

RPV WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS TOWNHALL

QUESTIONS & ANSWER LIST

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS	
QUESTION	ANSWER
Other than knowing our zone, what should each family do to be prepared?	<p>Everyone is responsible for their own preparedness and response to emergencies. To prepare, you should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign up to receive local alerts at Alertsoutbay.com 2. Make an emergency plan that considers where you will go and what you will do when a disaster occurs. 3. Have emergency supplies in all areas you frequent with items to help you if you must quickly evacuate or shelter-in-place. 4. Practice emergency drills at least twice a year and include all household members (even pets!) 5. Consider getting training from PVP CERT or the American Red Cross so that you can better support your community through any emergency.
Is there one resource for emergency preparedness that will cover all that I need to know and do to prepare to evacuate?	<p>Emergency Preparedness is a vast topic and, as such, there are several sites that provide consolidated preparedness information. Here are some of the top sites:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PVPReady.gov: Peninsula focused emergency website that includes the Genasys emergency zone map. This site is currently being updated to include a one stop shop for peninsula focused emergency information. 2. Ready.gov: National site that includes a wide variety of emergency information, including evacuation prep, response, and recovery. 3. LAFD Ready, Set, Go! Webpage: Includes wildfire specific preparedness information 4. LA County's Emergency Survival Guide: A PDF provided in multiple languages that gives all hazard's emergency preparedness guidance.
Is anyone familiar with how a fire safety council works and if it could benefit RPV/ the whole peninsula?	<p>The City will work with the Fire Department and Emergency Preparedness Committee to explore the feasibility of developing a fire safe council and/or brigade, and will provide additional information as it becomes available.</p>

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

QUESTION	ANSWER
What lessons were learned and changes made because of the fires in the Palisades & Altadena?	<p>The recent wildfires in LA County hold valuable lessons and best practices that can teach RPV how to better prepare for wildfires in our area. After any major disaster, an After-Action Report (AAR) is created to help everyone learn from the emergency response. RPV is waiting for the AAR completion and will review the report to help direct our wildfire readiness efforts. In the meantime, RPV is documenting our observations from the wildfires and has added a standing agenda item to the Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting to address the topic.</p>
Does FD or RPV plan on any type of hands-on training?	<p>Los Angeles County Fire Department's Forestry Division may be contacted to conduct property audits on how to harden a property. The Fire Department also offers a variety of training for the public, including providing Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training. Learn more: https://lafd.org/safety/education/public-education</p> <p>The City of RPV shares information on regional training and classes related to wildfire mitigation on their website and social media, such as the upcoming CA Friendly Landscape Class being help by the South Bay Environmental Services Center and West Basin's Firescaping workshops.</p>
If high winds are predicted for PV what is RPV's plans?	<p>During red flag warnings, the City takes steps to prevent fires, including heightened vigilance, closing the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve trails and trailheads, limiting construction/pausing the use of power tools including landscaping equipment (this applies to the City crews as well), and putting burn bans into effect. The City continues to assess additional measures to take during fire weather to help prevent wildfires.</p>
If high winds are predicted for PV, what is LACFD's plan??	<p>During fire weather on the peninsula, LA County Fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases staffing from 3 to 4 people per engine Activates two fire patrols on the Peninsula made up of 3 people each • Deploys a fire tender with 2 personnel, • Switches from 3 to 2 shifts, and • Activates the helopod at the Civic Center

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

QUESTION	ANSWER
What steps is the city taking to improve fire dept response times in high-risk neighborhoods?	The City and LACFD continuously monitor response times and have identified that current response times for the Peninsula meet the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) Standard 1710.

