

ABOUT US



CONTACT US

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The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains is a local non-profit special district.

Our mission is to improve stewardship of natural resources through conservation planning, education, research, collaboration and landowner assistance.

A small staff of specialists and volunteers strive to fulfill this mission by encouraging practices that protect and enhance our local resources for present and future generations.



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Together, we can

make your home
safer from wildfires



CREATING A SUSTAINABLE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

[Sustainable Defensible Space](#) is focused on the first 100 feet from your home and aims to increase resistance of structures to wildfire, safeguard firefighters' lives, improve conservation values and protect California's natural heritage.

It **starts with the home** and the use of fire-resistant materials and architectural features.

It extends beyond the home with **well-maintained fire-wise landscape** to reduce ignition risk and slow fire-spread.

It promotes and supports **native vegetation**, wildlife and local ecosystems.



HOME EVALUATION

A home evaluation is a review of the vulnerability of your house and landscape to wildfire and **ember-ignition**.

During this assessment, an evaluator will review defensible space and home hardening principles and make specific recommendations based on your property.

A summary of all the recommendations along with additional resources and materials is provided at the end of the evaluation.



BECOME A HIZ EVALUATOR

Evaluators are trained local community members. They meet with homeowners to assess house and landscape conditions and provide prioritized recommendations to improve home ember resistance and defensible space, including wildlife habitat quality.

To learn more about home evaluations or training to become a HIZ Evaluator, contact our team at info@rcdsmm.org.



EXPANDED HOME IGNITION ZONE EVALUATION PROGRAM (HIZEP)

The Los Angeles County Fire Department estimates that **embers cause the ignition of more than 50% of the homes that burn** in wildfires.

The HIZEP works by utilizing well-trained volunteers and RCD staff to visit homes and make specific recommendations. The HIZEP is provided for free for a limited number of applicants. [Contact us to reserve your spot!](#)

