

Recommendations for Hardening Your Home to Better Survive Wildfire

EMBER-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION RELIES ON BOTH MAINTAINING DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND HARDENING YOUR HOME. HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HARDEN YOUR HOME TO MAKE IT MORE FIRE-RESISTANT.

YOUR TOP 3 PRIORITIES SHOULD BE YOUR ROOF, VENTS, AND NEAR-HOME VEGETATION.

- 1) Avoid combustible materials on the property, especially within the first five feet of the home.
- 2) Incorporate fire- and ember-resistant construction materials, installation details, and maintenance.
- 3) Be thoughtful about landscaping choices and maintenance.

THE ROOF has the greatest exposure to fire embers.

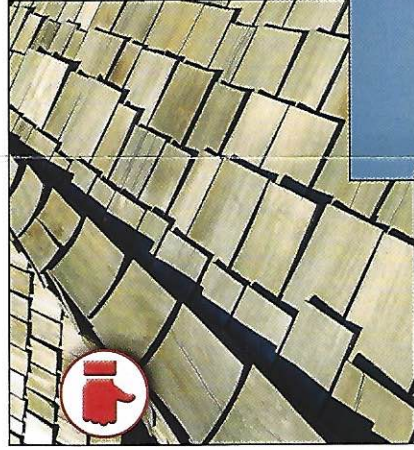
- Inspect and repair or replace your roof with tile, metal, asphalt, or shingles (materials with a Class-A fire rating).
- Plug gaps between your roof covering and sheathing to prevent ember entry.
- Install a metal drip edge (i.e., metal angle flashing) at the roof edge.
- Cover tile caps to prevent bird nesting.

VENTS can allow embers to enter a crawl space, the attic, soffit, or foundation.

- Upgrade vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh, or install vents approved to resist embers and flames (see resources).

EAVES AND SOFFITS with open-eave construction should be inspected.

- Wherever possible enclose open eaves.
- Caulk and plug gaps around

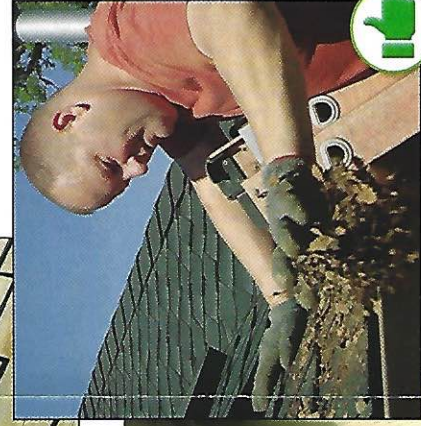


CHIMNEY

- Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a noncombustible mesh screen.

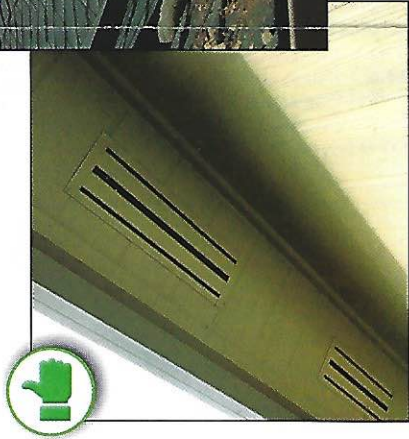
RAIN GUTTERS should be cleared of leaves and needles that embers can easily ignite.

- Inspect and clean gutters regularly.
- Install a noncombustible gutter guard to reduce accumulated debris.



GARAGES are especially vulnerable to embers and ash. Embers can enter a garage as easily as dust, potentially igniting a house from the inside.

- Install weather stripping, or gaskets, around and under the garage door to limit ember entry.
- Store all combustible and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.
- Know how to operate your garage door when there is no power.



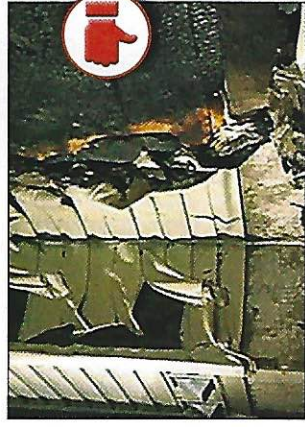
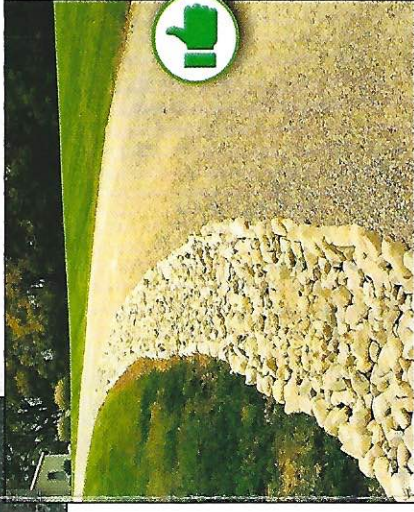
FENCES

- Fences or gates that connect to structures should use noncombustible materials within 5 feet of the building, to prevent the fence from burning up to the structure.



DRIVEWAYS AND ACCESS ROADS should be built and maintained according to state and local codes so that emergency vehicles can safely reach your home.

- Maintain access roads with a minimum of 10 feet of clearance on either side.
- Ensure that all gates can open without power to accommodate emergency equipment.

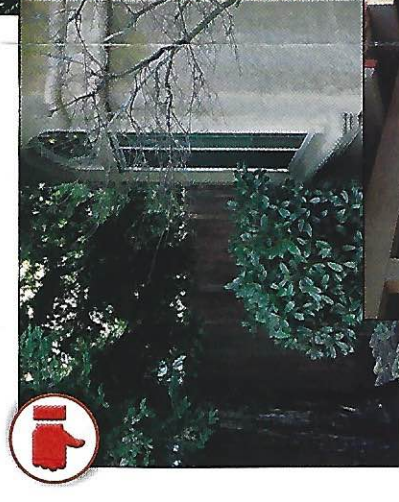


WINDOWS can break from the heat, even before a home ignites, allowing burning embers or flames into the home.

- Install or upgrade to multi-pane tempered glass.
- Ensure there is no vegetation or other combustible materials within 5 feet of windows and glass doors.

SIDING is vulnerable if exposed to flames or radiant heat for periods of time.

- Inspect all siding. Plug or caulk gaps and joints.
- Maintain 6 inches of vertical noncombustible material between the ground and the start of the siding.
- Replace shingle or shake siding with ignition-resistant materials.
- If a neighboring home or outbuilding is closer than 30 feet, be sure to use noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials.
- Use a noncombustible louvered or self-closing dryer vent cover.



DECKS are vulnerable to fires from embers igniting vegetation or materials near or below them.

- Ensure that all combustible items are removed from underneath, on, or next to your deck.
- Put a noncombustible layer between wood decks and siding.



ADDRESS

- Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road.

WATER SUPPLY can be enhanced by having multiple garden hoses long enough to reach all areas of the structures on your property.

- If you have a pool or well, consider getting a fuel-powered pump.
- Best practice is to provide a 2½-inch water line from a water tank to a standpipe fitted with 1½-inch fire hose fittings coordinated with your local fire department.

For best practices to protect your home and property, see the **California Fire Safe Council, Defensible Space** brochure.

