Wildfire Prevention Tips

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOMES IN WILDFIRE-PRONE AREAS

• Embers fly for miles and can ignite a wood shake roof. **Replace wood shake with a Class A fire-resistant roof,** such as concrete tile, metal or composition shingle.

• Seal the open edges of a barrel tile roof with grout to keep embers from blowing up under the roof.

• Use one-eighth-inch or smaller metal mesh or ember-proof vents to cover attic and subfloor vents to prevent embers from entering the home.

• Extreme heat can cause windows to break, exposing the interior of the home to blowing embers. **Install dual-pane windows** to reduce the risk.

• Exterior walls are susceptible to radiant heat and flames. **Replace exterior siding with fire-resistant material,** such as stucco, brick or concrete masonry. Be sure to extend materials from the foundation to the roof.

• When possible, **construct decks and fences from fire-resistant materials.**

• **Treat existing wood decks and siding** with fire retardant.

• **Avoid landscaping with bark or wood chip mulch.** Embers close to the home ignite it, endangering the home; further from the home, it facilitates the spread of the fire.

• **Maintain at least 100 feet of adequately watered space** on level ground and 200 feet on sloped terrain around your home.

• **Keep your grass short.**

• **Consider removing Italian cypress trees** that are within six feet of your home. They are extremely flammable. Burning embers can easily ignite them and, if they are close to the home, the fire quickly spreads up the tree onto the eaves and roofline.

• **Keep gutters clean of debris.** Even if a home is built with fire-resistant materials and has adequate defensible space, flying embers can ignite gutter debris and carry flames to the home.

• **Trim overhanging trees** away from any structure. In addition to preventing fire from spreading to your home, this will reduce debris accumulation on your roof that can ignite.

• **Enclose areas under raised decks with fire-resistant materials** to prevent embers from blowing underneath.

• ** Routinely check** to ensure that there are no combustible items, such as patio cushions, propane tanks or wood scraps, **stored under your deck.**

  • If you have **wood piles** on your property, position them at least 30 feet from any structure, and cover them with a heavy canvas tarp.

  • **Clear a 10-foot area around propane tanks and your barbecue area.**

WHAT TO DO DURING A WILDFIRE

• Heed evacuation warnings. It may seem like you have time, but conditions can change in an instant, making evacuation more difficult. In addition, leaving when ordered clears the roads so firefighters can get necessary equipment in place to fight the fire.

• If you have time, **remove flammable materials,** such as portable propane tanks, outdoor furniture and vehicles, from around your home.

• **Close all windows and doors** to prevent embers from entering the home.

• **Post a sign outside your home for firefighters** with your name and contact numbers. Include when you evacuated, if there are animals on the property, and where to turn on fire suppression systems or hydrant locations, etc.

• **When evacuating, prepare yourself** for exposure to heat and embers. Wear long pants made from 100% cotton, a long-sleeved shirt, heavy boots or shoes, a dry bandanna for face cover, and goggles or glasses to protect your eyes.

• **Locate your pets** and take them with you, along with a supply of food and water.

• **Shut off the gas** to the home to prevent an ignition source.

• **Turn on a light on** in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.