



WILDFIRE PREVENTION

Altamira Residential Las Ramblas. Orihuela Costa

Summary of the technical report on vegetation treatments

Annual owners' meeting · Orihuela Costa · June 2026

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Why this report?

We live next to the woodland: the law requires us to manage the vegetation

Altamira is in a **wildland-urban interface** area: homes in direct contact with the forest mass.

The **LOTUP (seventh additional provision)** requires the vegetation in gardens —communal and private— to be maintained in order to reduce the risk of fire.

Report objective: to review our gardens and propose the actions needed to protect the homes.

12

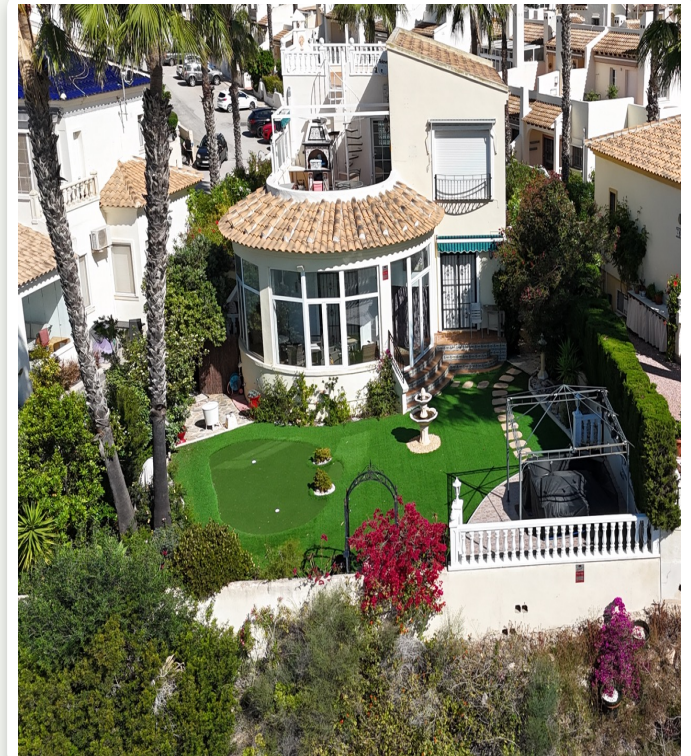
hectares

372

homes

WUI

next to woodland



What we have done

Several field visits, garden by garden

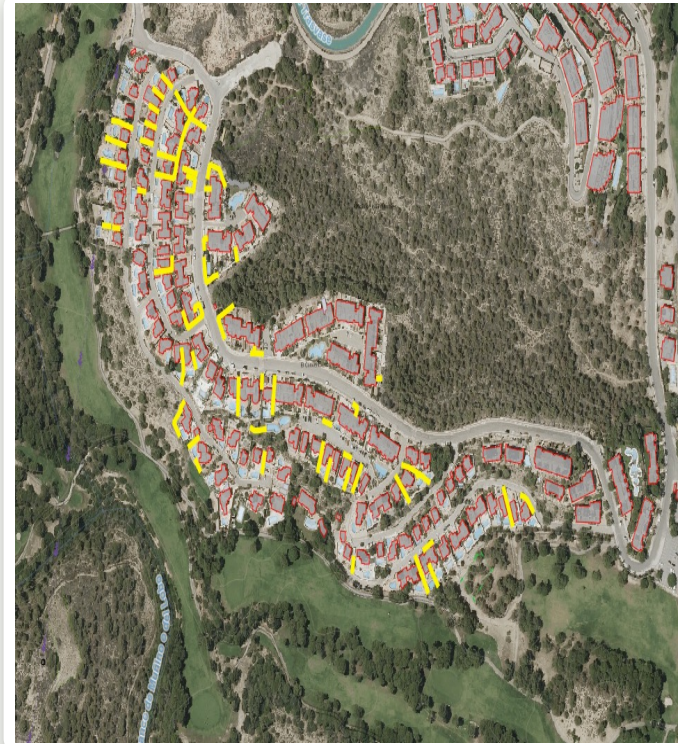
- Review of the communal and private landscaped areas.
- Location of specific incidents, street by street.
- Identification of 3 risk situations that recur throughout the development.
- Action recommendations and priorities.

17

incidents located

3

main risks



Inventory of cypress hedges (in yellow): very widespread use throughout the development

The 3 main risks

What most increases the vulnerability of homes



Cypress hedges

“Fuse” effect: they carry fire between plots and up to the façades.



Palms

“Torch” effect: they burn violently and throw embers.



Vegetation next to windows

The home’s weak point: fire can break the glass and get inside.

Risk 1 · Cypress hedges

The attractive hedge that acts like a fuse



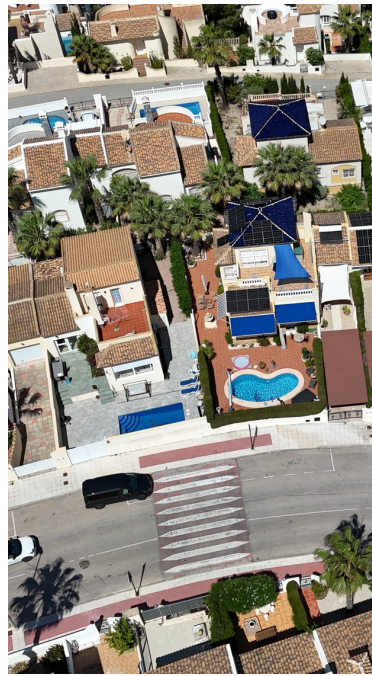
Why it is dangerous

- They build up dry branches inside (“tinderbox” effect).
- They are highly flammable: they burn fast and very hot.
- They link plots and carry fire from the woodland to the houses.
- They throw embers that start new fires.

