

Wildfire Preparedness

An average of 1.2 million acres of US woodland burn every year

Be Prepared

- Always have at least 2 ways to put out a fire during any activity that could start a fire (camp fire, target shooting, mowing, driving in dry areas, etc.). A fire extinguisher, bucket of water, and shovel can all be used.
- Have an evacuation plan and practice it! Know at least two ways to get out, if possible.
- Have multiple ways to get an evacuation alert, even if your power goes out (e.g. phone, email, local emergency alerting system, NOAA Weather Radios)

Harden Your Home Against Wildfires

- Your Roof
 - Wood and shingles are vulnerable to fire. Consider composition, metal, or tile materials instead.
 - Make sure you block any spaces between roof decking and coverings to prevent embers from catching.
 - Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a non-combustible screen with openings between 3/8-inch and 1/2-inch to prevent embers from escaping and starting a fire.
- Vents
 - Cover all vents with 1/8- to 1/4-inch metal mesh. Avoid fiberglass & plastic mesh that can melt or burn.
 - Protect vents in eaves and cornices with baffles to block embers (mesh is not enough!)
- Eaves & Soffits
 - Protect eaves and soffits with ignition-resistant or non-combustible materials.
- Windows
 - Install dual-pane windows that have one pane of tempered glass to prevent embers from getting through broken windows.
 - Try to limit size and number of windows facing large areas of vegetation.
- Walls
 - Build or remodel exterior walls with ignition-resistant materials, such as metal, brick, stone, or stucco. Wood siding call also be treated with flame retardant sprays but be aware of entry points around joints that need to be protected with trim or other materials as well.
 - Make sure material is all the way around, foundation-to-roof.
 - Investigate exterior fire-suppression systems.
- Decks, Gutters, & Patios
 - Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition-resistant materials.
 - Remove combustible items from beneath decks.
 - Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent plant debris.
 - Use similar ignition-resistant materials for any patio coverings as you would your roof.
- Garage
 - Install weather stripping around and under the garage door.
 - Store combustible and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.
- Fences, Driveways, & Access Roads
 - Use ignition-resistant fence materials to protect your home from a wildfire.
 - Maintain driveways and access roads in accordance with state and local codes.
 - Consider maintaining access roads wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic, with a 10-foot clearance on either side.
 - Check that all gates open inward, can accommodate emergency vehicles, and trees and shrubs are trimmed back to allow emergency vehicles to pass.
 - Make sure you address is clearly visible from the road.



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Have the Tools You May Need

- Have enough Garden hoses and ensure they can reach all structures on your property.
- Keep Fire Tools and an Extinguisher handy (e.g. Shovels, buckets, rakes, and saws), such as in your garage.
- Have a ladder that can reach your roof.

Maintain Your Home's Defensible Space

- Use Fire-resistant Landscaping. This can also help conserve water and raise your property value!
- Have multiple garden hoses that can reach all areas of your home and all structures on your property.
- If you have a pool and/or well, consider getting a pump.
- Maintain a 2-zone space 100-feet around your house and buildings.
- Zone 1 should extend 30 feet from any building, structure, deck, etc. In Zone 1, you should:
 - Remove all dead vegetation (Grass, plants, trees, leaves/needles, etc.)
 - Trim trees to a minimum or 10 feet from other trees.
 - Clear any branches hanging over your roof, and dead branches 10 feet from the chimney.
 - Clear gutters and roof of all plant material regularly.
 - Remove or prune flammable plants or shrubs near windows.
 - Remove all vegetation and items that could catch fire from under decks.
 - Separate plants and trees from items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture.
 - Move all wood piles to Zone 2.
- Zone 2 should extend 100 feet from any building, structure, deck, etc. In Zone 2, you should:
 - Cut or mow annual grass to a maximum of 4 inches.
 - Maintain horizontal and vertical clearance between grass, shrubs, and trees (See larger diagrams below at readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/defensible-space).
 - Remove fallen plant material (leaves, cones, bark, twigs, branches, etc.)