GENERAL RISK REDUCTION QUESTIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
What are the causes of wildfires in Southern California?	<p>Statistics on the cause of wildfires in California vary, however research and data analysis highlight a few consistent patterns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most wildfires (85-95%) are caused by humans. 2. Human action, including equipment malfunction, parking on dry grass, lawnmower and equipment use and/or malfunctions, discarded cigarettes, unattended campfires, and burning of debris, especially during fire weather, is the cause of the vast majority of wildfires. 3. Energy equipment caused 10-19% of wildfires and was responsible for the most destructive and deadly fires in California's history. 4. Arson accounts for 10-20% of all California Wildfires. 5. Lightning is the primary reason for naturally caused wildfires and was responsible for the largest wildfire in California's history. 6. Climate change has been extensively linked to the higher frequency and intensity of wildfires in California and worldwide.
During dry seasons or droughts, what actions does the city take to maintain soil moisture & reduce fire risk?	<p>The Peninsula is made up of various microclimates. During warmer months of the year, the south side of the Peninsula is often foggy allowing moisture to keep the ground relatively wet, while the north, west and east sides vary drastically. The City's Palos Verdes Nature Preserve is primarily on the south side of the Peninsula.</p> <p>The City does not irrigate its open space areas, but the City's Rangers do patrol the area. If wildfire risk is considered high, similar to red flag warning days, the City will close trails and trailheads in the Preserve.</p>

GENERAL RISK REDUCTION QUESTIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
How is the City working with the state and federal government to address climate change?	The City Council-adopted legislative platform for 2025 includes advocating legislation that supports addressing climate change and its impacts on local communities. The City's lobbyist assists in pressing that issue with our state and federal representatives. The City also works with the South Bay Cities Council of Government (SBCCOG) to implement measures to reduce greenhouse gases including the City Council-adopted Emission Reduction Action Plan. More information on various climate-related initiatives can be found on the City's website under the Go Green homepage at the following link https://www.rpvca.gov/1247/Go-Green-RPV
Is there a chance we can have a tumbleweed eradication plan in place?	In the City's open space areas, tumbleweed is removed by the Rangers and volunteers assisting the City and Land Conservancy. Tumbleweed found on private property may be address by contacting the City's Code Enforcement Department at 310-544-5281 or via email at CodeEnforcement@rpvca.gov , who will conduct a property inspection and notify the property owner to maintain their property by removing the tumbleweed.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION – City of RPV

QUESTION	ANSWER
Are there any firebreak or vegetation management projects planned in high-risk areas?	<p>RPV worked closely with LA County Fire to develop a Fuel Modification Plan for city property including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goat Grazing • Hand Operated Machinery Crews • Removal of Dead Vegetation • Thinning and Uplimbing of Shrubs/Trees within 200 ft of structures • Clearing 10 ft Along Roadways • Maintaining Soil Stability to Prevent Erosion <p>The City maintains its open space areas throughout the year and implements its fuel modification measures typically between April and July.</p>

WILDFIRE MITIGATION – City of RPV

QUESTION	ANSWER
Does the city have any plans to address flammable trees planted along the parking strip in the Grandview area?	City trees are valued by many residents who choose to live in certain neighborhoods because of mature tree lined streets. The City maintains its trees along roadways on an established cycle. Overgrown City trees or City trees that need attention can be reported to the Public Works Department at 310-544-5252 or via email at publicworks@rpvca.gov .
Can the City remove all eucalyptus trees in public areas such as canyons, medians and roadsides?	As part of the City's annual fuel modification efforts, it will assess what tree species, including eucalyptus trees, should be removed or thinned to reduce wildfire risk.
What is the City's plan for trimming mature Jacarandas overgrowth in boulevards?	The City maintains its trees along roadways on an established cycle. Overgrown City trees or City trees that need attention can be reported to the Public Works Department at 310-544-5252 or via email at publicworks@rpvca.gov .
How often does the city of RPV inspect the east side canyons off Palos Verdes Drive East for possible fuel loads?	The canyons and open space areas off Palos Verdes Drive East are primarily private property or land owned and managed by the Miraleste Parks District. Los Angeles County Fire Department conducts inspections annually (typically between May 1 and June 30) of private property and notifies the property owners of violations. Residents concerned with property maintenance can also file a report with Code Enforcement at 310-544-5281 or via email at CodeEnforcement@rpvca.gov
Could you hire teams to remove unwanted material (ex. dead brush, fallen branches & leaves) from the hillsides, open areas, canyons and elsewhere in the city?	Yes, the City has landscape crews that can remove dead and fallen vegetation, and other material from its open space areas. Areas of concern that is owned and maintained by the City, not private property, which is the property owner's responsibility, can be reported to the Public Works Department at 310-544-5252 or via email at publicworks@rpvca.gov

