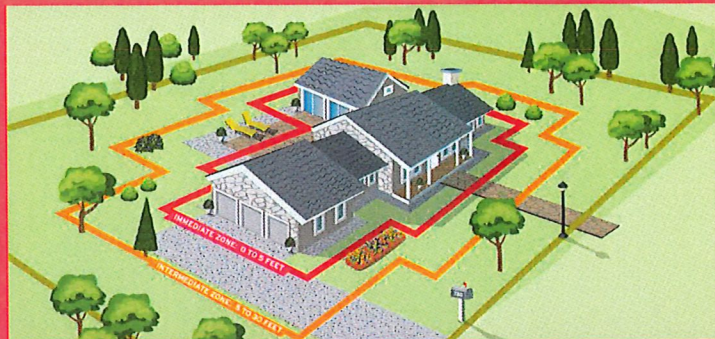


# HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

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



## ■ VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### 1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

To increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire, choose fire-resistant building materials and limit the amount of flammable vegetation in the three home ignition zones. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: (0 to 5 feet around the house), the **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 6 to 10 feet (depending on their height) from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils, and waxes. Use crushed stone or gravel instead of flammable mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house). Keep your landscape in good condition.

## ■ FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

### 3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products, such as composite shingles, metal, concrete, and clay tiles, offer the best protection. 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 and porches and between deck board joints.

### 5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

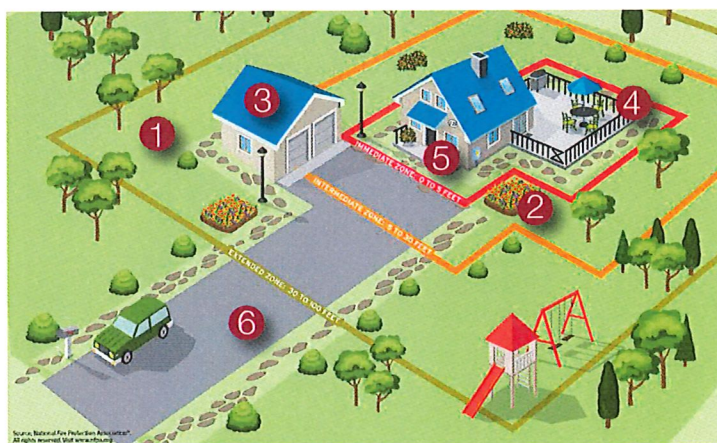
Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster, or stucco, and use dual-pane tempered glass windows.

## ■ BE PREPARED

### 6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood have 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.

- Develop, discuss, and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for handling 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.
- Conduct an annual insurance policy checkup to adjust for local building costs, codes, and new renovations.
- Create or update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



**TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY  
OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK  
WHERE YOU LIVE.**

