

Cameron Park Community Services District
2502 Country Club Drive
Cameron Park, CA 95682



Fire and Emergency Services Committee
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
5:30 p.m.
2502 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park

Agenda

Members: Chair Director Holly Morrison (HM) and Vice Chair Director Felicity Wood Carlson (FC)
Alternate Director Margaret Mohr (MM)

Staff: General Manager Jill Ritzman, Chief Sherry Moranz, Chief Mike Smith, Chief Jed Gaines

(Felicity Wood Carlson has a planned absence; Margaret Mohr, as the alternate, will be in attendance.)

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF CONFORMED AGENDA

OPEN FORUM

At this time, members of the Committee or public may speak on any item not on the agenda that falls within the jurisdiction of this Committee; however, no action may be taken unless the Committee agrees to include the matter on a subsequent agenda.

Principal party on each side of an issue (where applicable) is allocated 10 minutes to speak, individual comments are limited to four minutes and individuals representing a group allocated five minutes. Individuals shall be allowed to speak to an item only once. The Committee reserves the right to waive said rules by a majority vote.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public testimony will be received on each agenda item as it is called. Principal party on each side of an issue (where applicable) is allocated 10 minutes to speak, individual comments are limited to four minutes and individuals representing a group allocated five minutes. Individuals shall be allowed to speak to an item only once. The Committee reserves the right to waive said rules by a majority vote.

- 1. California Conservation Corps Work Project** (oral report; J. Ritzman, Chief Moranz)
- 2. Fire Wise Community Initiative** (oral report; Chief Moranz)

3. Staff Written Reports & Oral Updates (Chief Moranz)

- 2019 Weed Abatement Ordinance Program – Staff Update

4. Items for April and Future Committee Agendas

5. Items to take to the Board of Directors

MATTERS TO AND FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT



**Fire and Emergency Services Committee
Tuesday, February 12, 2019
5:30 p.m.
2502 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park**

Conformed Agenda

Members: Chair Director Holly Morrison (HM) and Vice Chair Director Felicity Carlson (FC)
Alternate Director Margaret Mohr (MM)
Staff: General Manager Jill Ritzman, Chief Sherry Moranz, Chief Mike Smith, Chief Jed Gaines

(Holly Morrison is expected to be absent; Margaret Mohr, as the alternate, will attend in her absence.)

CALL TO ORDER – 5:35pm

ROLL CALL – FC/MM

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Approved

APPROVAL OF CONFORMED AGENDA - Approved

OPEN FORUM

At this time, members of the Committee or public may speak on any item not on the agenda that falls within the jurisdiction of this Committee; however, no action may be taken unless the Committee agrees to include the matter on a subsequent agenda.

Principal party on each side of an issue (where applicable) is allocated 10 minutes to speak, individual comments are limited to four minutes and individuals representing a group allocated five minutes. Individuals shall be allowed to speak to an item only once. The Committee reserves the right to waive said rules by a majority vote.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public testimony will be received on each agenda item as it is called. Principal party on each side of an issue (where applicable) is allocated 10 minutes to speak, individual comments are limited to four minutes and individuals representing a group allocated five minutes. Individuals shall be allowed to speak to an item only once. The Committee reserves the right to waive said rules by a majority vote.

1. Burn Day Designations In Cameron Park; Ordinance 2000-01 (J. Ritzman)

- Support staff's recommendation; get information out through District website and newsletter.

2. Fire Sustainability Efforts in El Dorado County (J. Ritzman)

- *Support staff's recommendation*

3. Staff Written Reports & Oral Updates (Chief Moranz)

- 2019 Weed Abatement Ordinance Program – Staff Update
- Naming Programs:
 - Weed Abatement Ordinance Program, Fire Dept.
 - District Parks & Properties Fuel Reduction Program, Parks Dept.
 - Roadway Fuel Reduction Program, Parks Dept. & County

4. Items for March and Future Committee Agendas

- *Fire Safe Council*
- *CP Dam EAP*

5. Items to take to the Board of Directors

- *Burn Ordinance*
- *Fire Sustainability*

MATTERS TO AND FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT – 6:35pm

NOTE – THERE WAS NO AUDIO RECORDING MADE OF THIS MEETING.



Fire and Emergency Services Committee March 5, 2019

- Contract has been signed for the purchase of the new Engine 88. Should take delivery during the first part of 2020.
- Crab Feed was a great success. The resident Firefighters brought in approximately \$13,000.00

Weed abatement summary

- Mailed first reminder letter to vacant lot properties on February 14th.
- Researched returned mail addresses and resent to the updated address.
- Prepared documentation for El Dorado County VMP meeting.
- Attended County VMP meeting February 6.
- Finalizing design for postcard mailer for improved properties.
- Ordered business cards.
- We have hired a new employee, Mary Joseph to help with the improved lot process, and are interviewing to hire one more.
- Attended the ESRI Collector APP training class.
- Created an instruction sheet showing a “how to” apply for an online burn permit thru <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/> .