WILDFIRE MITIGATION - SCE

QUESTION	ANSWER
How often does SCE inspect and trim trees in canyons?	Annually
How & when does SCE monitor power lines in the canyons?	SCE annually inspects equipment in high fire risk areas and uses a dense network of rapid detection sensors on equipment, along with weather stations and wildfire cameras to monitor location-specific, real-time conditions.
What is the likelihood that power/gas will be shut off to the neighborhood if there is an evacuation warning given, but not an order.	Power and gas lines are not shut off based on evacuation warnings or orders but rather will be shut off in circumstances where continuing operations poses a threat to public safety. If there is a red flag warning, SCE may shut off power through a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

WILDFIRE MITIGATION - Residents

QUESTION	ANSWER
What can homeowners do to harden their homes from wind driven fire embers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use ember resistant materials for roof ✓ Clean out gutter regularly ✓ Install dual-paned windows with the exterior pane made of tempered glass ✓ Consider using brick, cement, masonry, or stucco for walls ✓ Use heavy timber or non-flammable construction material ✓ Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials ✓ Remove flammable items on and under your deck ✓ Use ember-resistant dual-purpose vents <p>Learn more about home hardening at: https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/hardening-your-home/</p>

WILDFIRE MITIGATION - Residents

QUESTION	ANSWER
Are there community grants, rebates, or programs available for fire prevention measures?	<p>Not at this time, however, the City is actively looking into developing community programs to support fire mitigation through state and federal grant funds that may be disbursed to high-risk communities.</p> <p>LA County Fire Department will also list countywide programs, as they become available, at: https://fire.lacounty.gov/rsg/</p>
How would you prioritize all of those home-hardening and landscaping projects? Will the person who inspects each year give a recommendation of top priorities?	<p>Prioritizing home hardening would include ember resistant vents for the attic, crawl space etc. Top priorities for defensible space would be all dead and dying vegetation, leaf litter, and meeting the standards of Ready Set Go. https://fire.lacounty.gov/rsg/</p>
Please comment on products like Barricade Fire Retardant and its practicality for use.	<p>These products are effective; however, they are costly.</p>
Did any homes in the fire zones have automatic spray systems like Frontline. Please provide an opinion on the potential value of these systems.	<p>While we do not have information on the homes in recent fire areas having exterior sprinkler systems, these systems are effective and can be beneficial for homes with a pool, as the sprinkler water can be drawn out of the pool instead of competing with fire resources from the domestic supply.</p>
What materials should homeowners consider for more fire-resistant fencing (ex. Fire resistant spray, paint, fences, home eaves, house material)?	<p>Boxing in the eaves is a great idea; it inhibits embers from entering a house. Noncombustible construction materials, such as steel, concrete, brick, stone, & gypsum, are good fire-resistant fencing material.</p>
For ember retardant vents- who can I call?	<p>Perform a google search for “ember resistant vents”. Once a vendor or manufacturer has been selected, ask for an approved installer in the area.</p>

WILDFIRE MITIGATION - Residents

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is the maximum size of screen or mesh for roof vents or eve vents?	1/8 inch
Are there products that can be purchased to add to existing vents?	Replacement vents are recommended.

WILDFIRE RISK & MONITORING

QUESTION	ANSWER
Has the city conducted a wildfire risk assessment for Grandview and other high-risk areas?	Yes, a wildfire risk assessment has been conducted for Grandview, along with the entirety of the peninsula.
Does the city use fire detection software or monitoring systems in trails or high-risk fire areas to identify fires in their early stages?	Through funding made available by Asm. Al Muratsuchi, the City has installed 3 Pano AI wildfire detection cameras at City Hall, in Torrance, and at Terranea, with a fourth camera set to be installed early this year at San Pedro Hill. These cameras are monitored 24/7 to detect and address wildfires in their early stages. Los Angeles County Fire Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department receive the alerts as the City's first responders.
Will the City be installing additional fire detection cameras?	Once all 4 Pano AI cameras are up and running early this year, approximately 96% of the Peninsula will be covered.
Can a fire detection camera system be installed in some of the east side canyons?	A Pano AI camera is scheduled to be installed on San Pedro Hill later this year which will cover the east side of the City.