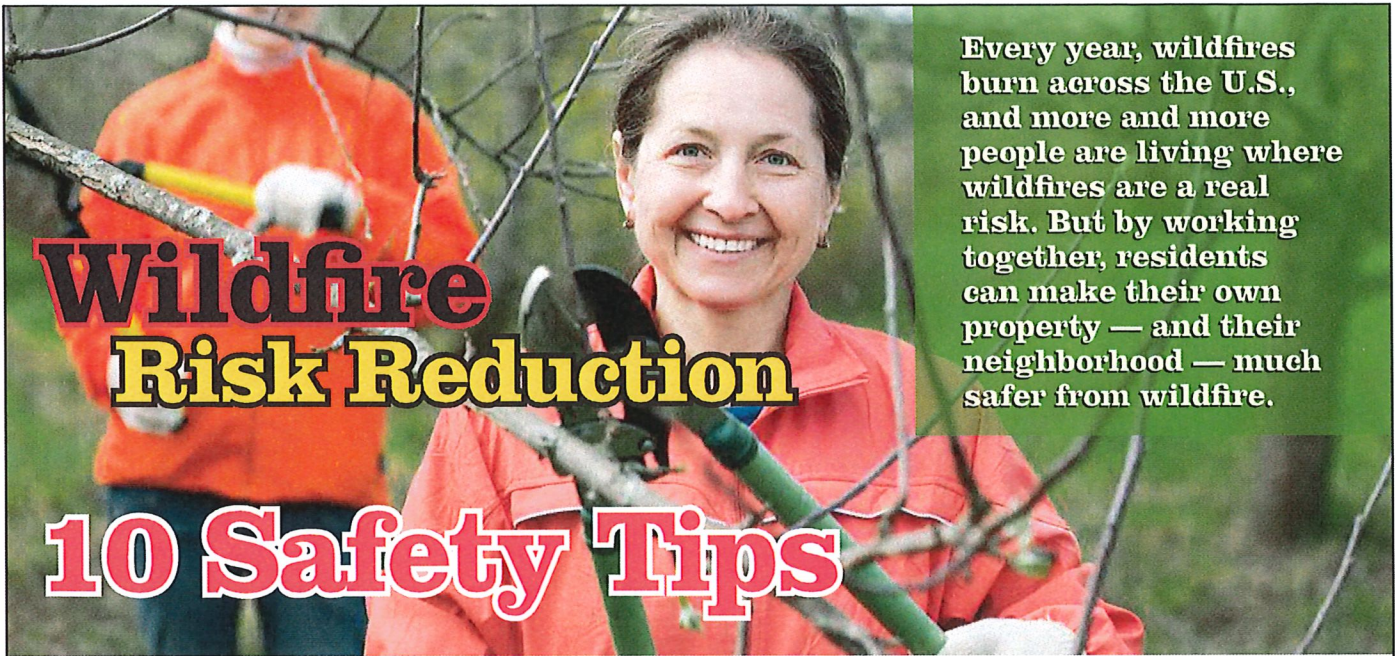


**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

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

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



Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. But by working together, residents can make their own property — and their neighborhood — much safer from wildfire.

# Wildfire Risk Reduction

## 10 Safety Tips

### Action Items to Improve Your Home's Survivability:

- **REMOVE** leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting your home.
- **SCREEN** areas below decks and porches with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent material from accumulating underneath.
- **COVER** exterior attic and soffit vents with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering your home.
- **ENCLOSE** eaves to help prevent ember entry.
- **INSPECT** shingles or roof tiles. **REPLACE** missing shingles or tiles. **COVER** ends of tiles with bird stops or cement to help prevent ember penetration during a wildfire.

### Tips for Landscaping Around Your Home

- **REMOVE** dead vegetation and other flammable materials, especially within the first 5 feet of the home.
- **KEEP** your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to help reduce fire intensity.
- **PRUNE** tree limbs so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet above the ground to help reduce the chance of fire getting into the crowns of the trees.
- **MOVE** construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.
- **DISPOSE** of branches, weeds, leaves, pine needles, and grass clippings that you have cut to reduce fuel for fire.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Increase your wildfire safety. Make simple low-cost changes to your home and landscape starting today.



Visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) for more information.

Your Logo



IT'S A BIG WORLD.  
LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.®

# Protect Your Home

## 7 Ways Residents Can Reduce the Risk that their Homes & Property Will Become Fuel for a Wildfire

#1

### Clear

*Clear off pine needles, dead leaves & anything that can burn from your rooflines, gutters, decks, porches, patios & along fence lines. Falling embers will have nothing to burn.*

#2

### Store Away

*Store away furniture cushions, rattan mats, potted plants & other decorations from decks, porches & patios. These items catch embers and help ignite your home if you leave them outside.*

#3

### Screen & Seal

*Wind-borne embers can get into homes easily through vents & other openings and burn the home from the inside out. Walk around your house to see what openings you can screen or temporarily seal up.*

#4

### Rake

*Embers landing in mulch that touches your house, deck or fence is a big fire hazard. Rake out any landscaping mulch to at least five feet away.*

#5

### Trim

*Trim back any shrubs or tree branches that come closer than 5 feet to the house and attachments, and any overhanging branches.*

#6

### Remove

*Walk around your house and remove anything within 30 feet that could burn, such as woodpiles, spare lumber, vehicles and boats – anything that can act as a large fuel source.*

#7

### Close

*If ordered to evacuate, make sure all windows & doors are closed tightly, and seal up any pet doors. Many homes are destroyed by embers entering these openings and burning the house from the inside out.*



NFPA has many more tips and safety recommendations on its websites, including [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).