

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT

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- ☐ Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris, and pine needles that could catch embers
- ☐ Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- ☐ Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8-inch metal mesh screening
- ☐ Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8-inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- ☐ Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- ☐ Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- ☐ Move anything that can burn away from wall exteriors, including mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, and firewood piles
- ☐ Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Create small fuel breaks w/hardscape features
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Participate in the national Firewise USA® program
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Store firewood at least 30 feet from the home

FOR MORE INFORMATION about how to protect your home and property visit **firewise.org**.

Talk to your local forestry agency or fire department to learn more about the specific wildfire risk where you live.



FIREWISE USA®

Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

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HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

**WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS
THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER
DURING A WILDFIRE**



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WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

ORDER A "REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS
IN THE HOME IGNITION ZONE"
CHECKLIST/POSTER AT FIREWISE.ORG

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, and periodically maintaining the area within the three Home Ignition Zones all help to increase 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 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 and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils, and waxes and replace mulch in the **Immediate Zone** of 0 to 5 feet with noncombustible mulch products like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include 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.

4. 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.

5. 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

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and house numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicle access.

7. 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 predesignated 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.

8. ANNUAL INSURANCE CHECKUP

Conduct an annual insurance policy checkup to adjust for local building costs, codes, and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



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