WATER READINESS FOR WILDFIRE RESPONSE

QUESTION	ANSWER
Where is our water source?	Water on the Peninsula comes from the Northern Sierras and Colorado River. The Metropolitan Water District provides the water to the Regional Wholesaler, West Basin Municipal Water District, who provides the water to the retail water provider, Cal Water, who then delivers water to Peninsula customers.
Does the city have designated water reserves for firefighting and who monitors them?	The Peninsula has water tankers, a helopod, access to Canadian super scoopers, 18 water storage tanks, and 2,567 fire hydrants that can support fire response. The City can also pull from Metropolitan's Diamond Valley Lake reservoir for fire response, which is currently 97% full.
Do we have adequate water resources to extinguish fire similar to Eaton and the Palisades?	Yes
When will the water be put back in the Palos Verdes Reservoir?	The PV Reservoir has been out of service since March 2022 to maintain the water quality and facilitate upgrades to a key pipeline that supplies the reservoir and community, the Second Lower Feeder. Future long-term use of the reservoir is under evaluation. With lower water demands and resulting water quality challenges, the reservoir cannot be used in its current configuration.
Is there a scheduled maintenance plan for fire hydrants? How often are they inspected and serviced?	Every year in March, ALL fire hydrants in RPV are exercised by LACFD to ensure the hydrant is functioning properly or if any further maintenance or repairs are needed. Cal Water also performs a visual inspection of all hydrants annually and conducts comprehensive maintenance every 5 years.
Will our city fire hydrants have sufficient water?	Yes
Are there any substandard fire hydrants on the Palos Verdes Peninsula?	No

WATER READINESS FOR WILDFIRE RESPONSE

QUESTION	ANSWER
Can residents receive training for fire hydrant use to support fire response	The City is exploring the possibility of developing a volunteer fire brigade (similar to the City of Malibu) with LA County Fire Department. If this program comes to fruition, volunteers will need extensive training, including related to fire hydrants. Without such a program it is unadvisable to train residents on fire hydrant use and firefighting as it poses a public safety risk.
How can swimming pools be used for firefighting and what actions should the public take to prepare pools for firefighters?	<p>All Los Angeles County fire engines have the capability to draft water from swimming pools. Each fire engine can hold 500 gallons of water.</p> <p>The City is developing a program where residents can place signs in front of their homes to indicate that they have a pool, in support of firefighting efforts.</p>
Can the fire department recommend a pool pumping system to support firefighting efforts?	The fire department is not permitted to provide endorsement or recommendations of product brands.

BRUSH CLEARANCE GUIDELINES & ENFORCEMENT

QUESTION	ANSWER
Does the city or Fire Department have any ordinances or guidelines for removing or maintaining high-risk vegetation near homes and/or fire-resistant landscaping?	<p>There are defensible space/brush clearance regulations based on fire hazard severity zones that are identified by CAL FIRE. Single-family dwellings within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, which includes the majority of RPV, must maintain defensible space at all times around these structures.</p> <p>Learn more about the requirements, click here</p> <p>Rancho Palos Verdes code of ordinances, Title 8, Chapter 8.24 identifies the full list of property maintenance regulations within the City, including prohibited landscaping conditions.</p>

