




Fire Safe Landscaping

L.A. County Fire's Monthly Public Education Campaign

March/Issue 3 of 12

Follow Division III on Social Media:

 [facebook.com/LACoFDDiv3](https://www.facebook.com/LACoFDDiv3)

 [@LACoFDDiv3](https://twitter.com/LACoFDDiv3)



For those in Los Angeles County living in wildfire prone areas, fire danger is always present. Wildland fires destroy hundreds of homes each year, but there are ways to help protect your home in case a fire were to occur around it. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has put together some helpful tips on how to keep your home safe from dangerous wildfires.

Tips for Fire-safe Landscaping

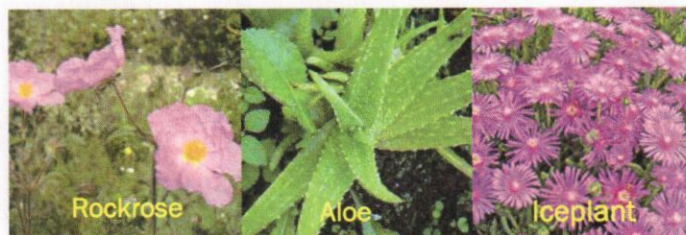
Being prepared by practicing fire-safe landscaping before a fire begins is extremely important to save your home from any damage that may occur if a fire gets dangerously close to your home. Here are a few tips to protect your home from fire:

- Create a defensible space perimeter by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet around your home.
- Beyond 30 feet, remove dead wood, debris and low tree branches.
- Eliminate small trees and plants growing under trees. They allow ground fires to jump into tree crowns.
- Place shrubs at least 20 feet from structures and prune regularly.
- Plant the most drought-tolerant vegetation within three feet of your home and adjacent to structures to prevent ignition.
- Provide at least 10 to 15 foot separations between islands of shrubs and plant groups to effectively break up continuity of vegetation.
- Landscape your property with fire-resistant plants and vegetation to prevent fire from spreading quickly.
- Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, swimming pools, deck and roadways.
- Keep plants green during the dry season; this will serve as a "green belt" and protection against fire.




- Store flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside the home at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.

- Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Find out about the fire history within your neighborhood and make sure you're clear about your property's boundaries and contours.
- Clean up dead trees and shrubs surrounding your home. If a fire does break out near your home, dead vegetation can act as pure fuel for a fire.
- There is no such thing as a "fireproof" plant. Some plants that can resist ignition are rockrose, iceplant, and aloe.
- Hardwood, Maple, Poplar, and Cherry trees are less flammable than pine and fir trees. If possible, plant less flammable trees around your property,



- Space trees 30 feet apart and prune to a height of eight to ten feet.
- Trim grass on a regular basis up to 100 feet surrounding your home.

For more helpful tips, follow us on Facebook and Twitter

 [Facebook.com/LACoFD](https://www.facebook.com/LACoFD)

 [Twitter.com/LACo_FD](https://twitter.com/LACo_FD)