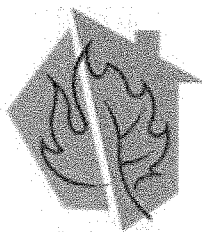


NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public Education / By topic / Wildfire / Firewise USA® / Firewise USA® resources / Annual renewal information



FIREWISE USA®

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Annual renewal information

Part of being a recognized Firewise USA® site is reporting the ongoing work residents complete each year to reduce their wildfire risks, while addressing the areas identified in their community's wildfire assessment. Every year participating sites must submit an annual renewal to maintain their "In Good Standing" status.

Renew using the [Firewise USA® program management portal](#).

Steps to complete the annual Firewise USA renewal process

1. Wildfire Risk Assessment

The risk assessment is the board/committee's primary tool in determining the risk reduction priorities within your site's boundaries. Assessments need to be updated every five years.

2. Board/Committee

Annually the board/committee should review their site's risk reduction priorities.

3. Action Plan

Action plans need to be reviewed annually by the board/committee and updated at least every three years.

4. Educational Outreach

Visit the [Firewise USA® management portal](#) to get ideas and suggestions for planning a successful educational outreach activity for your residents. Each participating site is required to have a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event, or related activity annually.

5. Wildfire Risk Reduction Investment (Effective January 8, 2018)

At a minimum, each site is required to annually invest the equivalent of one volunteer hour valued at \$24.14 (the rate is based on the 2017 annual National Hourly Volunteer Rate; which is updated every year) per dwelling unit* in wildfire risk reduction actions. Find a wide range of qualifying expenditures (contractor costs, rental equipment), volunteer activities, grants, etc., that can be used in meeting the investment in the portal's Risk Reduction Investment section. Residents completing select home modifications, along with any qualifying work performed at their home and in the adjacent home ignition zones can contribute related hours and/or costs towards meeting the sites collective investment amount.

Sites unable to meet the new investment rate in 2018, must, at a minimum, meet 50% of the new rate. All 2019 renewals will be required to meet the new minimum investment requirement.

**Calculating the number of dwelling units for use with the risk reduction investment formula:* The number of dwelling units within the site must be included in the application. For definition purposes, a dwelling unit is a household/residence built for occupancy by one person, a family, or roommates, including mobile homes and cabins; and for multi-family residential occupancies (i.e. duplexes, and other types of attached housing). An apartment building with 10 units would be considered ten dwelling units. Each individual participating site is limited to no more than 7,500 individual dwelling units* within their identified boundary. Multiple sites can be located within a single large master-planned community/HOA.

*Participating sites larger than 7,500 individual dwelling units must meet the maximum dwelling unit requirement by January 2, 2023.

6. Application

You're encouraged to start your renewal application in the [management portal](#) at any point throughout the year as components of your renewal are completed. Once all the criteria has been met, the electronic renewal application can be submitted. 2018 renewals must be submitted by November 16. Renewals are reviewed and approved by either your state liaison or the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Each approved renewing site will receive a Certificate of Renewal during first quarter of the following year.

Please note: Individual states can request additional application requirements.

Other tips

- Conduct your educational outreach event anytime during the year and report it through the portal's easy-to-use tracking system.
- Document the time invested in risk reduction projects. Each year, the site's Firewise Board/Committee must demonstrate that the site has met their required risk reduction investment. You can log volunteer hours (worth \$24.14 as of May 2017), grants, or the value of in-kind services, contractors, or rental equipment. **Please note:** The investment criteria for 2018 has changed.
- Tell us about your successes! The [Firewise USA® program management portal](#) provides simple and efficient tools that will assist in submitting the required renewal criteria and management of your Firewise site:
- Request resident leader changes or update the number of residents or dwelling units.
- Add new board members and revise or update your action plan.
- The educational outreach and vegetation management tabs provide easy reporting.
- Time and effort: track hours worked or money spent on risk reduction efforts throughout the year. The portal allows for multiple entries and tracks activities in specific home ignition zones, along with expenditures for projects and equipment; and it's all calculated and stored for renewal purposes and future reference.

Need assistance?

Our customer service team is available Monday – Friday to answer questions, or provide guidance on how-to-use the portal. They can be reached through [email](#), or by phone at +1 720 475-1931, from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm ET (8:00 am - 4:00 pm MT).

