

# Wildfire Adaptation & Prevention Guide

Protect yourself and your home against wildfires



## **READY!**

Make changes to your home and outdoor spaces to protect them when a wildfire occurs. Focus on getting **ready** during the months of April, May, and June.



## **SET!**

Prepare a plan for evacuation. Make sure you are **set** during the months of July, August, and September.



## **GO!**

Take action when a wildfire strikes. Be ready to **go** during the high wildfire risk months of July, August, and September.



[www.sgvkog.org/wildfire](http://www.sgvkog.org/wildfire)



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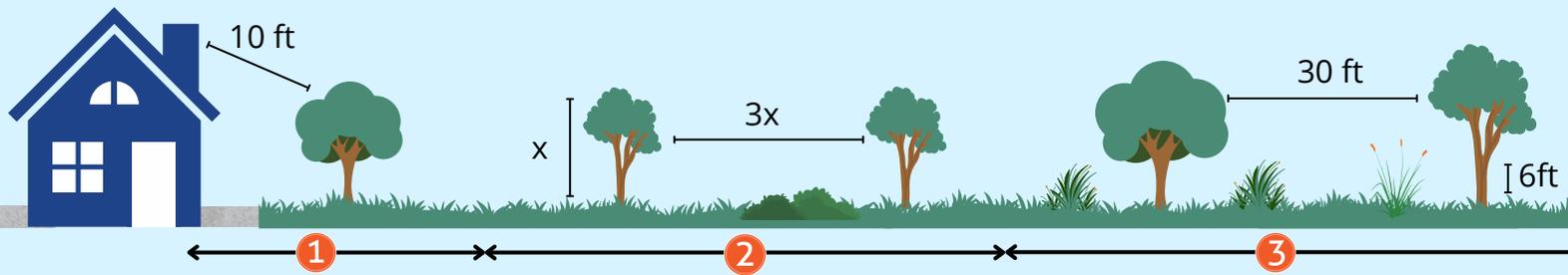


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## Create and Maintain Defensible Space

Defensible space is an area of maintained vegetation that slows the spread of wildfire and can help increase the safety of firefighters. Create a defensible space area of 200 feet with the following zones:



### Zone 1

*0-30 feet from structure*

- Remove all dead or dying vegetation from your yard, roof, and gutters
- Keep tree branches at least 10 feet from your chimney
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows
- Clear vegetation and flammable items around and under your deck
- Remove vines and climbing plants from structures
- In the first five feet from a structure, use hardscaping like rock or concrete and remove any hedges

### Zone 2

*30-100 feet from structure*

- Cut annual grass down to a height of 3 inches or less
- Clear vegetative debris (leaves, twigs, etc.)
- Create vertical and horizontal spacing between trees and shrubs
  - Clear branches up to 3 times the height of the plants below them.
  - The distance between trees should be three times their height.
- Create 10 feet of clearance (bare soil) around wood piles

### Zone 3

*100-200 feet from structure*

- This zone should consist of native plants that are thinned and spaced apart
- Clear fallen leaves and other vegetation to a maximum depth of 3in.
- Clear tree branches up to 6 feet
- Create 15 feet of space between large native shrubs
- Create 30 feet of space between the canopies of existing trees
- Remove high fire-risk plants like sage, sage brush, juniper, acacia, and eucalyptus.

**Some cities may have local ordinances with slightly different defensible space requirements.** Contact your local fire department or visit [www.sgvco.org/wildfire](http://www.sgvco.org/wildfire) to learn more about your city's requirements.



## Harden Your Home

Another way to increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire is to **harden your home**. This refers to retrofitting or newly installing certain features in your home.



