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StateFarm®

Wildfire Preparedness Education

Prepare now so you are ready when a wildfire threatens.

RESIDENT HANDOUT



**For more information on preparing for wildfire,
go to redcross.org/wildfire, readyforwildfire.org, or nfpa.org/wildfire**

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Three-Day "Go" Kit

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Gather emergency supplies and organize them into a 3-day "go" kit for your family. Have the kit ready to load into your vehicle for a quick evacuation.

- [ ] Water: 1 gallon per person, per day
- [ ] Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items
- [ ] Can opener
- [ ] Medications and medical items
- [ ] Flashlight or battery-powered lanterns
- [ ] Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- [ ] Extra batteries
- [ ] First aid kit
- [ ] Multi-purpose tool
- [ ] Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- [ ] Cell phone with chargers
- [ ] Family and emergency contact information
- [ ] Extra cash
- [ ] Emergency blanket
- [ ] Hats, gloves, boots, coats, etc. (cold weather)
- [ ] Sun hats, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray, etc. (warm weather)
- [ ] Change of clothes
- [ ] Map(s) of the area
- [ ] Personal, financial, and medical records (hard copies or securely backed up).

Customize your "go" kit to meet your household's needs and the season. Consider these items:

- [ ] Eyeglasses, contact lens case, contact solution walking shoes
- [ ] N95 masks for some protection from wildfire smoke.
- [ ] Foldable rain parka
- [ ] Diapers, wipes, bottles, pacifiers, ready-to-drink formula or meal replacements
- [ ] Pet leash and pet food.
- [ ] Car charger (cigarette lighter plug) for your cell phone.

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Family Communication Plan

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Copy this form and keep it in your emergency supply kit. You may also want to keep a photo of this form on the phone of everyone in your family. This will allow all family members to have access to this key information in case you get separated.

☐ **Meeting Place.** Plan two out-of-area places for everyone in your family to meet in case of an evacuation. This is critical to determine who has safely evacuated from the affected area. Everybody should know these two areas even if they can't drive.

When we have to evacuate, we will meet at: _____

_____

Or: _____

_____

☐ **Animals.** Have an evacuation plan for pets and large animals such as horses and other livestock.

☐ **Out-of-area contact.** Designate one person to be the family contact. It is best if this person is out of state. It is easier to call or message one person, and let them contact others, than to try to call everyone. Phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster. Out-of-state phone systems may be more accessible after an emergency.

Texting is often more reliable than voice calling after a disaster.

Our out-of-state emergency contact person is:

Name: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Alternate Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

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Pre-Evacuation Preparation

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If time allows, follow this checklist when an evacuation is anticipated. Post this list in in an obvious place, like your entry way closet or your refrigerator or keep it in your "go" kit.

When ordered to evacuate, get out within 5 minutes. When in doubt, get out!

Keeping your family well out of harm's way is more important than this checklist.

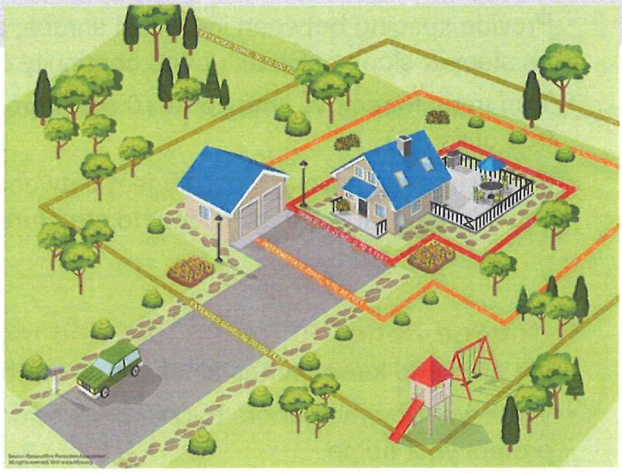
- ☐ Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave. Ask for help if you need it.
- ☐ Locate your pets and keep them secured and nearby. Prepare leashes and crates for evacuation.
- ☐ Prepare large animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.
- ☐ Put your 3-day "go" kit in your vehicle. (See page 3.)
- ☐ Back your car into the driveway with all doors and windows closed. You may lose power to your garage door opener.
- ☐ Carry your car keys on you so you are not hunting for them later.
- ☐ Do not leave sprinklers on or hose water running; they will affect firefighters' water pressure.
- ☐ Leave interior and exterior lights on, so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke.
- ☐ Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked. If you have metal shutters, close them.
- ☐ Place a ladder at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- ☐ Bring flammable items inside, move them more than 30 feet from the house, or place them in pool (patio furniture, natural doormats, children's toys, trash cans).
- ☐ Move propane BBQ tanks, lawn mowers, and vehicles more than 30 feet from structures.
- ☐ Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Do not hose down your house nor leave the hose running; firefighters need the water pressure.
- ☐ Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- ☐ Fill water buckets and place them around the house for firefighters' use.
- ☐ Shut off gas at the meter and/or turn off propane tanks.
- ☐ Shut off the air conditioning.
- ☐ Remove flammable window shades and curtains.
- ☐ Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.