About NFPA

Overview

Leadership

Careers

International

[Offices](#)

[Directions](#)

[Grants & Awards](#)

Quick Links

[Codes & Standards](#)

[News & Research](#)

[Training & Events](#)

[Public Education](#)

[Membership](#)

[Catalog](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Press Room](#)

[Xchange™ \(online community\)](#)

[Alternative Fuel Vehicle Safety](#)

[Free Access](#)

[Fire Sprinkler Initiative](#)

[Firewise USA®](#)

[NFCSS](#)

[NFPA Buyers' Guide](#)

Help

[Customer Support](#)

[Contact Us](#)



[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

© National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 2018

California

Pete Muñoa, Deputy Chief

CAL FIRE

1131 S. Street

Sacramento, California 95811

Phone: +1 916 324-0014

Pete.Munoa@fire.ca.gov

Firewise Communities/USA® 2017 New Community Application



The _____ community,
(Insert Community or Neighborhood Name as it should be used in the listing of active communities and on the personalized recognition materials)
located in _____, in _____, in the State of _____,
(Insert Name of City/Town) (Insert Name of County) (Insert Name of State)

is applying for national recognition for our on-going wildfire risk reduction commitment through the Firewise Communities/USA® program. There are _____ full and part time residents in the community. We acknowledge renewal criteria must be met annually to continue participation in the program, if that criteria is not met, we will voluntarily remove our Firewise street signage.

Our community's latitude and longitude is: _____ and _____. Use an address close
(Latitude) (Longitude)
to the center of the community to report this information. (<http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html> can be used to find the latitude and longitude)

The following documents need to accompany the application when submitted to the state liaison:

- Community Risk Assessment
- Multi-year Action Plan
- Names and email addresses for the Board/Committee Members overseeing development and implementation of the community action plan and the annual renewal process
- List of outreach materials used for the Educational Outreach event/activity

Section A: Community's Primary Point of Contact*

First and Last Name: _____

Full Street Mailing Address where UPS pkgs can be delivered: _____

If applicable, P. O. Box: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: Cell #: _____ Landline #: _____

Email Address: _____

Secondary Point of Contact*

First and Last Name: _____

Full Street Mailing Address where UPS pkgs can be delivered: _____

If applicable, P. O. Box: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: Cell #: _____ Landline #: _____

Email Address: _____

****Please note: An email address for both the primary and secondary point of contact is required. The primary point of contact will receive correspondence from the national Firewise program staff.***

Section B: Partnership Information - If applicable, provide information on who helped develop the community risk assessment, or is working with the community to provide assistance in meeting the program's criteria:

Firewise Communities/USA® 2017 New Community Application



Local, State or National Forestry Agency:

First and Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

List additional agencies, departments or organizations that provided assistance to your community's application process: (fire dept., conservation district, emergency manager, etc.)

First and Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Section C: Community Risk Assessment

If applicable: Name of agency, department, organization or individual that conducted the Community Risk Assessment.

Date the assessment was completed: _____

Section D: Per Capita Mitigation Investment - A minimum annual investment of at least \$2 per capita (use the resident number provided in the application information) in local Firewise mitigation projects is required. The following are examples of what can be included in calculating the per capita investment:

- Work completed by residents and volunteers using the \$23.56 per hour national volunteer hourly rate (reducing ladder fuels, trimming trees, raking ground debris, cleaning roofs and gutters, removing items under decks and porches, replacing plants with fire resistant species, etc.)
- Equipment rental/purchase for mitigation work (chippers, dumpsters, chain saws and other tools, gas, oil, etc.)
- Hours that municipal, county, state or federal employees worked on mitigation projects within the community's boundaries (calculated at \$23.56 an hour)
- Slash removal/arborist expenses (contractor costs, personal vehicle mileage to disposal site)
- Fire resistant building materials/exterior improvements (upgrading to Class A roofing materials, adding screening to vents and under porches/decks)
- Equipment rental/purchase

The total 2017 mitigation investment is: \$ _____.

Firewise Communities/USA® 2017 New Community Application



Section E: Firewise Educational Outreach event/activity - In addition to annual mitigation activities, each community is required to hold an educational event or activity for residents. Examples include the following:

- Residents doing mitigation work for a senior or disabled resident
- An awareness/educational activity that increases wildfire risk reduction actions and overall preparedness
- An evacuation drill with a law enforcement agency, local emergency manager or fire department
- Wildfire risk reduction presentation at an HOA meeting or community-wide event
- Door-to-door outreach to deliver information on the wildfire danger in the community
- An awareness/educational activity that increases wildfire risk reduction actions and overall preparedness

Date the Firewise Educational Outreach event/activity was held: _____

Location: _____

Number of Attendees: _____

Brief Description of Event/Day: *(Limited to 800 Characters)*

Firewise Communities/USA® 2017 New Community Application



For State Liaison Use Only (This section will be completed by the Firewise State Liaison or their designated representative)

The State Firewise Liaison or their designee has reviewed the application and determined the community meets the requirements to become a recognized Firewise Communities/USA participating site.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Community Recognition Materials Shipping Info:

Yes No Ship to the community's primary point of contact as listed on the application

Yes No Ship to a name and address other than the community's primary point of contact, at the address listed below:

Name and Title of person receiving recognition materials: _____

Name of Agency/Organization: _____

Full Street Address where UPS shipments can be sent: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Becoming a Nationally Recognized Firewise USA® Site

www.firewise.org

The Firewise USA® program provides a collaborative framework for neighbors to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. The national recognition program's annual criteria is designed to empower and engage residents living in wildfire prone areas with a plan and actions that can increase their home's chances of surviving a wildfire; while also making it safer for firefighters.

