

WILDFIRE IS COMING.
ARE YOU...

READY?

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND HARDENING YOUR HOME.



THOUSANDS OF WILDFIRES STRIKE CALIFORNIA EVERY YEAR. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF IF YOUR HOME IS AT RISK, BUT WHEN.

ReadyForWildfire.org

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Creating and maintaining defensible space is essential for increasing your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer that homeowners are required to create on their property between a structure and the plants, brush and trees or other items surrounding the structure that could catch fire. This space is needed to slow the spread of wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your home.

Two zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space:

ZONE 1—Extends 30 feet out from buildings, decks, and other structures

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- 4 Remove dead branches that hang over your roof. And keep branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- 5 Relocate exposed woodpiles outside of Zone 1 unless they are completely covered in a fire resistant material.
- 6 Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- 7 Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- 8 Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, swing sets, etc.

ZONE 2—Extends 30 to 100 feet from buildings and other structures

- 9 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 10 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- 11 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- 12 Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 4 inches if erosion control is an issue.

BOTH ZONES—0 to 100 feet from buildings and other structures

- 13 Mow before 10 a.m., but never when it's windy or excessively dry.
- 14 Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion—especially on steep slopes.

ARE YOU DOING THE RIGHT THING—THE WRONG WAY?

Each year, CAL FIRE responds to hundreds of fires started by Californians using equipment the wrong way. If you live in a wildland area, all equipment must be used with extreme caution.

Lawn mowers, metal-bladed trimmers, chain saws, grinders, welders, and tractors can all start a wildland fire if not used properly. Do your part to keep your community fire-safe.

HERE'S HOW TO DO IT THE RIGHT WAY:

Mowing

Metal blades striking rocks can create sparks and start fires in dry grass. Use caution.

Spark Arresters

In wildland areas, spark arresters are required on all

portable, gasoline-powered equipment. This includes tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed-trimmers and mowers.

- Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters and mower in proper working order and free of carbon buildup.
- Use the recommended grade of fuel, and don't top it off.

KNOW THE LAW BE FIRE SMART

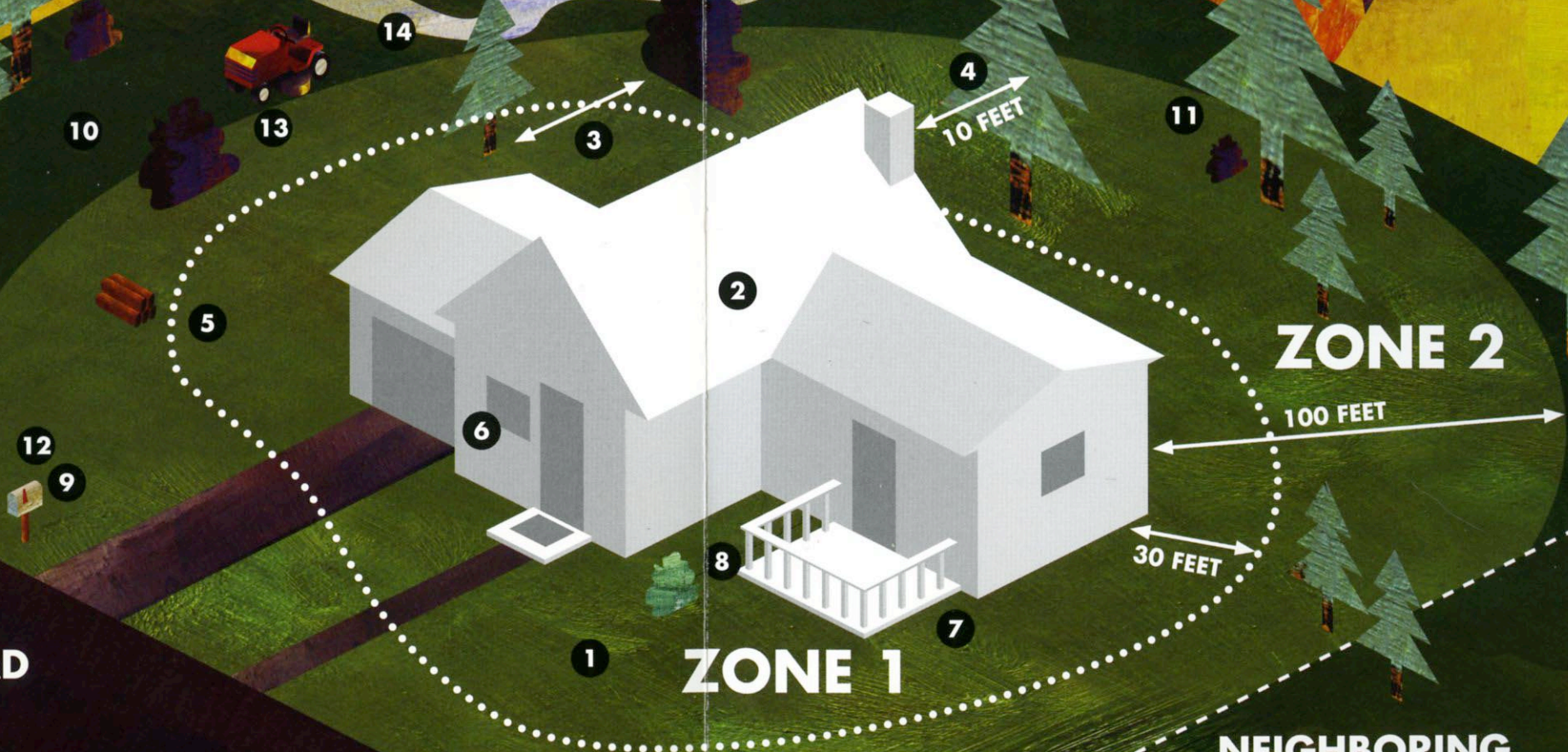
100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE IS REQUIRED UNDER THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE (PRC) 4291. CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE CHAPTER 7A REQUIRES CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND METHODS FOR HOMES IN WILDLAND AREAS. BE SURE TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE YOUR HOME IS COMPLIANT WITH THE LAW. READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG/THELAW

