

Protect Your Home from Wildfires

Take proactive steps to keep away wildfires, which most commonly occur in mountainous and foothill areas.

- To provide fire vehicles with easy access, have your driveway connected to a hard-surfaced main road that's at least 20-feet wide.
- Clear your driveway of vegetation so fire-fighting equipment can easily reach your house.
- Create a 30-foot (or greater) safety zone around your home. A safety zone may include such items such as low-growing, fire-resistant plants and shrubs; firebreaks like gravel walkways and stone walls; and pruned, well-spaced trees no closer than 10 feet apart. Prevent branches from hanging over your roof.
- Use roof material with a UL Class B or better fire rating. These include asphalt shingles; terra-cotta tiles; and metal, cement and concrete products.
- Keep your roof and gutters free of debris.
- Remove combustible materials and vegetation from porches, balconies and decks with exposed space underneath.
- Cover vents with quarter-inch noncombustible screens.
- Place spark arrestors on chimneys and stovepipes.



Safety Zone Definitions

A clump of trees or single tree will be treated the same within these definitions. Clump is defined as a small, close group or cluster of similar trees growing close enough together where they resemble a single tree.

Zone 1: Extends 30 feet from home or outbuilding on all sides. If trees/shrubs are next to the home (within 10 feet) they will be considered part of the home and the 30 foot zone starts beyond the furthest extended branch tip. Think of this zone as the lean and green zone. Remove flammable vegetation and mulch of any type. Plantings are limited to carefully spaced indigenous species. Trees are isolated (10 feet apart or more from branch tips of one tree to another), set away from the house and trimmed up 10 feet off the ground. (Fire Free Area) - Extends five feet from home or outbuilding on all sides. This area should only contain nonflammable landscaping material, and/or high moisture perennial/annual plants or walkways.

Zone 2: Fuel Reduction Area - Extends an additional 70 feet from zone 1 for a total of 100 feet of modification. In this area, remove all stressed, diseased and dead trees and shrubs. Thin and prune all larger trees and shrubs. Plantings are limited to low-growing plants and shrubs. Trees are well spaced.

Zone 3: Modified Natural Area – This is the area beyond 100 feet from the home or outbuilding. In this area, remove highly flammable vegetation such as dead or dying trees and shrubs.

- All of the above safety zones should be free from ladder fuels. Ladder fuels are any combustible material that acts to carry fire from the ground into the tree canopy.
- The roof surface on the dwelling and outbuildings must be UL Class A or B. Examples of eligible roofs include: asphalt shingles, metal, cement and concrete products, or terra-cotta tiles. A Wood roof is ineligible regardless if it has a fire retardant treatment or UL Class A or B fire rating.
 - The roofs and gutters must be clean of pine needles, leaves and other debris.
- Any porch, balcony or deck with exposed space underneath must be cleared of combustible materials and vegetation.
- All vents must be covered with 1/8" noncombustible screening. Chimneys and stovepipes must be covered with spark arrestors.

- Components of The Wildfire Risk Score include:
 - Fuel type (vegetation).
 - Aspect.
 - Slope.
 - Ignition probability.
 - Distance of the home to a high or very high risk area.
 - Density of homes in relation to the distance from high and very high risk area.
 - Distance of the home to the wild land.