

WILDFIRE PREVENTION

50 Things You Can Do To Protect Your Home

No Cost, Just A Little Time

- Move your firewood pile out to your home's defensible space.
- Perform a FIREWISE assessment of your home.
- Clean your roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles.
- Clear the view of your house number so it can be easily seen from the street.
- Put a hose on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.
- Trim all tree branches if they overhang your house.
- Trim all tree branches from within 20' of all chimneys.
- Remove trees along the driveway to make it 12' wide.
- Prune branches overhanging the driveway to have 14' overhead clearance.
- Maintain a green lawn for 30' around your home.
- If new homes are still being built in your area, talk to the developer and local zoning officials about building standards.
- Plan and discuss an escape plan with your family, have practice drills, and include your pets.
- Get involved with your community's disaster mitigation plans.
- Check your fire extinguishers. Are they still charged? Are they easy to get to in an emergency? Does everyone in the family know where they are and how to use them?
- Clear deadwood and dense flammable vegetation from your home's defensible space.
- Remove conifer shrubs from your home's defensible space especially if your home is in a high-risk area.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage.
- Talk to your children about not starting fires or playing with matches.
- If you have a burn barrel that you use for burning trash, STOP!
- Compost leaves in the fall, don't burn them.
- If you burn your brush piles or grass in the spring, get a burning permit.
- Always have a shovel on hand and hook up the garden hose BEFORE you start a fire.
- Never burn if the smoke and flames are blowing towards your home (or your neighbor's home).
- Be a Firewise advocate.

Minimal cost actions (\$10-\$25 and a little time)

- Install highly visible house numbers (at least 3" tall) on your home.
- Install big, highly visible house numbers (at least 3' tall) at the entrance of the driveway. Use non-flammable materials and posts.
- Install metal screens on all attic, foundation, and other openings on your home to prevent accumulation of leaves and needles.
- Hold a neighborhood meeting to talk about fire safety. Invite your local fire chief.
- Install a fire extinguisher in the kitchen AND the garage.
- Install a metal shield between your home and an attached wood fence.

- Replace conifer and evergreen shrubs with low-flammable plants in your home's defensible space.
- Thin and prune conifer trees for 30' to 100' around your home.
- Purchase and use a NOAA weather alert radio. Many types of emergencies are announced through this service.
- Replace vinyl gutters and downspouts with non-flammable, metal gutters and downspouts.
- Install a spark arrestor or heavy wire screen with opening less than 1/2" on wood burning fireplaces and chimneys.