Steps to Achieving National Recognition:

Wildfire Risk Assessment

Completing a written wildfire risk assessment is the first step in becoming a nationally recognized Firewise USA® site. Contact your Firewise liaison for the state's requirements on developing a risk assessment.

Board/Committee

Form a board/committee comprised of residents and other applicable wildfire stakeholders. This group will collaborate on developing the site's risk reduction priorities and they will develop a multi-year action plan based on the assessment, along with overseeing the completion of the annual renewal requirements.

Action Plan

Action plans are a prioritized list of risk reduction projects developed by the participant's board/committee for their site. Plans include recommended home ignition zone projects, educational activities and other stakeholder outreach efforts that the site will strive to complete annually or over multiple years.

Educational Outreach

Each participating site is required to have a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event, or related activity annually.

Wildfire Risk Reduction Investment

At a minimum, each site is required to invest the equivalent value of one volunteer hour per dwelling unit in risk reduction actions annually. A wide range of qualifying actions and expenditures (contractor costs, rental equipment, resident activities, grants, etc.) comprise the overall investment totals.

Application

Applicants begin the overall process by creating a site profile at: Portal.firewise.org. The application is eligible for submission when the overall criteria is completed.

State liaisons approve applications with final processing completed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). **Please note:** Individual states may require additional application requirements beyond those of the national program.



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

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



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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 house; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30 feet; and the **Extended Zone**: 30 to 100 feet.

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 ensure mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house) are non-combustible options 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.

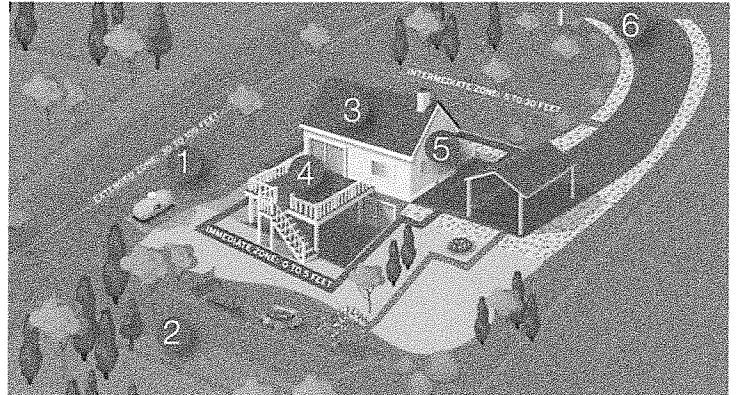
6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

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

BE PREPARED

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.

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.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

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

VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](https://www.firewise.org) FOR MORE DETAILS

Firewise® is a program of the National Fire Protection Association. This publication was produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, US Department of the Interior and the National Association of State Foresters. NFPA is an equal opportunity provider. Firewise® and Firewise USA® are registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA 02169.

Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at [Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org)

READY, SET, GO!

YOUR PERSONAL WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN



READY, SET, GO!

Wildfire Action Plan

Saving Lives and Property
through Advance Planning



Wildfire is a serious threat to lives, property and natural resources in California. The men and women of CAL FIRE make countless preparations and train frequently in order to be ready for all types of emergencies, including wildfires. Residents need to do the same.

You can dramatically increase your safety and the survivability of your property by preparing well in advance of a wildfire. This brochure provides comprehensive information on how to improve your home's resistance to wildfires and prepare your family to be ready to leave early in a safe manner. We call this process, "Ready, Set, Go!"

The guide illustrates the importance of having defensible space around your home and it will help educate you about the preparations you need to make so you can leave early and evacuate well ahead of a wildfire. This brochure also provides information on how to retrofit your home with ignition resistant materials to address the threat of flying embers that can travel as far as a mile ahead of a flame front.

Fire is, and always has been, a natural part of the beautiful state we've chosen to live in. Wildfires, fueled by a build-up of dry vegetation and driven by hot, dry winds, are extremely dangerous and are challenging for firefighters to control. This publication will help you prepare your home so you can leave early; confident in the fact that you've done everything you reasonably can to protect your home from devastating wildfire.

I hope you'll find the information on the next pages helpful. As always, if you need more information about preparing for wildfire or any other disaster, contact your nearest fire station or visit us on the web at www.fire.ca.gov.

Chief Del Walters
Director, CAL FIRE

All suggestions and requirements are based on State Codes and Regulations, specifically the California Building Code Chapter 7A, California Fire Code, and Title 14 Fire Safe Regulations. Contact your local fire and building department for specific requirements or recommendations for your community.

