

La Costa Ridge

Community Association

SUMMER 2022



“La Costa Ridge is a desirable community with an inspiring lifestyle and great quality of life, including enjoyment of friends and family”

FIRE SUPPRESSION

Medi Maldonado, Fire Prevention Specialist II, Carlsbad Fire Department, spoke at the La Costa Ridge Board meeting on June 8, 2022. She provided information about how to mitigate wildfire risk.

La Costa Ridge HOA maintains defensible space around our perimeter.

The La Costa Ridge fuel modification zone provides firefighters time and space to protect homes.



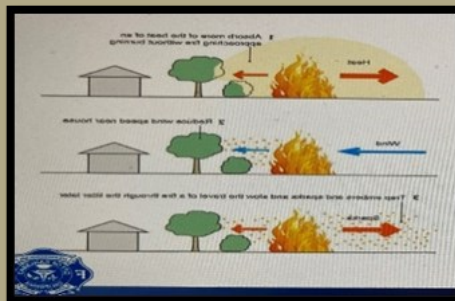
A large preserve surrounds La Costa Ridge. Laws prevent fuel modification in the preserve because endangered species are protected.

Flying embers are the greatest risk to structures.

Healthy living trees can protect homes.

Trees can:

- Absorb heat without burning,
- Slow wind speed,
- Trap embers, sparks, and
- Prevent the spread of a fire.



Considerations:

- Avoid branches over roofs and chimneys.
- Oak trees are excellent in extinguishing embers. They retain moisture, are dense with thick, furrowed bark and tough, leathery leaves that are slow to burn.
- Other trees, including pines, also provide protection.

Continued on the back

AVALON MANAGEMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

For Accounting/Payment Questions:

Member Services:

Email: ar@AvalonWeb.com

Phone: (951) 244-0048 ext 109

For Architectural Applications:

Email: Oceanside@AvalonWeb.com

Phone: (760) 481-7444 ext 110

For Management Issues:

Community Manager:

Melissa Brown, AMS, PCAM

Email: LaCosta@AvalonWeb.com

Phone: (760) 481-7444 ext 103

Assessment Payment Mailing Address:

La Costa Ridge Community Association
c/o The Avalon Management Group
PO Box 52982

Phoenix, AZ 85072-2982

Correspondence Mailing Address:

3618 Ocean Ranch Blvd.
Oceanside CA 92056

Websites:

www.AvalonWeb.com (Avalon)

www.LaCostaRidgeHoa.com (Yours)



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Continued from the Front

Past Fires

- Oak and pine trees protected homes in the 2014 Carlsbad Poinsettia fire.
- Another fire destroyed homes after a protective grove of pine trees was removed. The embers caught houses on fire instead of being captured in the trees.
- The 1996 Harmony Grove fire destroyed many homes with wood shingles, including some on El Fuerte. Fortunately, all homes in La Costa Ridge have Class A fire-resistant roofs.



Poinsettia Fire: Oak and Pine Trees Protected Homes

Wildfires and Embers:

“When we think about wildfires, we generally envision huge walls of flames engulfing homes. The reality is that most homes do not ignite from direct contact with a flame front. In fact, it’s estimated that 90% of homes are destroyed indirectly by wind-borne embers that are carried ahead of the fire perimeter. When the heat generated by an intense wildfire is combined with wind, small embers can travel several miles away from the fire perimeter. There is evidence-based data that proves home hardening and maintain your defensible space is key in protecting your home “(Medi Maldonado, Certified International Code Council Fire Inspector I & II).

The Laguna Niguel Coastal Fire on May 11, 2022, was shocking. Embers flew past the retardant lines, firefighter lines, and defensible space destroying many bluff-top homes (LA Times).

Two out of three homes destroyed in the 2007 San Diego County Witch Creek Fire were ignited directly or indirectly by wind-dispersed, glowing embers and not from flames (Maranghides and Mell, 2009).

To reduce the risk of a wildfire destroying your home:

- The most prevalent way embers start fires is through vents.
- Cover all vent openings with 1/16-inch to 1/8-inch metal, not fiberglass or plastic mesh.
- Or use ember and flame-resistant vents (WUI vents), such as Vulcan vents.
- Don’t forget the vents in the garage.

Landscape:

- Keep everything green and healthy. Remove dead material.
- Limb trees up to six feet. Maintain areas under trees.
- Avoid wood chips within five feet of your house

Address: Make sure your address is clearly visible from the street

See www.lacostaridgehoa.com for references and additional suggestions to harden your home