ROAD

ZONE 1

ZONE 2

NEIGHBORING
PROPERTY



HARDENING YOUR HOME

FLYING EMBERS CAN DESTROY HOMES UP TO A MILE AHEAD OF A WILDFIRE. PREPARE (HARDEN) YOUR HOME NOW BEFORE FIRE STARTS.

SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HARDEN YOUR HOME:

Roof: Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Homes with wood or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire.

Build your roof or re-roof with materials such as composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces to prevent embers from entering and starting a fire.

Vents: Vents on homes create openings for flying embers.

- Cover all vent openings with 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.
- Protect vents in eaves or cornices with baffles to block embers. (Mesh is not enough.)

Eaves and Soffits:

Eaves and soffits should be protected with ignition-resistant or non-combustible materials.

Windows: Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start fires inside. Single-paned and large windows are particularly at risk.

- Install dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass.
- Consider limiting the size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation.

Decks: Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition-resistant, non-combustible, or other approved materials.

- Remove all combustible items from underneath your deck.

Exterior Walls:

Wood products such as boards, panels or shingles are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas.

- Build or remodel your walls with ignition-resistant building materials, such as stucco, fiber or cement siding, fire-retardant-treated wood, or other approved materials.
- Be sure to extend materials from the foundation to the roof.

Rain Gutters: Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

Patio Cover: Use the same ignition-resistant materials for patio covers as a roof.

Fences: Consider using ignition-resistant or non-combustible fence materials to protect your home during a wildfire.

Additional Home Fire Safety Steps:

Go to ReadyForWildfire.org/hardening for more important information on the following:

- Driveways and Access Road Information
- Address Visibility
- Water Supply Access
- Garage Safety
- Equipment Use Safety
- Ignition-Resistant Materials

PLANT AND TREE SPACING

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfire. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of the shrubs and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger plant life will require greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

VERTICAL SPACING

Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.

If shrubs are under trees, additional vertical space is needed. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the shrubs to the treetops like a ladder.



FIRE-SAFE LANDSCAPING

Fire-safe landscaping isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. Fire-safe landscaping uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home.