INSIDE

Wildland Urban Interface	3
What is Defensible Space	4
Making Your Home Fire Resistant	5
A Wildfire-Ready Home	6-7
Get Set - Prepare Your Family	8
As the Fire Approaches Checklist	9
Go Early Checklist	10
Your Own Wildfire Action Plan	11

This publication was prepared by the Ventura County Fire Department. Special thanks to CAL FIRE, Orange County Fire Authority, FireSafe Council, Firewise Communities, and the Institute for Business and Home Safety as well as many other organizations for their contributions to content.

Ready, Set, Go! is supported by:

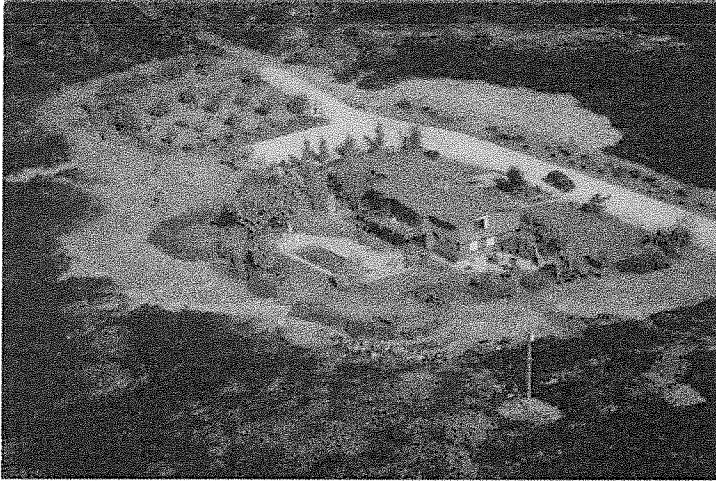


Living in the Wildland Urban Interface

Ready, Set, Go! begins with a house that firefighters can defend.

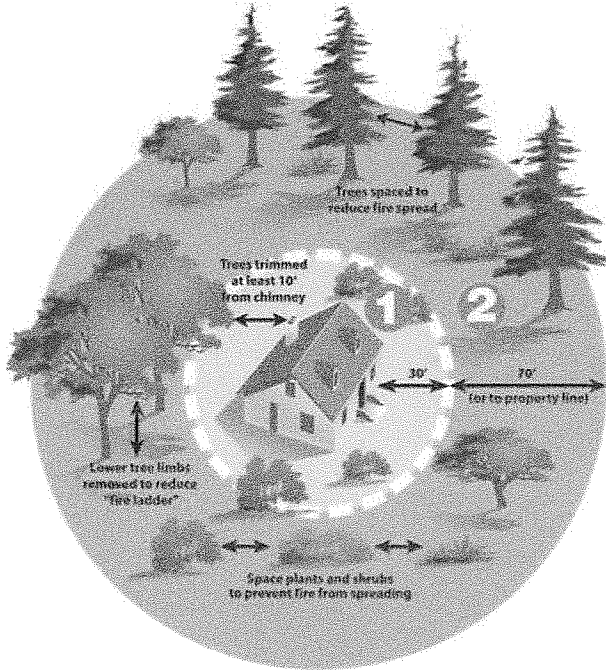
Defensible space works!

If you live next to a natural area, the Wildland Urban Interface, you must provide firefighters with the defensible space they need to protect your home. The buffer you create by removing weeds, brush and other vegetation helps to keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risks from flying embers.



A home within one mile of a natural area is at risk of flying embers. Wind-driven embers can attack your home. You and your home must be prepared well before a fire occurs. Ember fires can destroy homes or neighborhoods far from the actual flame front of the wildfire.

What is Defensible Space?



Defensible space is the required space between a structure and the wildland area that, under normal conditions, creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildfire to a structure. It protects the home from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat. Defensible space is essential for structure survivability during wildfire conditions and for the protection to firefighters defending your home.

ZONE ONE

Zone One extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all dead or dying vegetation.
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10 feet from structures and other trees.
- Remove leaf litter (dry leaves/pine needles) from yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Relocate woodpiles or other combustible materials into Zone Two.
- Remove combustible material and vegetation from around and under decks.
- Remove or prune vegetation near windows.
- Remove "ladder fuels" (low-level vegetation that allows the fire to spread from the ground to the tree canopy). Create a separation between low-level vegetation and non-vegetative materials such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing set, etc., from tree branches. This can be done by reducing the height of low-level vegetation and/or trimming low tree branches.

ZONE TWO

Zone Two extends 30 to 100 feet out from buildings, structures and decks. You can minimize the chance of fire jumping from plant to plant or other non-vegetative combustible, by removing dead material and removing, separating, and/or thinning vegetation. The minimum spacing between vegetation is three times the dimension of the plant or other non-vegetative combustible.

- Remove "ladder fuels."
- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a depth of 3 inches if erosion control is an issue.

What is a Hardened Home?

