

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSES  
TO  
2024-2025 GRAND JURY REPORTS

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO 2024-25 GRAND JURY  
REPORT

“Fire Country: Forging a United Defense in the Backcountry”  
Published May 14, 2025

**FINDINGS**

**Finding 01:** FPDs should expect to require increased resources to effectively prevent and respond to wildfires in the unincorporated areas given rising costs of personnel, construction, and equipment.

**Response:** The County of San Diego agrees with this finding for itself but cannot respond on behalf of other agencies. The County of San Diego increased resources to County Fire in the Recommended Operational Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-27 to respond to wildfires in the unincorporated areas.

**Finding 02:** Consolidation has improved response times, upgraded equipment, augmented staff, and in other ways improved fire prevention and response across SDCFPD's area of responsibility.

**Response:** The County of San Diego agrees with this finding.

**Finding 03:** Uniform defensible space and burn permit codes contribute to fire prevention efforts across unincorporated San Diego County.

**Response:** The County of San Diego agrees with this finding for itself but cannot respond on behalf of other agencies.

**Finding 04:** Homeowner participation in the Firewise, Fire Risk Reduction Community and potentially the Wildfire Prepared Home program enhance community fire safety and improve potential access to fire insurance.

**Response:** The County of San Diego agrees with the finding that these initiatives enhance community fire safety, but the County cannot respond on behalf of the California Department of Insurance, which has jurisdiction over access to fire insurance.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**The 2024-2025 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that San Diego County Fire:**

**Recommendation R1:** Explore consolidation of additional willing FPDs to improve overall efficiency and community safety

**Response:** This recommendation requires further analysis. The County of San Diego cannot respond on behalf of other agencies. Consolidation could be explored if an independent fire protection district takes action to file an application for dissolution with the Local Agency Formation Commission and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors supports expanding the boundary of the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

**Recommendation R2:** Lead an effort with current FPDs to standardize defensible space requirements and controlled burn permitting across the unincorporated areas

**Response:** This recommendation requires further analysis. The County of San Diego cannot respond on behalf of other agencies. Every three years the San Diego County Consolidated Fire Code is updated. To promote consistency across the unincorporated area, San Diego County Fire leads recurring meetings of fire protection district fire marshals to minimize fire code differences between agencies. In 2025, San Diego County Fire will explore this recommendation with the fire marshals, but it will be up to each independent fire protection district to take action.

**Recommendation R3:** Increase cooperation with FPDs (and their respective fire safety councils) to maximize opportunities for homeowners and communities to meet wildfire hardening standards, receive home inspections, and enhance access to fire insurance

**Response:** This recommendation requires further analysis. The County of San Diego cannot respond on behalf of other agencies, including the California Department of Insurance, which has jurisdiction over access to fire insurance. In 2025, San Diego County Fire will engage with independent fire protection districts on opportunities to increase home hardening standards and home inspections, but it will be up to each independent fire protection district to take action.