

Create a Safety Zone Around Your Home

Clear a 50 foot zone around your home. Within this area you can take steps to reduce potential exposure to flames and radiant heat.

- Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs.
Clear all flammable vegetation.
Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures.
- Remove dead branches that extend over the roof and remove limbs within 15 feet of the ground. Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a chimney.
- Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.
- Remove vines from the walls of the home.
- MOW GRASS REGULARLY
- Clear a 10 foot area around propane tanks and outdoor grills.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home.
Clear all combustible material within 20 feet of the woodpile.
- Have a garden hose (readily available) that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.
- Install freeze-proof exterior water outlets on at least two sides of the home and near other structures on the property.
Install additional outlets at least 50 feet from the home.

When Wildfire Threatens

- If you're sure you have time - close windows, vents and doors.
Place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near above-ground fuel tanks.
Wet the roof as well as grass and shrubs within 15 feet of the home.
- If advised to evacuate, please do so immediately.
Choose a route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.

In the event of any type fire, contact the Fire Department by calling 911. Firemen would much rather get to your location and find that the fire is out than to find a large fire because someone thought that they could put it out and couldn't.

Delaying the call for help increases the potential losses for everyone.

Wildfire Safety

Wildfires often begin unnoticed. They may be started by lightning or by carelessness. They spread quickly, igniting brush, grass, trees and even homes. Reduce your risk now before wildfire strikes. Meet with your family and develop an emergency action plan.

Practice Safety

People start most wildfires. Promote and practice wildfire safety.

- Make sure that fire and emergency vehicles can get to your home.
- Clearly mark all driveway entrances and display your name and address.
- Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.
- Teach children about fire safety.
Keep matches out of their reach.
- Post emergency telephone numbers.
- Teach children to use 911.
- Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety.
Plan how the neighborhood could work together.
Consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs such as elderly or disabled persons.
Make plans to take care of children who may be on their own if parents can't get home.

Protect Your Home

- Regularly clean roof and gutters
- Inspect chimneys at least twice a year. Clean them at least once a year.
- Install a spark arrester on your chimney.
- Install a smoke detector on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Test the detector monthly and change the batteries twice a year.
- Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type) and show them where it's kept.
- Keep a ladder that will reach the roof.

Design and landscape your home with wildfire safety in mind.

Select materials and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it.

Use fire resistant or noncombustible materials on the roof and exterior of the building.

Plant fire-resistant shrubs and trees.

Hardwood trees are less flammable than pines or evergreens.