What to do: replace with low-flammability species or, failing that, thin and prune the interior to remove the dead material.

Risk 2 · Palms

When not maintained, they burn like a torch



Why it is dangerous

- The skirt of dry leaves is pure fuel.
- Within 3 m, the heat cracks glass and ignites the façade.
- They can fall in flames onto roofs and cars.
- They throw large embers over long distances.

What to do: shave the trunk, remove the skirt and prune; if they are right against the façade, consider removing them.

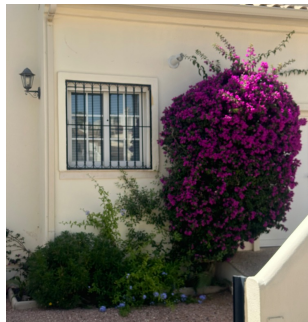
Risk 3 · Vegetation next to windows

The weak point of any home

Why it is dangerous

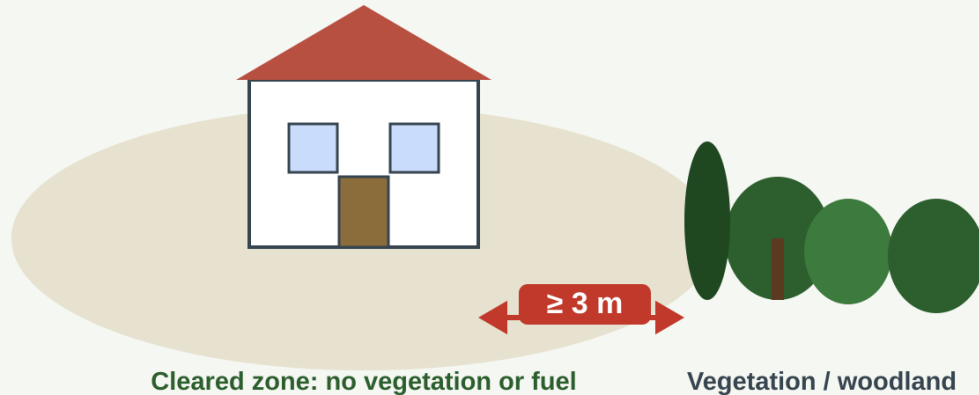
- Windows are the most fragile part of the house in a fire.
- A plant burning alongside breaks the glass and melts the blind.
- Fire gets in and spreads inside the home.
- Planters collect leaf litter: a perfect nest for embers.

What to do: clear at least 3 m around windows, doors and ventilation grilles.



The golden rule: 3 metres

A safety distance between the vegetation and the house



- Keep vegetation at least 3 m from the home.
- Don't store firewood, pruning debris or flammable material near the house.
- Avoid flammable hedges on plot boundaries.
- Keep roofs, eaves and gutters clear.

Complementary measure: wetting

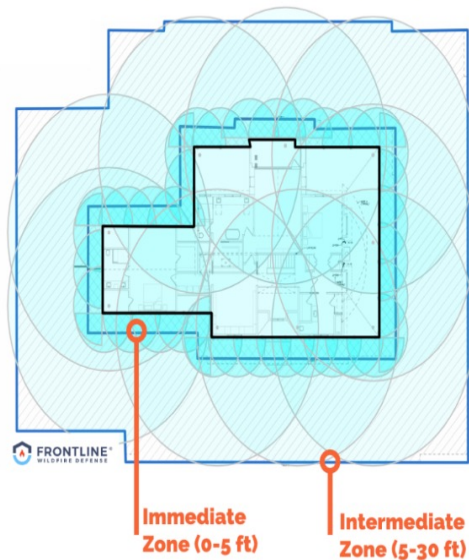
Useful where the vegetation cannot be removed

- Sprinklers that wet the vegetation and the façade before the fire arrives.
- Preventive activation, with its own water and power (not reliant on the mains).
- Suitable for hedges or plants that cannot be removed.



Important: It NEVER replaces pruning, thinning and separation; it is a complement to protection.

Wildfire Sprinkler System Design



Who does what?

Protection only works if we all take part



The Community

- Green areas and communal gardens.
- Plans and funds the works from common funds.
- Coordinates and drives the development as a whole.



Each owner

- The private garden of their home.
- Carries out and maintains the works on their plot.
- Applies the 3 m rule around it.

Safety is only as strong as the weakest plot: a single neglected garden puts the neighbouring ones at risk.

Action plan by priority

Start with the most urgent

Priority	What needs doing	Timeframe
1 • Extreme risk	Palms and vegetation within 3 m; cypress hedges touching the woodland	Immediate
2 • High risk	Branches and plants within 3 m of façades, windows and doors	Short term
3 • Medium risk	Clearing leaf litter and debris; the rest of the 17 incidents	Routine maintenance
4 • Complementary	Wetting where the vegetation cannot be removed	As support

Key: prevention is kept up every year, going over the gardens before summer begins.

A safer development depends on all of us



Check your garden using the 3 m rule



Clean hedges, shave palms and remove dead material



Coordinate the common areas with the Community



Do it before every summer and repeat it every year