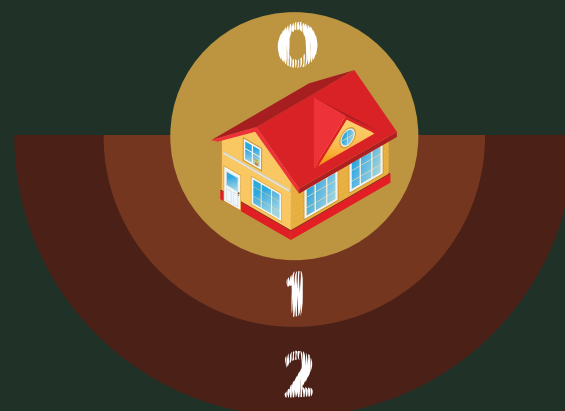


Prepare your home for a

wildfire

Create a defensible space around your home.



Maintain three zones around your structure, collectively called defensible space, to help slow or stop the spread of wildfire. Most home losses due to wildfires are started by embers, not flames. Follow these tips to help prevent ember contact with or near your home.

Zone 0

1. Clear roofs, gutters, decks, porches and stairways of debris.
2. Clear wall exteriors of leaves, needles and flammable plants.
3. Replace or repair loose or missing shingles or roof tiles.
4. Trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck.
5. Remove all branches within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe outlet.
6. Use metal mesh screening to protect eaves and vents.
7. Relocate combustible items, including trash cans and vehicles, outside this zone.

Zone 1

1. Clear the ground of leaves, debris and flammable materials.
2. Remove items stored underneath decks or porches.
3. Remove all dead and dying grass, weeds and shrubs.
4. Break up continuous vegetation.
5. Create a separation between trees/shrubs and flammable items (e.g., swing set, patio furniture).
6. Remove flammable materials such as wood piles or propane tanks.
7. Clear vegetation from under large, stationary propane tanks.

Zone 2

1. Cut or mow grass down to 4 inches maximum (this also applies to Zone 1).
2. Create horizontal space between planted vegetation.
3. For tall trees, remove lower tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.
4. For short trees, do not trim lower branches more than one-third of overall height.
5. Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees.
6. Remove surface clutter, including leaves, needles, cones and bark.

Home and Yard Care

1. Use fire-resistant materials when building, repairing or renovating.
2. Use hardscape (gravel, pavers, rock) instead of combustible bark or mulch.
3. When planning your landscape, limit shrubs and trees to small groupings.
4. Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways, patios and decks (using non-flammable materials).
5. Before planting, anticipate a tree's potential growth and size, including its canopy.

Learn all you can about defensible zones and wildfire preparation to help protect your home. In addition, gather emergency supplies and know your community's evacuation routes.



Sources: ReadyforWildfire.org (CAL FIRE), National Fire Protection Association