who implement projects, and for residents who want to learn how to prepare themselves and their homes.

County Coordinator

As Ventura County's designated County Coordinator, VRFSC helps organize and strengthen wildfire prevention efforts across the region. We work with fire agencies, local organizations, and community partners to identify gaps in wildfire preparedness, coordinate projects and resources, support wildfire planning, and help expand local mitigation efforts.



Preparing Private Industry

VRFSC Contractors and Landscapers Training, Oct 2025

In 2025, VRFSC launched its Contractor Directory after training 10+ local businesses in home hardening and defensible space principles. When residents are ready to make fire safe changes to their homes, they can check our directory for educated contractors and landscapers!



VRFSC Board and Staff, November 2025

Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council could not have made the impact we did in 2025 without the generous support of our donors, grantors, volunteers, and partners. We thank you all for dedication to wildfire safety in Ventura County and making our communities more resilient!

This Impact Report was created thanks to a special grant from the California Fire Foundation.