The good news is that you don't need to spend a lot of money to make your landscape fire-safe. And fire-safe landscaping can increase your property value and conserve water while beautifying your home. For more information on fire-safe landscaping, visit: [ReadyForWildfire.org/landscaping](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/landscaping).

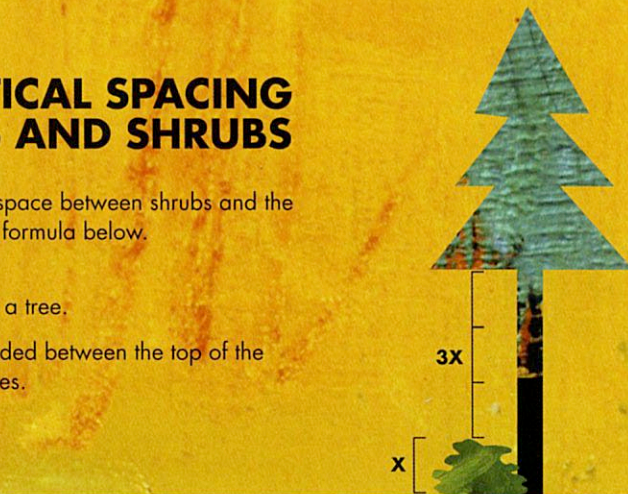
MINIMUM VERTICAL SPACING BETWEEN TREES AND SHRUBS

To determine the proper vertical space between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees, use the formula below.

Example:

A five-foot shrub is growing near a tree.

$3 \times 5 = 15$ feet of clearance needed between the top of the shrub and the lowest tree branches.



MINIMUM HORIZONTAL SPACING FOR TREES AND SHRUBS

Horizontal spacing depends on the slope of the land and the height of the shrubs or trees. Check the diagrams below to determine spacing distance.



**WILDFIRE IS COMING.
ARE YOU...**

SET?

**GET PREPARED TO EVACUATE
BEFORE WILDFIRE STRIKES.**



**THOUSANDS OF WILDFIRES STRIKE CALIFORNIA
EVERY YEAR. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF IF YOUR
HOME IS AT RISK, BUT WHEN.**

ReadyForWildfire.org

SAVE THIS FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

Fill out this form and place it near your telephone where it can easily be found by everyone in your household. Copy the form and keep it in your Emergency Supply Kits. This will allow all family members to have access to this key information in case you get separated.

WHEN WE HAVE TO EVACUATE, WE WILL MEET AT:

OUR OUT-OF-AREA EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON IS:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS ARE:

Emergency 911: _____ Local Police: _____

Local Fire Department: _____ Other: _____

Other: _____ Other: _____

OUR TWO EVACUATION ROUTES ARE (SKETCH ROUTES BELOW):

CREATE A WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN

Your Wildfire Action Plan must be prepared and familiar to all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire. Use the checklist below to help create your plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on a variety of issues, needs and situations.

YOUR WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN CHECKLIST:

Create an evacuation plan that includes:

- A designated emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area. This is critical to determine who has safely evacuated from the affected area.
- Several different escape routes from your home and community. Practice these often so everyone in your family is familiar in case of emergency.
- Have an evacuation plan for pets and large animals such as horses and other livestock.
- A family communication plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation. (It is easier to call or message one person and let them contact others than to try and call everyone when phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster.)

Be Prepared:

- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them. (Check expiration dates regularly.)
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and how to safely shut them down in an emergency.
- Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit for each person, as recommended by the American Red Cross. (See next section for details.)
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you cannot get to your home because of fire or other emergency.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.
- Tell your neighbors about Ready, Set, Go! and your Wildfire Action Plan.

REMEMBER THE SIX "P's" KEEP THESE SIX "P's" READY IN CASE IMMEDIATE EVACUATION IS REQUIRED:

- People and pets
- Papers, phone numbers, & important documents
- Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses
- Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
- Personal computer hard drive and disks
- "Plastic" (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Put together your Emergency Supply Kit long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs and keep it easily accessible so you can take it with you when you have to evacuate. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have a readily accessible Emergency Supply Kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items (except food and water) and are quick to grab. Storing food and water in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport. Keep it light enough to be able to lift it into your car.