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Create Defensible Space Around Your Home

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Embers are small burning pieces of wood and vegetation. Embers are the most common way houses catch fire. You can reduce the likelihood that your home will catch fire when you create your defensible space. Creating defensible space means reducing grass, shrubs, trees and anything that can burn around your home.

Immediate (Ember Resistant) Zone: 0 to 5 feet around your home: This is the most important zone. It includes the area nearest your house, including the surfaces of the structure itself. This zone is the most vulnerable to embers, so there should be nothing in this zone that can catch fire. Maintain it regularly.

- Remove tree limbs that hang over your roof. 10 feet of clearance is even better.
- Remove dead branches that are within 10 feet of your chimney.
- Clean dropped leaves, pine needles, and twigs; remove leaves and needles from roofs, gutters, and decks. Remove dropped leaves from beneath bushes and beneath decks and stairs.
- There should be no plants within five feet of your home. However, if you are compromising, make sure shrubs have plenty of space between them (not placed right next to each other). Prune the lower limbs of shrubs to prevent fire from spreading along the ground.
- Remove plants, grass, ground cover, trees, and shrubs down to bare soil within 5 feet of your home.
- Remove all mulch within 5 feet of your home. Use only stone or gravel as a mulch.
- Remove or relocate all materials that can catch fire, including garbage containers, propane tanks, lawn mowers, and vehicles.
- Remove patio furniture that can catch fire. Replace with metal.
- Replace natural-fiber doormats with heavy rubber or metal grates.
- Do not store firewood or lumber in this zone. Store wood in a clear area more than 30 feet from your home.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves and attic vents by installing 1/8-inch metal mesh screening. (Fiberglass or plastic mesh will melt when struck by embers.) Chimney and stovepipe coverings should have 3/8-inch or smaller metal screens.
- Replace wood shingle or shake roofs with fire-resistant shingles.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Replace combustible (wood) decks, stairs, fences, and siding attached to the home with alternatives.

Is There a "Fire-Safe" plant?

While some plants are marketed and described as "fire-safe" or "fire-resistant", all plants will burn under the right conditions, regardless of how they are classified. How the plant is maintained will have more influence on the flammability than the species of plant. A plant in a stressed or drought situation may have accumulated dead materials. Some plants may initially have lush growth and then several years later the growth may be woody and choked with dead materials. Other plants may develop a dead thatch layer, under a green surface, that is highly combustible. The same species may be fire-resistant in one situation and flammable in another.

Join Community-Wide Efforts

Wildfires affect entire communities. Without community-wide action to manage vegetation and use fire resistant construction throughout a neighborhood, wildfires can easily spread. Many homes do not have 100 feet of space between structures and property lines. Work with neighbors to help provide defensible space for their homes and ask neighbors for help if their property threatens yours. Become a fire-adapted community by building strong and collaborative partnerships between the local government, the local fire service, and community members.