Construction materials and the quality of the defensible space surrounding it are what gives a home the best chance to survive a wildfire. Embers from a wildfire will find the weak link in your home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factor. However, there are measures you can take to safeguard your home from wildfire. While you may not be able to accomplish all the measures listed below, each will increase your home's, and possibly your family's, safety and survival during a wildfire.



ROOFS

Roofs are the most vulnerable surface where embers land because they can lodge and start a fire. Roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles and rain gutters are all points of entry.

EAVES

Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite exposed wood or other combustible material.

VENTS

Embers can enter the attic or other concealed spaces and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents. New vents have been developed that prevent flame and embers from getting through to the attic.

WALLS

Combustible siding or other combustible or overlapping materials provide surfaces or crevices for embers to nestle and ignite.

WINDOWS and DOORS

Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Plants or combustible storage near windows can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames.

BALCONIES and DECKS

Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces or the undersides of decks and balconies, ignite the material and enter the home through walls or windows.

To harden your home even further, consider protecting your homes with a residential fire sprinkler system. In addition to extinguishing a fire started by an ember that enters your home, it also protects you and your family year-round from any fire that may start in your home.

All suggestions and requirements are based on State Codes and Regulations, specifically the California Building Code Chapter 7A, California Fire Code, and Title 14 Fire Safe Regulations. Contact your local fire and building department for specific requirements or recommendations for your community.

Tour a Wildfire Ready Home

Home Site and Yard: Ensure you have at least a 100-foot radius of defensible space (cleared vegetation) around your home. Note that even more clearance may be needed for homes in severe hazard areas. This means looking past what you own to determine the impact a common slope or neighbors' yard will have on your property during a wildfire.

Cut dry weeds and grass before 10 a.m. when temperatures are cooler to reduce the chance of sparking a fire.

Landscape with fire-resistant plants that have a high moisture content and are low-growing.

Keep woodpiles, propane tanks and other non-vegetative combustible materials away from your home and other structures such as garages, barns and sheds.

Ensure that trees are far away from power lines.

Roof: Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home because it can easily catch fire from wind-blown embers. Homes with wood-shake or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire.

Build your roof or re-roof with ignition resistant materials such as composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent ember intrusion.

Clear pine needles, leaves and other debris from your roof and gutters.

Cut any tree branches within ten feet of your roof.

Vents: Vents on homes are particularly vulnerable to flying embers.

All vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch to 1/4 inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.

Attic vents in eaves or cornices should be baffled or otherwise protected to prevent ember intrusion (mesh is not enough).

Windows: Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start internal fires. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable.

Install dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire.

Consider limiting the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation.

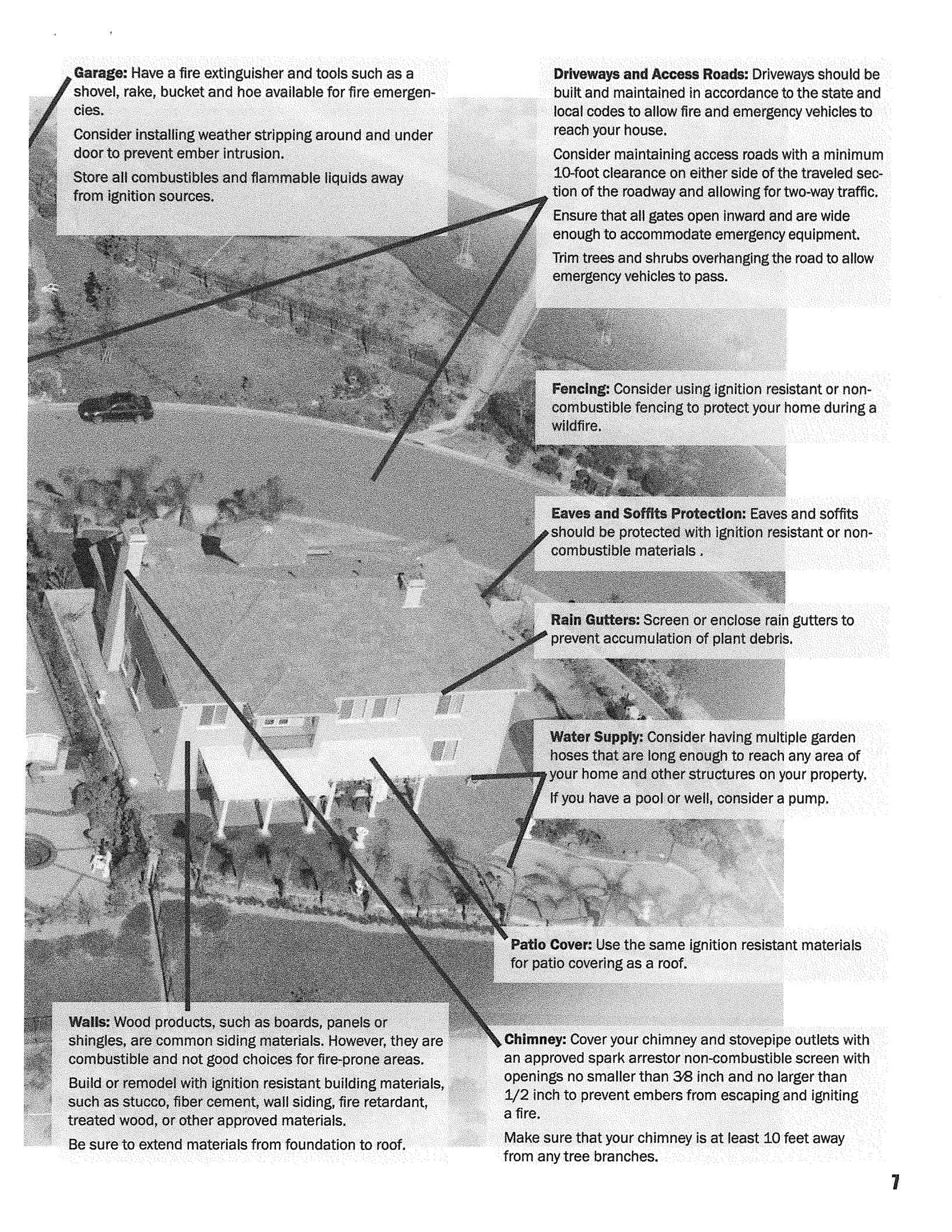
Inside: Keep working fire extinguishers on hand. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and in bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.