BRUSH CLEARANCE GUIDELINES & ENFORCEMENT

QUESTION	ANSWER
Do we know if the upcoming Zone 0 landscaping rules will allow some existing plants and shrubs and low growing sago palms to stay in place or not?	Lean and green well-maintained plants should be fine.
Will the city be contacting homeowners who have dangerous dry brush on their property to have them remove it?	LA County Fire Department conducts annual inspections for most single-family dwellings in the City, due to their Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Letters are sent to residents prior to inspection. If the City identifies a property in violation of defensible space guidelines, their Code Enforcement Division will work with County Fire to address the issue with the homeowner.
What support or enforcement measures does the city provide for residents who refuse to comply with fire ordinances, such as cutting down wind/fire hazard trees or maintaining brush clearance?	<p>The City currently has regulations codified in the Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code under Chapter 8.24 that require properties to be properly maintained otherwise penalty fines can be assessed ranging between \$100 and \$500 per Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code 1.08.010 subsection C.</p> <p>LA County Fire may also assess fines for properties who are deemed non-compliant after the second inspection for the annual defensible space inspections of single-dwelling properties; this may include a \$500 Administrative Fine and \$990 Abatement Enforcement Fee</p>
What date will defensible space inspections be done?	Inspections will begin June 1st
What do residents have to do when they receive correction notices?	Correction notices will detail specific fire safety code violations that need to be addressed and corrected within a specified timeframe to achieve compliance. Residents should take steps to address each violation noted and can reach out to the contact information provided on the notice and/or the local fire department with questions.

BRUSH CLEARANCE GUIDELINES & ENFORCEMENT

QUESTION	ANSWER
How can Brazilian Pepper Trees be removed including roots to prevent grow back? Whose responsibility is it to remove these trees?	Contact arborist or credible local landscaper to remove Brazilian Pepper Trees. Responsibility for tree maintenance and removal lies with the property owner.
Can RPV use Emergency Powers to get brush clearance done on the east side of Portuguese Bend, where the landslide on vacant lots has made land ownership unenforceable?	Properties owned by the City will be maintained by the City. For those vacant properties that are privately owned, the property owner will be contacted to complete the necessary brush clearance.
What can we in collaboration with the City and County agencies do to remove fire risk throughout the neighborhood?	Residents should work to maintain defensible space on their properties and harden their homes, along with taking precautions to prevent wildfires during fire weather - such as pausing use of power tools and equipment, avoiding parking on dry grass, pausing burns and campfires, and properly disposing of cigarettes. Report potential fire risk on private property to RPV's Code Enforcement Division and fire risk on public property to RPV Public Works Department. If you see smoke or other signs of a fire, call 9-1-1 immediately to report it.
Is the city working with the school district to address dead trees and shrubs at Miraleste Intermediate School?	The City will contact the School District, reminding them to maintain school property by removing dead and dry vegetation.
How has RPV taken responsibility for monitoring brush clearance on the Los Verdes Golf Course, given the areas proximity to private homes?	Los Verdes Golf Course is owned by Los Angeles County and operated by a vendor under contract with the County. Since the February 20 th Wildfire Preparedness Townhall, City Staff has contacted Sup. Hahn's office requesting immediate attention be given to the trees and vegetation on the golf course.

BRUSH CLEARANCE – WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

QUESTION	ANSWER
Who is responsible for assessing fire risk in the canyons? What is their contact information?	Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture. whpm@acwm.lacounty.gov
Who is responsible for keeping the culvert in the canyons clear?	Drainage swales that are located on private property including canyons are the property owner's responsibility. Culverts on City-owned canyons are maintained by City crews especially during the rainy season for proper drainage flows and during dry weather conditions to reduce potential fuel load.
Define areas/streets locations identifying which trees are the responsibility of Miraleste Parks District vs the City	The City does not own any property off Palos Verdes Drive East in the Miraleste area. Open space areas and canyons in Miraleste are either privately owned or owned by the Miraleste Parks District. Property ownership maps can be found on the LA County Assessors website at: https://maps.assessor.lacounty.gov/m/
Does the City of RPV own the open hillside area above Silver Spur Road and below Longhill Drive? If so, what is the City planning to do about dead tree branches left by tree trimming crews last Nov/Dec?	The hillside above Silver Spur Road is private property. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the hillside including removing dry and dead vegetation. Property Maintenance concerns may be reported to Code Enforcement at 310-544-5281 or via email at CodeEnforcement@rpvca.gov
Hawthorne (west side) just south of Grayslake Road is lined with huge pine trees. Don't these trees represent a fire hazard adjacent to a very important egress route?	The City maintains its trees along roadways on an established cycle. Overgrown City trees or City trees that need attention can be reported to the Public Works Department at 310-544-5252 or via email at publicworks@rpvca.gov .