Emergency Supply Kit Checklist:

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person
- Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Change of clothing
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Sanitation supplies
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Don't forget pet food and water!

Items to take if time allows:

- Easily carried valuables
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items
- Personal computer information on hard drives and disks
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

**ALWAYS KEEP A STURDY PAIR OF SHOES
AND A FLASHLIGHT NEAR YOUR BED AND
HANDY IN CASE OF A SUDDEN EVACUATION
AT NIGHT.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EMERGENCY
SUPPLIES, VISIT WWW.READY.GOV.**

WILDFIRE IS COMING.
ARE YOU READY TO...

GO!



WILDFIRE EVACUATION GUIDE.



GIVE YOUR FAMILY THE BEST CHANCE OF
SURVIVING A WILDFIRE BY EVACUATING EARLY.

ReadyForWildfire.org

PRE-EVACUATION PREPARATION STEPS

When an evacuation is anticipated, follow these checklists (if time allows) to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire:

OUTSIDE

- 1 Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- 2 Turn off propane tanks.
- 3 Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- 4 Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- 5 Don't leave sprinklers on or water running; they can affect critical water pressure.
- 6 Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- 7 Put your Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle.
- 8 Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- 9 Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- 10 Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- 11 Monitor your property and the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened and need to leave.
- 12 Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

- 13 Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- 14 Remove flammable window shades and curtains. Close metal shutters.
- 15 Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- 16 Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- 17 Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- 18 Shut off the air conditioning.

ANIMALS

- 19 Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- 20 Prepare farm animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.



ROAD

NEIGHBORING
PROPERTY

9

10

6

17

14

2

20

7

19

13

15

18

16

8

4

1

5

3

12

11

KNOW THE LAW

BE READY TO EVACUATE

CALIFORNIA LAW AUTHORIZES OFFICERS TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO ANY AREA WHERE A MENACE TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY EXISTS DUE TO A CALAMITY SUCH AS FLOOD, STORM, FIRE, EARTHQUAKE, EXPLOSION, ACCIDENT OR OTHER DISASTER. REFUSAL TO COMPLY IS A MISDEMEANOR. (PENAL CODE 409.5)

HOW TO BE PREPARED BEFORE WILDFIRE STRIKES

DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN THAT INCLUDES:

Where to Go

Have a safe destination planned. It should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared friend's or relative's house, an evacuation center, motel, etc.

How To Get There

Plan several travel route options in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles and equipment.

What To Take

Assemble your emergency supply kit long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs. Plan to be away from your home for at least three days. Don't forget to plan for your pets or livestock as well.

For more information on preparing your family, pets and property for wildfire see the Ready for Wildfire "Are You Set?" brochure or visit ReadyforWildfire.org/set.

RETURNING HOME AFTER A WILDFIRE

Do not return to your home until fire officials determine it is safe. Notification that it is safe to return home will be given as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility.

When you return home:

- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.

TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY WHEN WILDFIRE STRIKES

Follow these steps as soon as possible to get ready to Go!

1. Review your Evacuation Checklist.
2. Ensure your Emergency Supply Kit is in your vehicle.
3. Cover up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.
4. Locate your pets and take them with you.

WHEN TO EVACUATE

Leave as soon as evacuation is recommended by fire officials to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be ordered by authorities to leave. Evacuating early also helps firefighters keep roads clear of congestion, and lets them move more freely to do their job. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

- Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and escape routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.
- Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly.
- You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
- You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

The terms "Voluntary" and "Mandatory" are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as "Precautionary" and "Immediate Threat." These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU BECOME TRAPPED

WHILE IN YOUR VEHICLE:

- Stay calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- Cover yourself with a wool or cotton blanket or jacket.
- Lie on vehicle floor.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials—**Call 911.**



WHILE ON FOOT:

- Stay calm.
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression on level ground if possible.
- Lie face down and cover up your body.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials—**Call 911.**



WHILE IN YOUR HOME:

- Stay calm and keep your family together.
- **Call 911** and inform authorities of your location.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked.
- Stay inside your house.
- Stay away from outside walls and windows.

