

Rancho Del Ciervo

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2026-2028



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Rancho del Ciervo (the Ranch of the Stag) is a neighborhood nestled in the foothills near Santa Barbara, CA. The 176 lots were created in 1961 from the original “Rancho del Ciervo”; most of the homes were completed by 1970. The Rancho Del Ciervo community is located in the foothills of the Santa Ynez mountains on their south facing slope. The community sits along a north to south running watershed, two main ridges bound the neighborhood on the east and west, with Fremont Creek running down the canyon in between.

Year 1 – 2026

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Host an annual community meeting and share the risk assessment and action plan goals with residents.
2. Review the Santa Barbara Fire Safe Council’s home hardening portal and share information with neighbors.
3. Encourage residents to sign up for a free home evaluation conducted by the Fire Safe Council or the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.
4. Participate in SBCFSC’s monthly Firewise community meetings.
5. Review desired and undesired plant list from the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Retrofit 50% of existing soffit vents to have 1/8th inch stainless steel mesh to prevent ember intrusion.
2. Improve and maintain the amount of clean gutters and roofs in the neighborhood to 100% of all homes.
3. Home owners should consider replacing single pane windows with dual-pane windows.
4. Retrofit 25% of wooden attachments with a noncombustible section 5ft from the structure (metal or Hardiboard).
5. Inspect weather stripping and seals around all exterior doors and garages. Ensure there is a tight seal and no gaps that would allow embers into the structure. If there is, replace the weather stripping.
6. Ensure homes with Spanish style roofing have installed birdstops at the end of the tiles to prevent birds from creating nests (flammable material).
7. Ensure that decks with open space underneath them remain free and clear of combustible material. Remove things like wood and accumulated leaves / debris. Do not use this space as storage. Screen this space with 1/8inch mesh to prevent embers from entering underneath the deck.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Replace existing wood chips, mulch, or duff within the first 5 feet of structures with a noncombustible option such as gravel or stone. Aim for 25% of structures to do this within the first year.
2. Address vegetation in the intermediate and extended zones by creating space between plantings and breaking the continuity of fuels. Remove or reduce vegetation types such as palms, bamboo, cypress, juniper, hedges, and vines. Remove all dead material and reduce grass height down to 4 inches. Specifically, focus on

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removing the dead fronds from the palm trees as these are a significant hazard.

3. Create a noncombustible area in zone zero (5 feet from structures) around 15% of homes. This involves removing all vegetation and wooden furniture from the area. If unable or unwilling to remove all vegetation from this zone, then consider spacing the vegetation out and replacing the plants in this zone with fire resistant options such as succulents or natives. Remove all vines that are growing on the sides of the homes.
4. Trim low hanging branches from all trees to provide space from ladder fuels. Trim all branches at least 10 ft away from the chimneys and roofs as this is a requirement from the fire department.
5. In private driveways and roadways ensure they are well maintained and that vegetation is not encroaching on the clearance. All vegetation should be cleared to the paved edge of the road way and vertical clearance should reach 13' 6".
6. Conduct community fuels reduction projects

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

1. Create, maintain, and update a community contact list to create a group chat on an app such as slack or whatsapp.
2. Identify residents who are in need of evacuation assistance.
3. Sign up for Alerts for emergency notifications through ReadySBC.

Year 2 - 2027

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue to host an annual community meeting and share updates on the action plan goals with residents.
2. Participate in SBCFSC's monthly Firewise community meetings.
3. Provide landscapers with a list of desired and undesired plants as well as educational materials for defensible space creation and maintenance.
4. Continue to encourage residents to sign up for a free home evaluation conducted by the Fire Safe Council or the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.
5. Continue to encourage residents to study the Fire Safe Council's home hardening portal to learn about the best home hardening techniques.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Retrofit 75% of existing soffit vents to have 1/8th inch stainless steel mesh to prevent ember intrusion.
2. Maintain clean gutters and roofs in the neighborhood throughout the year.



