

Fire Drill

To find out if your house makes the grade, answer the following questions. Your goal is to be in the Zone, so be honest in evaluating your progress.

And once you've passed, pass it on! This is one test that's OK to share with your neighbor.

True/False*

1. I have a minimum 30 foot non-combustible area around my home.....☐ T ☐ F
2. My landscaping includes fire-resistive varieties.....☐ T ☐ F
3. Overcrowded or weakened trees have been thinned or removed from my property and low-hanging branches have been pruned.....☐ T ☐ F
4. The grass and weeds are consistently cut.....☐ T ☐ F
5. My wood piles and left-over building materials are at least 30 feet from my house.....☐ T ☐ F
6. I've cleared pine needles, leaves and debris from my roof and deck.....☐ T ☐ F
7. Street signs and the address of my home are visible from the road.....☐ T ☐ F
8. I have evaluated my shake roof for treatment or replacement.....☐ T ☐ F
9. I have considered recycling my yard debris and branches instead of burning them.....☐ T ☐ F
10. I have an emergency checklist in the event of a wildfire and I know to monitor local media sources for up-to-date information and evacuation procedures.....☐ T ☐ F

*If you answered False to any of these questions, bone up your efforts and try again! The more correct answers you give, the greater your chances of survival—and passing the ultimate test. Remember, during a large-scale fire, firefighters must focus on homes they can safely defend. So be sure to "Get in the Zone!"

Get in the ZONE!™



THE THREAT OF

wildfire is real. And although our Western landscape is beautiful, it can also be **deadly**.

The same climate and vegetation we prize for recreation, beauty and comfort fuels the risk of **wildfire**, especially as more people settle in the region's wildland/urban interface areas.

But there are steps you can take to help reduce the risk of wildfire damage to your home. Just follow the Ten Tips of the FireFree™ Program, and you'll create the most **effective** safeguard against wildfire for your home: defensible space. You can even do it in a weekend!

So "Get in the Zone!" It's quick. It's **simple**. And it's everyone's responsibility.



For more FireFree information, call your local fire agency.

Note: The information in this brochure is intended to help you reduce the risk that your home might be damaged in a wildfire. Although taking some or all of the steps described in this brochure should reduce the risk of loss or damage, you should remember that fire is an unpredictable force and there is no way either to eliminate the risks it presents or to completely protect your property.



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Reduce your risk of WILDFIRE.

1. Define your defensible space.

Defensible space is a buffer zone, a minimum 30 foot non-combustible area around your house that reduces the intensity and risk of a wildfire from starting or spreading to your home. Formed by following the critical steps outlined below, defensible space depends on clearing flammable materials away from your home. Although a 30 foot distance is standard, additional clearance as great as 100 feet may be necessary as the slope of your lot increases.

Defensible space not only helps protect your home in the critical minutes it takes a fire to pass, it also gives firefighters an area to work in. During a large-scale fire, when many homes are at risk, firefighters must focus on homes they can safely defend.

2. Reduce flammable vegetation, trees and brush around your home.

When needed, replace flammable landscaping with their fire-resistive counterparts. Choose plants with loose branching habits, non-resinous woody material, high moisture content in leaves, and little seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation. Ask your local home and garden center about which varieties possess these and other fire-resistive traits.

3. Remove or prune trees.

If you live in a wooded area, reduce the density of surrounding forest by removing or thinning overcrowded or weakened trees. Check with local agencies for guidelines on tree removal before clearing or thinning your property.

Be sure to prune low-hanging branches to keep a ground fire from climbing into upper branches. Limbing up these "ladder fuels" cuts the chances of ground fires climbing into tree canopies and becoming unpredictable flame-throwers.

4. Cut grass and weeds regularly.

Fire spreads rapidly in dry grass and weeds. Mow grasses and other low vegetation and keep them well-watered, especially during periods of high fire danger.

5. Relocate wood piles and leftover building materials.

Stack all wood, building debris and other burnable materials at least 30 feet away from your home and other buildings. Then clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of wood/debris piles as an additional safeguard against the spread of wildfire.

6. Keep it clean. *(Your roof and yard, we mean!)*

Especially your roof. Clear pine needles, leaves and debris from your roof, gutters and yard to eliminate an ignition source for tinder-dry vegetation. Remove dead limbs and branches within ten feet of your chimney and deck. Tidying-up is especially important during the hot, arid months of fire season when a single spark can lead to an inferno.

7. Signs, addresses and access.

Easy-to-read road signs and address numbers that are visible from the road allow firefighters to find your home quickly during a wildfire or other emergency. Safe, easy access to your property includes two-way roads that can accommodate emergency vehicles and give them space to turn around. Bridges should support the weight of emergency vehicles. Driveways should also be trimmed of peripheral vegetation to allow emergency equipment to reach your house. Contact your local fire agency for recommendations on access and signage.

8. Rate your roof.

Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your house in a wildfire. If you have a wood shake roof, consider treatment or replacement to make it more fire-resistive. If you have a fireplace or woodstove, install an approved spark arrestor on your chimney to prevent sparks from reaching your roof or flammable vegetation.

9. Recycle yard debris and branches.

Check into alternative disposal methods like composting or recycling. Burning may be restricted or not allowed in your community, and should only be used as a last resort. Always contact your local fire agency for current burning regulations before striking a match!

10. What to do when wildfire strikes.

Monitor your local radio and television stations for fire reports and evacuation procedures and centers. Keep an emergency checklist handy and prepare to evacuate if your neighborhood is threatened. Proper preparation includes closing all windows and doors, arranging garden hoses so they can reach any area of your house, and packing your car for quick departure.



Congratulations!
You're in the Zone!

With a little sweat equity and just one weekend, you can help make your home a FireFree™ Zone. To find out more about protecting yourself and your property from wildfire, call your local fire agency. Remember, the threat of wildfire is real. Defending against it is everyone's responsibility.