Resources for Preparing Your Community:

Firewise (NFPA National Fire Protection Association): nfpa.org
Fire Adapted Communities (US Forest Service): fs.usda.gov/managing-land-fire/fac
Wildfire Risk to Communities (US Forest Service): fs.usda.gov/features/wildfire-risk-to-communities

Mitigation and Abatement (Defensible Space Clean-up) Organizations

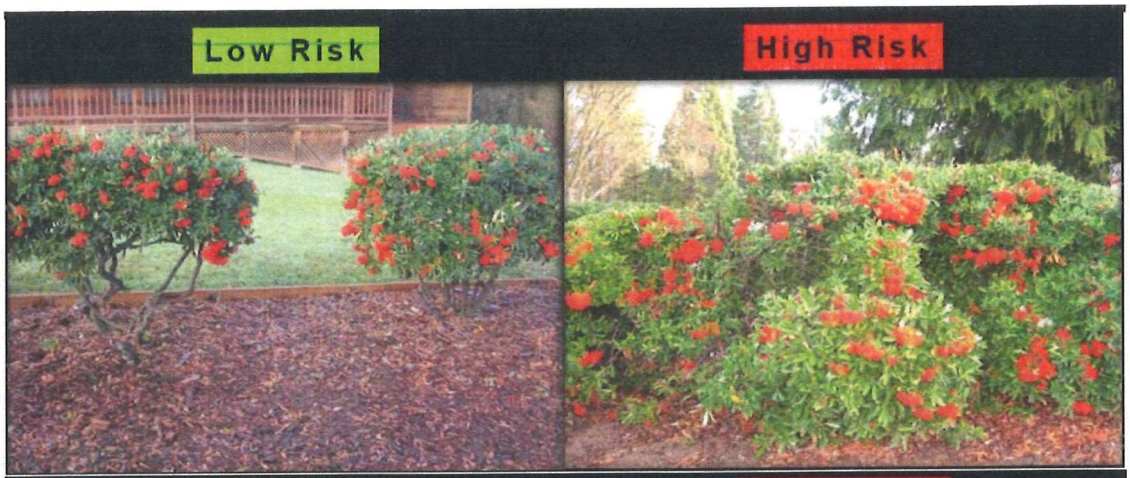
The following organizations may be able to provide mitigation and abatement of defensible space in your area, possibly at low or no cost. Consider calling them to ask about trimming branches, clearing gutters of debris, mowing grasses, moving firewood, or screening vents, etc. Mitigation organizations operate completely independent of the Red Cross. No endorsements of any products or services are made. Guarantees come solely from the vendor. Get multiple bids and check references.

Are any shrubs too close to each other?
Do any shrubs have lower limbs that need to be pruned to prevent fire from spreading?

☐ Yes, some shrubs are too close to each other – High Risk

☐ Yes, some shrubs have lower limbs that need to be pruned – High Risk

☐ No



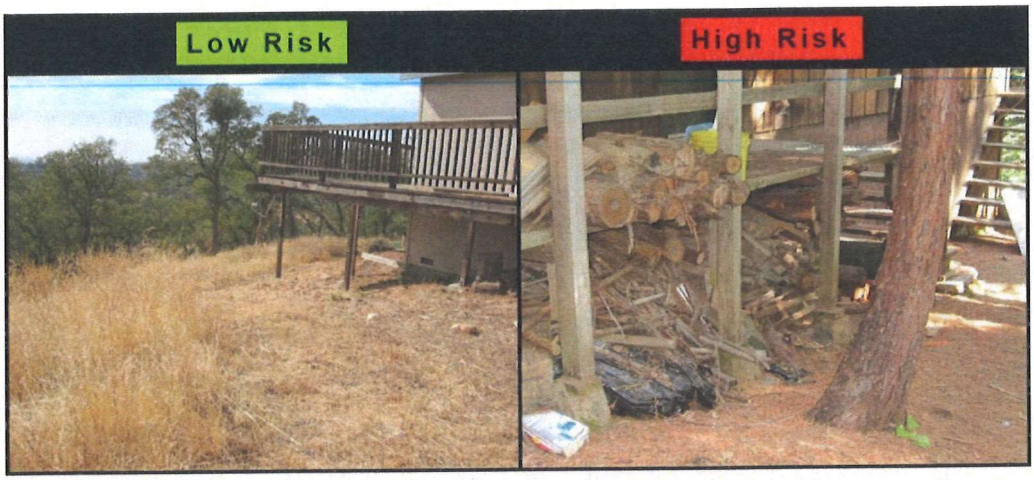




Do you have items that could catch fire next to or below decks?
Are there any natural-fiber doormats?
Do you have woodpiles withing 5 feet of the building?