Address: Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road.



Decks: Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition resistant, non-combustible, or other approved materials.

Ensure that all combustible items are removed from underneath your deck.



Garage: Have a fire extinguisher and tools such as a shovel, rake, bucket and hoe available for fire emergencies.

Consider installing weather stripping around and under door to prevent ember intrusion.

Store all combustibles and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.

Driveways and Access Roads: Driveways should be built and maintained in accordance to the state and local codes to allow fire and emergency vehicles to reach your house.

Consider maintaining access roads with a minimum 10-foot clearance on either side of the traveled section of the roadway and allowing for two-way traffic.

Ensure that all gates open inward and are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment.

Trim trees and shrubs overhanging the road to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

Fencing: Consider using ignition resistant or non-combustible fencing to protect your home during a wildfire.

Eaves and Soffits Protection: Eaves and soffits should be protected with ignition resistant or non-combustible materials .

Rain Gutters: Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

Water Supply: Consider having multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach any area of your home and other structures on your property. If you have a pool or well, consider a pump.

Patio Cover: Use the same ignition resistant materials for patio covering as a roof.

Walls: Wood products, such as boards, panels or shingles, are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas.

Build or remodel with ignition resistant building materials, such as stucco, fiber cement, wall siding, fire retardant, treated wood, or other approved materials.

Be sure to extend materials from foundation to roof.

Chimney: Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with an approved spark arrestor non-combustible screen with openings no smaller than 3/8 inch and no larger than 1/2 inch to prevent embers from escaping and igniting a fire.

Make sure that your chimney is at least 10 feet away from any tree branches.

READY, SET, GO!

Create Your Own Wildfire Action Plan

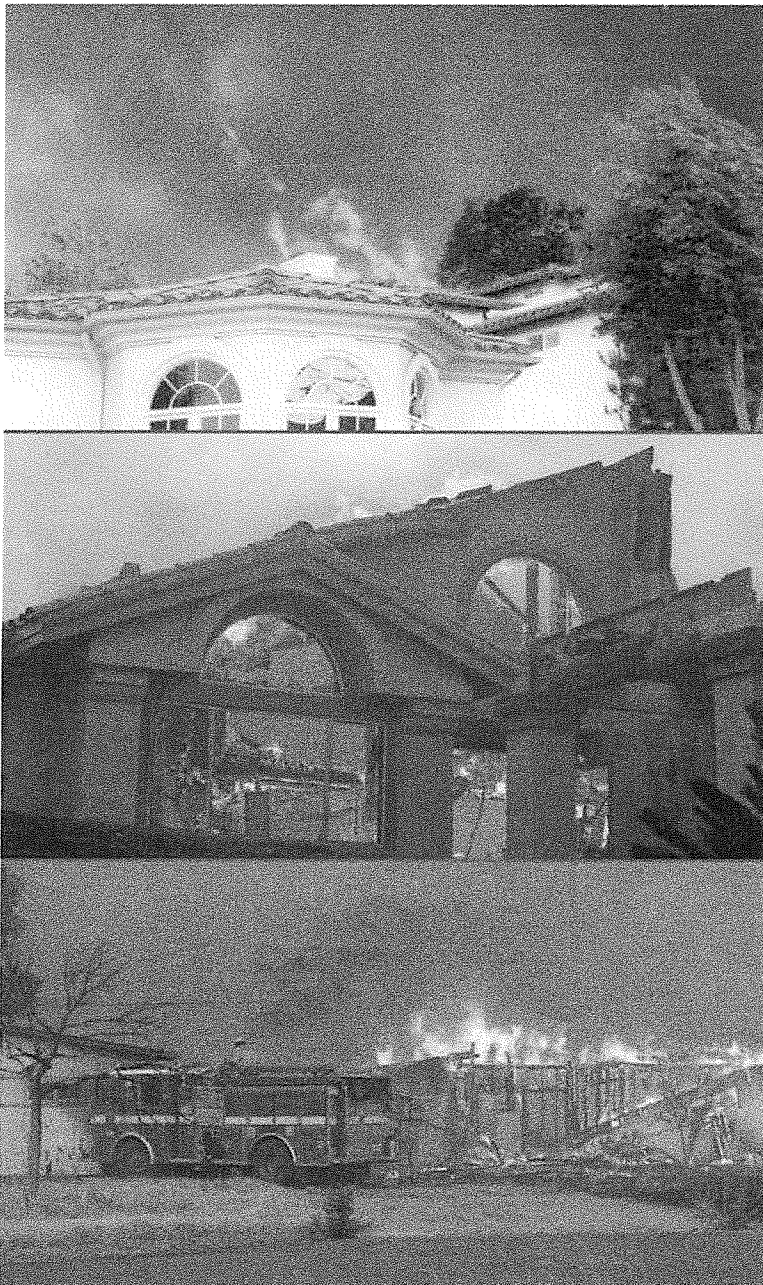
Now that you've done everything you can to protect your house, it's time to prepare your family. Your **Wildfire Action Plan** must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a fire.