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3. Replace 15% of existing single pane windows with dual pane windows.
4. Retrofit 40% of wooden attachments with a noncombustible section 5ft from the structure (metal).
5. Continue to maintain weather stripping around all exterior doors to ensure there is a tight seal to prevent ember intrusion.
6. Continue to ensure homes with Spanish style roofing have installed birdstops at the end of the tiles.
7. Continue to maintain the space underneath decks.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Replace existing wood chips, mulch, or duff within the first 5 feet of structures with a noncombustible option such as gravel or stone. Aim for 40% of structures to do this within the second year.
2. Continue to address vegetation in the intermediate and extended zones by creating space between plantings, breaking the continuity of fuels. Remove or reduce vegetation types such as bamboo, cypress, juniper, hedges, and vines. Remove all dead material and reduce grass height down to 4 inches. Continue to focus on removing the dead fronds from the palm trees as these are a significant hazard.
3. Continue to create a noncombustible area in zone zero (5 feet from structures) around 30% of homes. This involves removing all vegetation and wooden furniture from the area. If unable or unwilling to remove all vegetation from this zone, then consider spacing the vegetation out and replacing the plants in this zone with fire resistant options such as succulents or natives. Remove all vines that are growing on the sides of the homes.
4. Continue to maintain low hanging branches on all trees to provide space from ladder fuels. Continue to trim all branches at least 10 ft away from the chimneys and roofs as this is a requirement from the fire department.
5. Continue to maintain road and driveway clearance. All vegetation should be cleared to the paved edge of the road way and vertical clearance should reach 13' 6".
6. Contact Socal Edison if there are any trees that are encroaching on poles with transformers or trees that are encroaching on the powerlines (the electrical lines run along the top of the poles, the lower lines are utility and are fine to be encroached on by tree limbs).
7. Continue to conduct community fuels reduction projects

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

1. Continue to maintain and update the community contact list / group chat.
2. Conduct an evacuation preparedness review (go bags, exit routes, animals).
3. Identify evacuation challenges.

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4. In addition to signing up for Ready SBC alerts encourage residents to download the Watch Duty app (an additional notification system).

Year 3 - 2028

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue to host an annual community meeting and share updates on the action plan goals with residents.
2. Continue to participate in SBCFSC's monthly Firewise community meetings.
3. Work with neighbors to draft an updated 3-Year Action Plan for 2028-2030.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Retrofit 100% of existing soffit vents to have 1/8th inch stainless steel mesh to prevent ember intrusion.
2. Maintain clean gutters and roofs in the neighborhood on all homes.
3. Replace 25% of single pane windows with dual pane windows.
4. Retrofit 50% of wooden attachments with a noncombustible section 5ft from the structure (metal).
5. Continue to maintain weather stripping around all exterior doors to ensure there is a tight seal to prevent ember intrusion.
6. Continue to ensure homes with Spanish style roofing have installed birdstops at the end of the tiles.
7. Continue to maintain the space underneath decks.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Replace existing wood chips, mulch, or duff within the first 5 feet of structures with a noncombustible option such as gravel or stone. Aim for 60% of structures to do this within the third year.
2. Continue to address vegetation in the intermediate and extended zones by creating space between plantings and breaking the continuity of fuels. Continue to reduce and maintain hazardous vegetation if unwilling to remove it. Continue to remove all dead material and reduce grass height down to 4 inches. Continue to focus on removing the dead fronds from the palm trees as these are a significant hazard.
3. Continue to create a noncombustible area in zone zero (5 feet from structures) around 50% of homes. This involves removing all vegetation and wooden furniture from the area. If unable or unwilling to remove all vegetation from this zone, then consider spacing the vegetation out and replacing the plants in this zone with fire resistant options such as succulents or natives.
4. Continue to trim and maintain the low hanging branches on all trees to provide space from ladder fuels. Continue to trim all branches at least 10 ft away from the chimneys and roofs as this is a requirement from the

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fire department.

5. Continue to maintain road and driveway clearance. All vegetation should be cleared to the paved edge of the road way and vertical clearance should reach 13' 6".

6. Contact Socal Edison if there are any trees that are encroaching on poles with transformers or trees that are encroaching on the powerlines (the electrical lines run along the top of the poles, the lower lines are utility and are fine to be encroached on by tree limbs).

7. Continue to conduct community fuels reduction projects

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

1. Identify homes with animals and create an evacuation plan with neighbor assistance in case residents are not home during an evacuation notice.

2. Continue to maintain and update the community contact list/group chat.

3. Begin to discuss and plan an evacuation drill / practice. Reach out to the Fire Safe Council for assistance.