



Ember Resistant Zone

Nevada County Ordinance 2521

Section 4.01.040.C.1. Maintain defensible space of 100' around a structure... Fuels shall be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. (Direct language from PRC 4291)

Average weather conditions: moderate humidity, moderate temperatures and light wind

NOT average weather conditions: Low humidity, high temperatures and high winds (Red Flag Warnings or Fire Weather Watch)

WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK

Risk levels incorporate potential impacts from weather hazards and likelihood of occurrence for a reasonable worst case scenario.

	Thu 7/11	Fri 7/12	Sat 7/13	Sun 7/14	Mon 7/15	Tue 7/16	Wed 7/17
Valley	Heat Fire Weather	Heat Fire Weather	Heat Fire Weather	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat
Foothills	Heat Fire Weather	Heat Fire Weather	Heat Fire Weather	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat
Mountains	Heat Fire Weather	Heat Fire Weather	Heat Thunderstorms Fire Weather	Heat Thunderstorms	Heat	Heat	Heat
Risk Levels	Little to None	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme		



Fire Weather Conditions

Average weather conditions:
moderate humidity, moderate
temperatures and light wind

Typical of prescribed fire
weather conditions.



Fire Weather Conditions

Not average weather conditions: Low humidity, high temperatures and high winds (Red Flag Warnings or Fire Weather Watch)

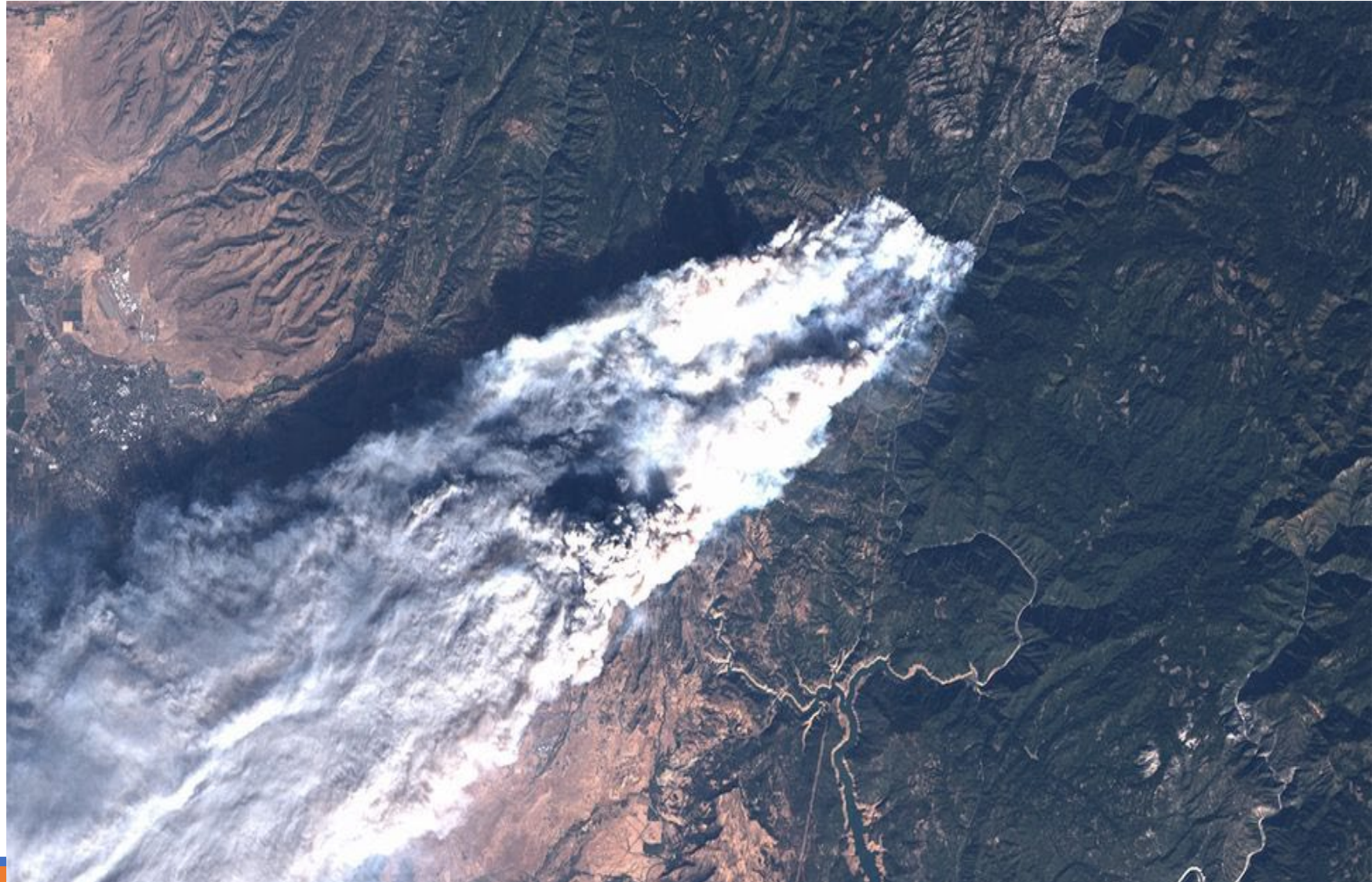
Typical weather patterns in California in the summer and fall months.



