Zone Zero, sometimes referred to as the "Immediate Zone" is the area nearest your house, 0'-5', including the surfaces of the structure itself. There should be ZERO combustibles in this zone!

The area closest to your house, including plants, decks, outdoor furniture, and the outside walls and coverings all within 5’ of your structure is the immediate zone. This area is most vulnerable and should be more aggressively maintained for fire resistance. No vegetation is recommended within 5’ of any structure, which also helps reduce pests and rodents in your home.

Many people worry that 5’ of stone or concrete will ruin their window view, but this is a view looking outside of a window with 5’ of concrete around the house. The 5’ of concrete cannot be seen from the window view unless you try really hard. It also creates a clear path around the perimeter of your home.

A few examples of what you can use around your immediate 5’ zone is stone, concrete, brick, flagstone, gravel, river rock, tile, boulders, or stepping stones.

- Remove combustible outdoor furniture. Replace with metal or non-combustible varieties.
- Remove or relocate all combustible materials including garbage and recycling containers, lumber, trash, and patio accessories.
- Clean all fallen leaves and needles and remove tree limbs that extend into this zone.
- Do not store firewood, lumber, or combustibles here, especially under decks or overhangs. Move stored combustibles inside or at least 30’ from any structure.
- Use only inorganic, non-combustible mulches such as stone or gravel.
- Hardscaping is strongly recommended around the base of structures.

For more resources, visit our Shelter in Yard page on the Santa Clara Council FireSafe Council website.