

BUILD OR RETROFIT YOUR HOME WITH NON-FLAMMABLE MATERIALS

Another line of defense to wildfire is the type of materials used on your home's exterior. Use the following guidelines to best protect your home:

- Use only Class A fire-resistant roofing materials tested in accordance with UL 790 or ASTM E 108.
- Box in the eaves, fascias, soffits and subfloors with fire resistant materials like fire retardant treated (FRT) wood to reduce the vent sizes.
- Apply 1/4" non-combustible screening to all vent or eave openings.
- Install spark arresters in chimneys.
- Enclose the undersides of decks with fire-resistant materials.
- Cover exterior walls with fire resistant materials like stucco, stone, or brick. (Vinyl siding can melt and is not recommended).
- Use double paned or tempered glass for all exterior windows.
- Make sure your address is visible from the street.

WHEN WILDFIRE THREATENS

- Become familiar with your community's disaster preparedness plans and create a family plan. Identify escape routes from your home and neighborhood and designate an emergency meeting place for your family to reunite if you become separated.
- Put together an emergency kit that includes a three-day supply of drinking water and food you don't have to refrigerate or cook, plus first aid supplies; a portable NOAA weather radio; a wrench and other basic tools; a flashlight; work gloves; emergency cooking equipment; portable lanterns; fresh batteries for each piece of equipment; clothing; blankets; baby items; prescription medications; extra car and house keys; extra eyeglasses; credit cards and cash; important documents, including insurance policies.

A well prepared home has the greatest chance of surviving a wildfire. This brochure contains just a few of the design criteria we recommend, but for more information, visit our website at www.ibhs.org or contact IBHS at (813) 286-3400 x241.

The Institute for Business & Home Safety has similar information about a variety of natural perils, the damage they can cause and methods to strengthen your home against each. Visit www.disastersafety.org to learn how to make your home safer.

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The Institute for Business & Home Safety, a national organization supported by insurance and reinsurance member companies, works to reduce social and economic losses caused by natural disasters.

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PROTECT YOUR HOME AGAINST WILDFIRE DAMAGE



While no home is fireproof, there are precautions that you can take to lessen the likelihood of damage and loss from wildfire. This brochure presents tips for preparing your home and yard to better survive a wildfire.

The information and suggestions presented in this brochure range from simple weekend tasks to involved projects that may require professional assistance. Before starting on any activity, make sure you are comfortable with the required skill level. If you are uncertain, contact a professional engineer, architect, or building contractor.

GIVE YOUR HOME A SURVIVABLE SPACE THROUGH SMART LANDSCAPING

To wildfire, your property is a fuel source. Fire will only burn if fuel is present, such as your landscaping, woodpiles, decks, etc. To prevent your property from becoming a fuel source, you need to create a survivable space, which can slow down wildfire and possibly even direct it around your home. To create your survivable space, take the following steps within 30 feet of your home, 50 feet if you live in a heavily wooded area or 100 feet if your home is on a hillside.

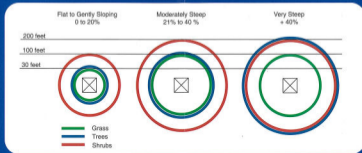
- Plant vegetation that is native to your region
- Space trees at least 10 feet apart.
- Remove dead or dying trees and shrubs.
- Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Branches should be a minimum of 6 feet from the ground and shrubs under trees should be no more than 18 inches high.
- Mow your lawn regularly and dispose promptly of cuttings and debris.
- Maintain your irrigation system.
- Clear your roof, gutters and eaves of debris.
- Trim branches so they do not extend over roof or near the chimney.
- Move firewood and storage tanks 50 feet away from home and clear areas at least 10 feet around them.
- Store flammable liquids properly.
- Do not connect wooden fencing directly to your home.

TIP: If you're handy with a hammer and saw, you can do much of the work yourself. Before making any structural changes to your home, check with your local building officials to be sure what you're doing complies with local building codes.

TIP: Work involving your home's structure may also require a building contractor, or a registered design professional such as an architect or engineer.

SURVIVABLE SPACE* - Recommended Distances Based on Steepness of Slope

- First, find the percent slope which best describes your property.
- Next, find the type of vegetation which best describes the wildland plants growing on or near your property.
- Finally, locate the number of feet corresponding to your slope and vegetation. This is your recommended survivable space distance. Also, consider larger setbacks away from the slope.



GRASS is defined as wildland grasses (such as cheatgrass), weeds and widely scattered shrubs with grass understorey.

SHRUBS include shrub dominant areas such as sagebrush, gamble oak and pinyonjuniper.

TREES include forested areas. If substantial grass or shrub understorey is present use the values described above.

* A defensible space is an area where the potential for fire has been reduced by removing or pruning combustible vegetation.