EVACUATION PLANS & READINESS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Is there a way to quickly find out if an evacuation warning is valid or a mistake?	Type your address into the map on the PVPReady.gov website and you will see the most up to date status for your zone and any protective actions you should take. Link: https://www.pvpready.gov/find-your-zone/
What's the text number to receive evacuation alerts?	Text "Alertsb" to 888-777 to sign up for text alerts for local emergencies.
When will residents be notified of evacuations and how?	Residents will be notified of evacuations via Wireless Emergency Alerts , Alert South Bay , RPVtv , MyRPV App , RPV website , and RPV social media accounts. When time allows, first responders may use loudspeakers or door to door knocks to alert residents. Remember, not every emergency allows enough time to send alerts, so always be vigilant and leave immediately if you feel unsafe.
Is there a typical amount of time between an evac warning & order?	The time between evacuation warnings and orders will vary. You may receive an order without ever receiving a warning during a rapidly evolving incident.
Is there an evacuation road map or routes for residents?	While local first responders have identified tactical options for evacuations throughout RPV, evacuation routes and maps will not be decided upon until an incident occurs, as every incident is different and can require the use of different routes and tactics to keep the community safe.
Does the city have an updated evacuation plan in case of a wildfire?	The City relies on fire responder tactical plans and the RPV Emergency Operations Plan to guide evacuations. To bolster Peninsula-wide response capabilities and readiness, the 4 Peninsula Cities plan to develop a regional Mass Care & Evacuation Playbook in 2026, after completion of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
If a fire breaks out, which way do we evacuate?	The direction you will need to evacuate toward will be based on the circumstances surrounding the incident (i.e. wind direction, fire containment). If there is an evacuation in your area, Alert South Bay and PVP Ready will provide evacuation route info, as will LA County Sheriff's Department, who manages evacuations and traffic control.

EVACUATION PLANS & READINESS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Where should we go during an evacuation?	<p>Households should develop their own emergency plans and include multiple options on where to go and how to get there if they must evacuate; since every emergency is different, the more options you have the better.</p> <p>The City has identified several locations that can be used as emergency facilities, including Hesse Park, Ladera Linda, and the Interpretive Center; use of facilities will be incident specific and residents should NOT automatically evacuate to these facilities. First responders will direct residents on where to go during an emergency using Alert South Bay.</p>
Is there a plan for traffic control to assist in a mass evacuation such as a wildfire.	<p>The LA County Sheriff's Department has identified tactical methods for traffic control during evacuations. Since every emergency has different circumstances surrounding it, the exact traffic control plans will be decided at the start of an incident and can be modified as an incident progresses.</p>
What can resident's associations/homeowner associations do to help with traffic flow in the early stages of an evacuation, before law enforcement maybe on site?	<p>Remain calm, continue to obey traffic laws so as to avoid the possibility of creating separate emergent situations requiring a law enforcement response, and pay close attention to evacuation orders on the Genasys map, which can be found on PVPReady.gov, as traffic concerns will likely be a factor for when those orders are implemented.</p> <p>It is extremely unlikely that an evacuation order is implemented before law enforcement arrives. Response times are low because of how law divides the jurisdiction into reporting districts, and they would likely arrive well before a situation would escalate to the level of evacuation that would create traffic concerns.</p>
How is the City working with the State Legislature and Governor's office to change state housing laws that eliminate local control of zoning and stop the increased density that can impede evacuations?	<p>The City Council-adopted legislative platform for 2025, and has been since 2021, identifies local control and high density as a high priority. The 4 Peninsula cities advocate with our state representative that housing density laws should be determined locally and exclude Very High Fire Severity Zone areas. RPV provides written correspondence to this point to the state legislators and visits Sacramento periodically to underscore the City's legislative platform, found here: www.rpvca.gov/1357/Legislation-Corner</p>