

Dear Homeowner,

The recent large fires in California have made fire safety an important and pressing issue for us. In July, we invited an expert in fire prevention to assess the Village Park #4 community and to advise us on how we could improve fire safety. A short version of his report is available on our webpage <https://villageparkrecclub4.com/>, and the full report will be sent to you upon request via our e-mail address (VP4.HOABoard@gmail.com).

This letter will summarize a few of the key points of what you can do yourself, and some of the issues the HOA decided to address.

Public Problem Areas: The biggest problem areas for our HOA are the small canyons with vegetation that is vulnerable to fire. We are currently assessing both short- and long-term measures how to best manage these open spaces to ensure that the vegetation to reduce the fire hazard. At some point we might ask for community volunteers to address these problems

How can I protect my home? Most of the structure loss during large fires is caused by firebrands—small pieces of burning wood or embers that fly onto houses or enter through vents and ignite them from the inside out. Key problems specific to Village Park include the age of the homes, built 50 years ago, increasing their ignitability through weatherization, warped wood, peeling paint, degraded screens, and air vents, which often allow firebrands to enter the house.

Your safety: First and foremost, you should think about your safety and develop a plan for what you will do if there is a danger of fire. Which are your most important belongings that you will take with you (kids, computers, pictures)? Then you will need a plan how to evacuate house during a firestorm. This has a huge impact on a structure's chance of survival. The house must be buttoned up as if you are leaving for weeks. Anything remotely flammable must be moved off the home and placed as far away from the house as possible. Gas must be turned off, lights turned on, gates opened, and trashcans placed on sidewalks. Every community member needs an action/evacuation plan.

Information: The city of Encinitas had a council meeting on Emergency preparedness which can be found on YouTube: “SDWD & Regular City Council Meeting 9/17/25” see link below.

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2WDmKZNZBo

Home Hardening Precautions: There are a number of precautions you can take to harden your home.

Clean the gutters to remove burnable material.

Maintain your roof and make sure there are no cracks or uplifted areas where firebrands can get caught.

Use fire-resistant siding, such as stucco, stone, or concrete.

Village Park #4 HOA: vp4.hoaboard@gmail.com

Install ember-resistant air vents to prevent firebrands from entering your house and igniting it from the inside. (See listing below.)

When buying new garden furniture, ensure that it is made out of **polyvinyl chloride or polycarbonate** and avoid polyethylene or polypropylene.

Maintain vegetation around the house and remove dead, dying, or diseased plants that are flammable. Plants are more fire-retardant when well maintained.

State Approved Ember-Resistant Air Vents

- **Brandguard** Vents, San Clemente, CA
<https://www.brandguardvents.com/>
- **Embers Out LLC**, Yorba Linda, CA <https://www.embersout.com/>
- **Vulcan Technologies**, San Rafael, CA
<http://www.vulcantechnologies.com/>

The HOA is actively pursuing this issue and has organized a fire safety group of volunteers. This group is working to identify weak spots in and around Village Park #4 and explore possible solutions. Please feel free to join these efforts.

Your HOA Board