Fire Weather Conditions

Not average weather conditions: Low humidity, high temperatures and high winds (Red Flag Warnings or Fire Weather Watch)

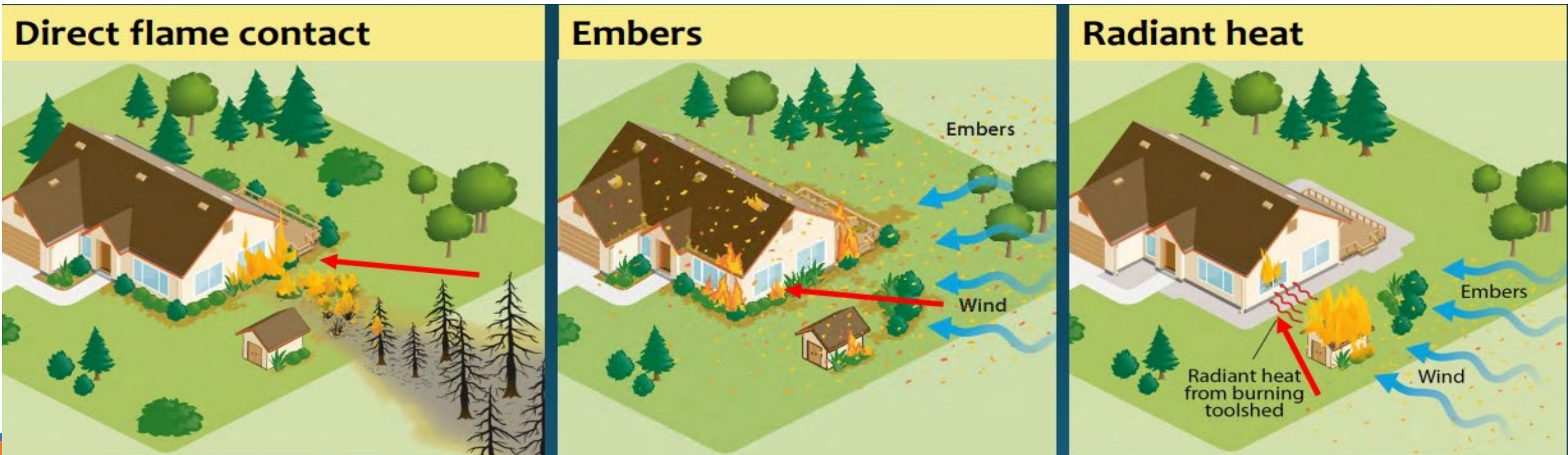
Typical weather patterns in California in the summer and fall months.



