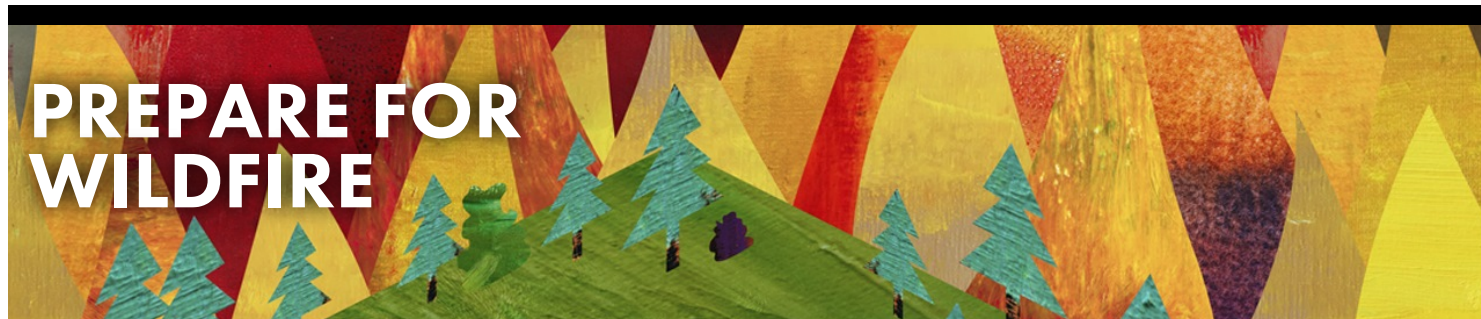




**WILDFIRE IS COMING...  
ARE YOU READY?**

**HOME** **PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE** ▾ PREVENT WILDFIRE ▾ POST WILDFIRE ▾  
FOREST HEALTH ▾ PERMITS ▾ SPANISH MORE ▾ CONTACT US



## HARDENING YOUR HOME

Flying embers can destroy homes up to a mile from a wildfire. “Harden” your home now before a fire starts by using ember-resistant building materials.

Here are some things you can do to harden your home and make it more fire resistant.

### 10 Low-Cost Retrofits to Your Home

- [Low-cost Retrofit List](#) 

#### Roof

The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Homes with wood or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire. Build your roof or re-roof with materials such as composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent embers from catching.

#### Vents

Vents on homes create openings for flying embers.

- Cover all vent openings with 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.
- Protect vents in eaves or cornices with baffles to block embers (mesh is not enough).

#### Eaves and Soffits

878  
Shares



## Windows

Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start fires inside. 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 that face large areas of vegetation.

## 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 your walls 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 the foundation to the roof.

## 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.

## Rain Gutters

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

## Patio Cover

Use the same ignition-resistant\* materials for patio coverings as a roof.

## Chimney

Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a non-combustible screen. Use metal screen material with openings no smaller than 3/8-inch and no larger than 1/2-inch to prevent embers from escaping and igniting a fire.

## Garage

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

878  
Shares



- Install weaner stripping around and under the garage door to prevent embers from blowing in.
- Store all combustible and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.

## Fences

Consider using ignition-resistant\* or non-combustible fence materials to protect your home during a wildfire.

## Driveways and Access Roads

Driveways should be built and maintained in accordance with state and local codes to allow fire and emergency vehicles to reach your home. Consider maintaining access roads with a minimum of 10 feet of clearance on either side, 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.

## Address

Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road.

## Water Supply

Consider having multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach all areas of your home and other structures on your property. If you have a pool or well, consider getting a pump.

## Useful Links

[Fire Information Engine—Homeowner Wildfire Assessment](#) 

[University of California—Homeowner's Wildfire Mitigation Guide](#) 

\*Ignition-resistant building materials are those that resist ignition or sustained burning when exposed to embers and small flames from wildfires. Examples of ignition-resistant materials include “non-combustible materials” that don’t burn, exterior grade fire-retardant-treated wood lumber, fire-retardant-treated wood shakes and shingles listed by the State Fire Marshal (SFM) and any material that has been tested in accordance with SFM Standard 12-7A-5.

878  
Shares





Use our new web-based app to create your custom wildfire preparedness action plan and find information on wildfire incidents near you! Go to the [Ready for Wildfire App](#)

---

## BUILDING MATERIAL LISTINGS

Look up [California's Building Material Requirements](#) [↗](#).

---

## LIVING AND BUILDING IN THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

Learn more about [California's building codes and standards](#) [↗](#), which reduce the risk of flying embers catching homes on fire.

---

## IS YOUR HOME READY? BROCHURE



Download the [Wildfire is Coming, Are You Ready? brochure](#) [↗](#) to get your home ready for wildfire.

878  
Shares



## VIDEOS AND OTHER HELPFUL LINKS

CAL FIRE Inspects for Def...



Check out [CALFIRETV](#) for more videos.

[Ready, Set, Go! Video](#)

[California Living Fire Resistant Video](#)

[Defensible Space Photo Album](#)

©2019 CAL FIRE | [CONDITIONS OF USE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [ACCESSIBILITY](#) | CAL FIRE Language Access Complaint Form ([English PDF](#)) ([Spanish PDF](#))

 [Select Language](#) ▼

878  
Shares