Use these checklists to help you prepare your Wildfire Action Plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on their situation.

Once you finish your plan, practice it regularly with your family and keep it in a safe and accessible place for quick implementation.

GET READY

Prepare Your Family



- Create a **Family Disaster Plan** that includes meeting locations and communication plans and practice it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals such as horses.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members who have relocated.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.

GET SET

As the Fire Approaches

- Evacuate as soon as you are set!
- Alert family and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure that you have your emergency supply kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, or check the fire department Web site.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water and keep an eye on your family and pets until you are ready to leave.

INSIDE CHECKLIST

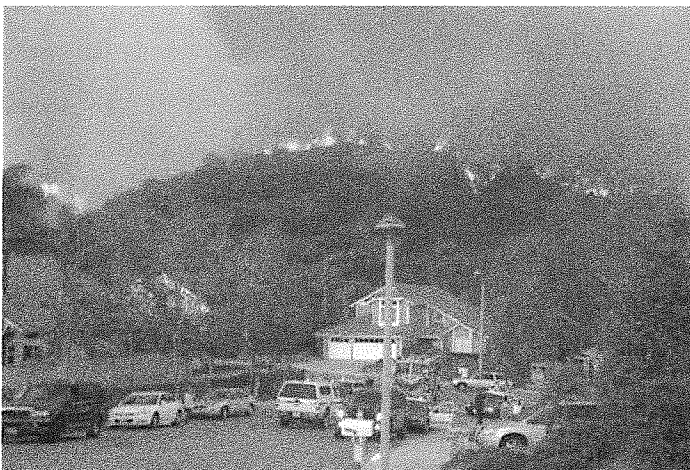
- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window shades and curtains and close metal shutters.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning.

OUTSIDE CHECKLIST

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running - they can waste critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Back your car into the driveway. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder available.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- Shelter away from outside walls.
- Bring garden hoses inside house so embers don't destroy them.
- Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside).
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers.
- Check inside the attic for hidden embers.
- Patrol your property and extinguish small fires.
- If there are fires that you can not extinguish with a small amount of water or in a short period of time, call 9-1-1.



By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job.

WHEN TO LEAVE

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

WHERE TO GO

Leave to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.)

HOW TO GET THERE

Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles and equipment. Choose an escape route away from the fire.

WHAT TO TAKE

Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items.



EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

The American Red Cross recommends every family have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildfire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies, visit the American Red Cross Web site at www.redcross.org.

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day).
- Non-perishable food for all family members and pets (three-day supply).
- First aid kit.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- Important family documents and contact numbers.
- Map marked with evacuation routes.
- Prescriptions or special medications.
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items.
- Easily carried valuables.
- Personal computers (information on hard drives and disks).
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Note: Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

Write up your Wildfire Action Plan and post it in a location where every member of your family can see it. Rehearse it with your family.

My Personal Wildfire Action Plan

During High Fire Danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information on brush fires and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildfire.

Important Phone Numbers:

Out-of-State Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Work: _____

School: _____

Other: _____

Evacuation Routes: _____

Where to go: _____

Location of Emergency Supply Kit: _____

Notes: _____



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
If you have an emergency, call 911
CAL FIRE: 916-653-5123
Web site: <http://www.fire.ca.gov>

READY, SET, GO!



This booklet has been adapted from the original, created by the Ventura County Fire Department.

