



**WILDFIRE IS COMING...** ARE YOU READY?

**PLAN.  
PREPARE. STAY AWARE**

Be prepared when fires strike with “What You Can Do” Action Plan

The geography, weather patterns and number of Wild-land Urban Interface communities in California make it a state particularly threatened by devastating wildfire. As catastrophic wildfires continue to increase each year in California, make sure to protect yourself and your family – plan, prepare and stay aware.

**Prepare for Wildfire with “What you Can Do” Action Steps**



## CREATE A WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN.

Develop your family communication and evacuation plans

- 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.

## ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT.

Create your own emergency supply kit

- Face masks or coverings
- 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!

## HARDEN YOUR HOME.

Here are ways you can harden your home and make it more fire resistant:

### ROOF

The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Homes with wood or shingle roofs are at higher risk.

- Build your roof or re-roof with materials such as composition, metal, clay or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent embers from catching.
- Remove accumulated vegetative debris from the roof.

### ADDRESS

Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road.

## GARAGE

Have a fire extinguisher and tools such as a shovel, rake, bucket, and hose available for fire emergencies.

- Add a battery back-up to the garage door motor so that the garage can easily be operated if power is out.
- Install weather stripping around and under the garage door to prevent embers from blowing in.
- Store all combustible and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.
- Treat windows and vents in the garage the same way as if it was a part of the house.

## DRIVEWAYS

Driveways should be built and maintained in accordance with state and local codes to allow fire and emergency vehicles to reach your home. Consider maintaining access roads with a minimum of 10 feet of clearance on either side, allowing for two-way traffic.

- Ensure that all gates open inward and are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment.
- Trim trees and shrubs overhanging the road to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

## FENCES

Best practice is to separate your fence from your house or upgrade the last 5-feet of the fence to a noncombustible material to reduce the chance of the fence from bringing fire to your home.

## DECKS

Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition-resistant\* or noncombustible materials.

- Create an ember-resistant zone around and under all decks and make sure that all combustible items are removed from underneath your deck.
- If a deck overhangs a slope, create and maintain defensible space downslope from the deck to reduce the chances of flames reaching the underside of the deck.

## WALLS

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

- Build or remodel your walls with ignition resistant\* building materials, such as stucco, fiber cement wall siding, fire retardant, treated wood, or other approved materials.
- Be sure to extend materials from the foundation to the roof.
- Smaller spaces, such as the roof-to-wall area, should have their siding relaced with a noncombustible material.

## PATIO COVER

Use the same ignition-resistant\* materials for patio coverings as a roof.

## VENTS

Vents on homes create openings for flying embers.

- Cover all vent openings with 1/16-inch to 1/8-inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.
- Use Ember and flame resistant vents (WUI vents).
- Eaves and Soffits
- Eaves should be boxed in (soffited-eave design) and protected with ignition-resistant\* or noncombustible materials.

## WINDOWS

Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home is on fire. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable.

- Install dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire.
- Consider limiting the size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation.
- Install screens in all usable windows to increase ember resistance and decrease radiant heat exposure

## WATER SUPPLY

Consider having multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach all areas of your home and other structures on your property. If you have a pool or well, consider getting a pump.



# BE PREPARED WITH FUELS MANAGEMENT CREW

Supported by the Pechanga Fire Department