☐ Yes, there are flammable items within 5 feet of the building – High Risk

☐ No

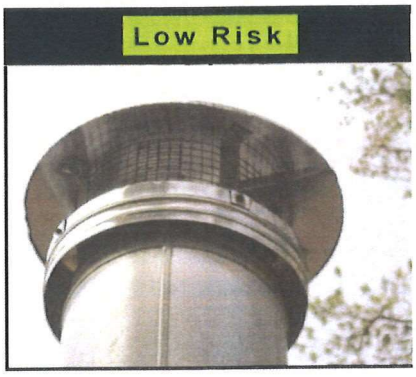


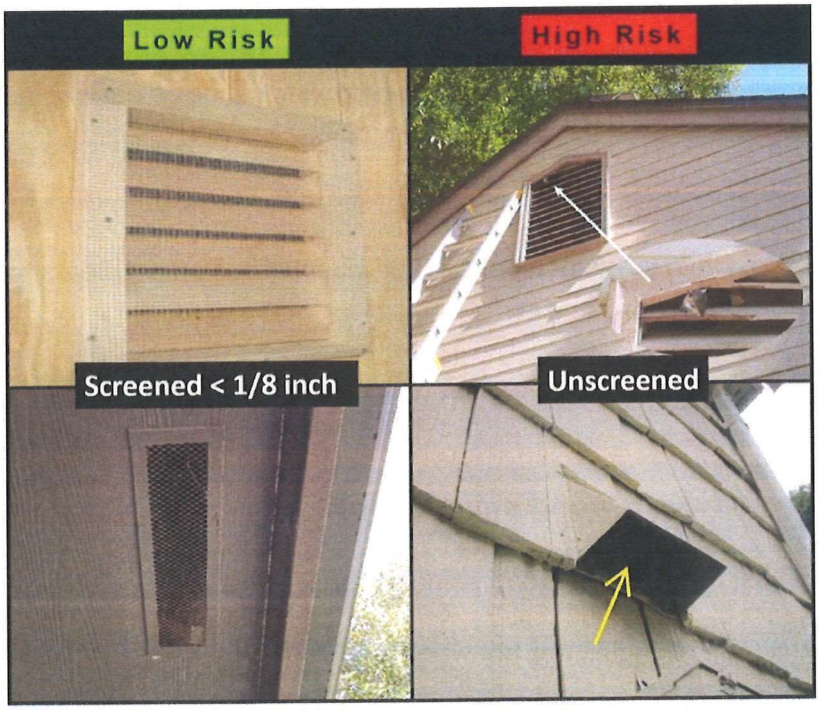
Are vent openings inadequately covered? Vents on homes create openings for flying embers to be sucked in.

☐ Yes, the vent openings are inadequately covered – High Risk

☐ Yes, there are stovepipes and chimneys that are inadequately covered – High Risk

☐ No, the **vent openings all have metal mesh screen with openings less than 1/8-inch**. (Fiberglass or plastic mesh will melt when struck by embers.). **Chimney and stovepipe coverings all have 3/8-inch or smaller metal mesh screens**.





Do you have loose or missing tiles or shingles?

☐ Yes, there are roof tiles or shingles loose or missing, allowing ember penetration. — High Risk

☐ No, the roof is intact.



Is the area below decks open and uncovered? It is easy for leaves and combustible materials to gather underneath unenclosed decks.

☐ Yes, underneath deck is exposed — High Risk

☐ No. The area below decks is screened with *wire* mesh (not fiberglass screen) or otherwise enclosed.



Are the deck or stairs made of wood? Any wood fences within 5 feet of home? Is the siding constructed of wood or vinyl?

Vinyl melts and exposes the wood and is not adequate for fire resistance.

☐ Yes, there are wood members (deck, stairs, fence, gate, or siding) up against the house — High Risk

☐ No, the deck and stairs are made with noncombustible materials.