Zone Zero

Section 4.01.040.C.10. Maintain a five (5') foot **ember-resistant zone** around structures and underneath decks, stairs, porches, Or other combustible material attached to structures.

Section 4.01.030.J. Definitions: “**Ember-Resistant Zone**” means an area free of combustible material, hazardous vegetation or Vegetative debris located close to a structure that can result in either radiant heat or a direct flame contact exposure to the structure.



Embers as an ignition source



Spot the difference





Section 4.01.030.J. Definitions:

“Ember-Resistant Zone” means an area free of combustible material, hazardous vegetation or vegetative debris located close to a structure that can result in either radiant heat or a direct flame contact exposure to the structure.

Section 4.01.030.M. Definitions:

“Hazardous Vegetation” includes material that in its natural state will readily ignite, burn and transmit fire from native or landscape plants to any structure or other vegetation. HV includes but is not limited to dry grass and leaves, brush, weeds, green waste, dead or dying trees, low hanging branches, litter or other flammable vegetation that create a fire hazard.



Section 4.01.030.J. Definitions:

“Ember-Resistant Zone” means an area free of combustible material, hazardous vegetation or vegetative debris located close to a structure that can result in either radiant heat or a direct flame contact exposure to the structure.



Spot the difference





Zone 0: Start Closest to Your Home to be Ember-resistant



The first five feet from your home is the most important. Keeping the area closest to buildings, structures, and decks clear will prevent embers from igniting materials that can spread the fire to your home.

Why? The majority of homes lost to wildfire are ignited by flying embers. Embers can travel miles ahead of the active front of wildfires.

What to do:

1. **Use hardscape** like gravel, pavers, or concrete. No combustible bark or mulch.
2. **Remove all dead and dying plants**, weeds, and debris (leaves, needles, etc.) from your roof, gutter, deck, porch, stairways, and under any areas of your home.
3. **Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney** or stovepipe outlet.
4. **Limit combustible items** (like outdoor furniture and planters) on top of decks.
5. **Relocate firewood and lumber** to Zone 2.
6. **Replace combustible fencing, gates, and arbors** attached to the home with noncombustible alternatives.
7. **Consider relocating garbage and recycling containers** outside this zone.

Consider relocating boats, RVs, vehicles, and other combustible items outside this zone.



Prevention vs. Suppression

nevadacountyconsolidatedfire

THIS	OR	THAT
Haz Mat Incident		Fire Investigation
Prevent Fire		Fight Fire
Home Cooked Meals		Order Meals Out
Cauliflower		Brussel sprouts
Fly a Drone <i>Prefers to use drone to enhance the inspection process</i>		Perform a Fire Inspection



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Smoke & Cancer



FACT SHEET: Cancer Risk in Firefighting

Cancer is of increasing concern to the fire service. Find out what's being done to address this health and safety issue.





[OSFM Zone 0 live fire demo](#) | Sometimes reading about defensible space isn't enough. This live fire demonstration shows the impact a "Zone 0" noncombustible buffer of 5 feet around... | [By CAL FIRE Facebook](#) | [Facebook](#)

HELPFUL LINKS

Nevada County: [Defensible Space | Nevada County, CA \(nevadacountyca.gov\)](https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/defensible-space)

CalFire: [How To Create Defensible Space for Wildfire Safety | CAL FIRE \(readyforwildfire.org\)](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/how-to-create-defensible-space)

Truckee Fire Protection District: [Defensible Space — Truckee Fire Protection District](https://www.truckee-fire.com/defensible-space)

City of Nevada City: [Defensible Space Inspections - Nevada City, CA \(nevadacityca.gov\)](https://www.nevadacityca.gov/defensible-space-inspections)

City of Grass Valley: [Defensible Space - City of Grass Valley](https://www.grassvalleyca.gov/defensible-space)

NFPA: [Firefighters and the risks of cancer | NFPA](https://www.nfpa.org/firefighters-and-the-risks-of-cancer)

