



Many rural homes exist in areas at an increased risk of being affected by wildfires. Follow this guide to prepare and protect your home from a wildfire.

Before a Wildfire

- **Build a defensible space around your home.**
 - Clear all debris within 30 feet of your home.
 - Trim away any branches that may overhang your roof.
 - Keep your lawn trimmed short.
 - Regularly clean the roof and gutters.
 - Remove highly flammable materials, such as evergreen trees, woodpiles, or dead trees, from your property.
 - Prune tree limbs 6 to 10 feet from the ground or 1/3rd the height of the tree.
 - Consider landscaping with less flammable trees or vegetation – generally species with low sap or resin content or with high moisture content like succulents.
 - Store firewood at least 100 feet away from any structures.
 - Maintain a 100-foot-wide defensible space beyond your most distant out building.
 - Connect garden hoses long enough to reach all areas of the home.
 - Fill canisters, such as garbage cans, buckets, or other large containers with water.
- **Maintain proper insurance.**
 - Review your homeowners or rental policy to ensure that you have proper protection for your home and belongings.

During a Wildfire

- **Stay informed.**
 - Listen to the radio or television for situation developments, evacuation instructions and routes, and road closures.
- **If there is time, and no risk to human life, take steps to protect your home.**
 - Close all entrances, windows, or other openings to your home.
 - Remove flammable drapes.
 - Turn off any home fuel sources (propane) at the source.
 - If you have a sprinkler system, turn it on and leave it on.
- **After evacuating,**
 - Inform firefighters about any potentially hazardous materials on your property (e.g., diesel, pressurized cylinders, or highly combustible material).
- **Sheltering in Place**
 - If no evacuation is ordered, shelter-in-place and be prepared to extinguish incipient fires in attics, guttering, under siding, etc.

After a Wildfire

- **Do not return home until authorities tell you it is safe and allow you into an evacuation zone.**
- **Returning home**
 - Use extreme caution when entering burned areas.
 - Beware of hazards that may exist in areas that have burned – including hot spots, downed power lines, and smoldering items.
 - Check your property often over the next several hours for sparks or embers that may reignite especially on your roof or in the attic.
 - Use caution when moving damaged structures or material.
- **Document any damage to your home.**
 - Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.
 - Pictures will note the date, time, and location that the damage occurred.
- **Contact your insurance agent for home related losses.**
 - It may be several days before insurance adjusters can make individual visits.
- **Cleaning your home**
 - Wear a dust mask to minimize breathing dust or ash particles.
 - Discard any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke, or soot.
- **Be prepared for the possible disruption of services for extended periods of time, including electric, phone and local food and water sources.**

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