

Protect your home from wildfire

Prevention:

- Roofs and exteriors of structures should be constructed of non-combustible or fire resistant materials such as fire resistant roofing materials: tile, slate, sheet iron, aluminum, brick, or stone.
- Clean roof surfaces, gutters, and property of pine needles, leaves, branches, etc, monthly to avoid accumulation of flammable materials, especially important during fire season!
- Wood siding, exterior wood paneling, and other highly combustible materials should be treated with fire retardant chemicals.
- Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, swimming pools, decks and roadways.
- Remove branches and limbs within 10 feet of the flue opening of any stove or chimney.
- Check your local nursery or county extension service for advice on fire resistant plans that are suited for your environment.
- Use rock, mulch, flower beds or gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks.
- There are no "fire-proof" plants. Select high moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content, such as rockrose, ice plant and aloe.
- Fire-resistant shrubs include hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples.
- Use hardwood plants such as maple, poplar and cherry trees. They are less flammable than pine, firs, and other conifers.

Maintain Your Home and Surrounding Property

- Maintain a well-pruned and watered landscape to serve as a green belt and protection against fire.
- Keep plants green during the dry season and use supplemental irrigation, if necessary.
- Keep flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside the home at least 30ft away from structures and wooden fences.

While the wild land areas can be a wonderfully tranquil place to live, dangerous wildfires threaten Southern California lives and property each year. Dry, hot winds are capable of pushing wildfire incredibly fast into neighborhoods far from the edge of native vegetation. When dry native brush explodes, a single wind driven spark can ignite one roof, sending sparks to other roofs. Reduce the risk to your family and property-take steps now to protect your home!

No matter where you live, always install smoke alarms on every level of your home.

Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

Remember every home should have at least two ways out!



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**San Bernardino County
Fire Department**
Community Safety Division

Access and Visibility

- Make sure the roadway approaching your home is wide enough to accommodate an evacuating car and entering fire truck at the same time (minimum of 26 feet wide and 14 foot vertical clearance.) Trim overhanging branches to allow enough overhead clearance for large emergency vehicles.
- Streets and roads must be marked with clearly visible streets signs. Missing or difficult to read signs can delay emergency response.

Your address should be easily seen from the street. If necessary, post it at the driveway entrance as well as on your home. The numbers should be at **least** four inches tall on a contrasting background. Periodically check to make certain that new plant growth has not covered any part of your address.



Fire-Safe Landscaping Can Save Your Home

Fire-safe landscaping is an effective tool that creates an area of defensible space between your home and flammable vegetation that protects against devastating fires. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to keep fire safety at the forefront by learning how to landscape and maintain your property to minimize possible fire damage. Fire safety is your personal responsibility.

Brush Clearance

Reduce flammable vegetation like dry brush, grass, and dead leaves a minimum of 30 feet around the perimeter of your home. If your home is located on steep terrain, or surrounded by dense vegetation, provide even more clearance up to 100 feet. Call your local fire department for exact brush clearance rules in your area.

- Remove trees and bushes planted against your home, they can ignite and spread flames to the home.
- Cut dead limbs overhanging any buildings and remove limbs within 10 feet of the chimney opening.
- Stack fire wood neatly away from structures and keep covered.
- Plant and maintain trees at least 10 feet apart, not in close groups and keep ornamental plants in a green, healthy condition.
- Check with your local nursery and purchase fire-resistant plants. Landscaping with the right materials can provide an attractive, fire-resistant barrier.

Plan for Evacuation

- Plan your escape in detail. Decide in advance what and when you will "pack up and get out" if your home is in the path of wildfire. Be prepared to leave as soon as you are told by officials or as soon as you feel threatened by an approaching fire.
- Make sure each vehicle has plenty of gas, keys are easily available, and is parked facing the exit road(s).
- Make a list of important items to take with you, including valuables, family photographs, videos, and important documents like insurance papers, birth certificates, and other legal papers.
- Fire can move rapidly. Be sure to leave while it is still safe, resist the temptation to stay behind to save your home with a garden hose. You may be endangering the lives of emergency personnel, as well as your own. No home or anything in it is more valuable than a human life.
- Have prescription medication, eyeglasses, and other health needs prepared.
- Plan for family members to reunite if separated.
- If you have family pets or livestock, include them in your plans and have a supply of water, as well as leashes, carriers and trailers. Have shot records and other documents in case boarding is required.