

PROTECTING YOUR WILDLAND HOME FROM WILDFIRE

Excerpted from www.firewise.org



HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

1. Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
2. Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
3. Enclose under-eaves and soffit vents or screen with metal mesh to prevent ember entry
4. Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home
5. Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
6. Screen or box in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
7. Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors: mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles, wooden fences and trellises, anything that can burn
8. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

1. Home Ignition Zones: Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques – along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones – increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the Immediate Zone, 0 to 5 feet around the home; Intermediate Zone, 5 to 30 feet; and the Extended Zone, 30 to 100 feet. Visit www.nfpa.org for more details on the Home Ignition Zones.
2. Landscaping and Maintenance: To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch, and deck. Prune branches of large trees up to about 1/3 the height of the tree. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes, and replace mulch in the Immediate Zone of 0 to 5 feet with non-combustible products like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

1. Roofing and Vents: Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection, such as composite shingles, metal, concrete, and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.
2. Decks and Porches: Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.
3. Siding and Windows: Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials. Radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco, and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

BE PREPARED

1. Emergency Responder Access: Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers.
2. Disaster Plan: Develop, discuss, and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals, and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay. Don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.
3. Annual Insurance Check-up: Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.