### Address

- Ensure your street address is clearly visible



### Utilities

- Know how to shut off your gas, electric, and water mains



### Walls and Siding

- Build or remodel with fire-resistant building materials like brick or stucco



### Windows

- Install dual-paned windows with tempered glass
- Consider installing screens and non-combustible window coverings



### Deck

- Build or remodel with fire-resistant materials
- Remove combustible items
- Enclose or regularly clean the space underneath your deck



### Inside

- Install smoke detectors
- Have a working fire extinguisher and know how to use it



### Rain Gutters

- Regularly clean rain gutters or consider installing non-combustible gutter covers or screens



### Chimney

- Cover your chimney with 1/8-inch mesh
- Remove tree branches within 10ft



### Roof

- Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home
- Ensure your roof is made with Class A materials like clay or tile rather than wood or shingles
- Regularly clean vegetative debris from your roof
- Block any gaps between the roof covering and sheathing



### Vents

- Cover all vent openings with 1/8-inch metal mesh (or smaller) to prevent ember intrusion



### Garage

- Follow other home hardening tips if applicable
- Install weather stripping around an under doors
- Store a fire extinguisher, shovel, rake, bucket, and hoe

# SET!

## Create a Household Wildfire Action Plan

To prepare your household for a wildfire, create an action plan that includes important phone numbers, a safe emergency meeting location, clear evacuation route(s), and a communication plan for your household. Keep your action plan in a safe, visible location for easy access.



Scan the QR code to get started

## Create a Neighborhood Wildfire Action Plan

It can also be helpful to collaborate with your neighbors to identify risks, create a communication plan, determine evacuation procedures, and establish an inventory of skills and tools in order to prepare for wildfires.



Scan the QR code to get started

## Build Your Emergency Kit:

Keep your emergency kit in an easily accessible location. Backpacks work well to store these items, and food and water may be stored in a separate tub or chest on wheels.

- Extra set of keys, credit cards and cash
- Prescriptions and medications
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Sanitation supplies
- Battery-powered radio and batteries
- Copies of important documents
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items



- Pet supplies
- N95 mask
- Map with two evacuation routes marked
- Change of clothing and close-toed shoes
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water
- Chargers for laptops and/or cell phone

# SET!



## Pre-Evacuation Tips

If an evacuation is anticipated, follow these steps if time permits:

### Outside

- Bring flammable items inside
- Leave exterior lights on
- Place emergency kit in your vehicle
- Don't leave sprinklers or water running
- Turn off propane tanks & move BBQs away from structures
- Place a ladder at the corner of your home for firefighter use
- Seal attic and gable vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals

- Connect hoses to outdoor spigots
- Check on neighbors and ensure they are preparing to leave

### Inside

- Close all doors and leave them unlocked
- Turn off AC and gas
- Leave lights on
- Remove flammable window coverings
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and glass doors
- Fill bathtubs, sinks, and buckets with water

# GO!

## When should I evacuate?

Follow instructions given by emergency authorities, and know what different evacuation terms mean:

### "Shelter in Place"

Stay indoors, close windows/doors, and prepare to self-sustain until further notice.

### "Evacuation Warning" or "Voluntary Evacuation"

Potential threat to life and/or property. Leave now if you require additional time to evacuate, or have pets or livestock.

### "Evacuation Order" or "Mandatory Evacuation"

Immediate threat to life. You are required to leave now! The area is lawfully closed to public access.



## If you become trapped, stay calm

Call 9-1-1 to give authorities your location, and follow these tips:

### In Your Vehicle:

- Park in an area clear of vegetation
- Close windows and vents
- Lie on the floor and cover yourself with a wool or cotton blanket

### In Your Home:

- Stay inside, away from windows and walls
- Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked
- Bring hoses inside & move furniture away from windows
- Wear long sleeves & pants made of natural fibers
- Stay hydrated
- Place a ladder next to home to create an alternate escape route
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water for an emergency water supply
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out

### On Foot

- Go to an area clear of vegetation, like a ditch or depression on level ground
- Lie face down & cover yourself with a blanket or jacket

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where can I find more information about the defensible space requirements in my city?

Contact your city or visit [www.sgvkog.org/wildfire](http://www.sgvkog.org/wildfire).

### What are the most important steps I should prioritize to get my home ready for wildfire?

Defensible space, particularly in the first 30 feet from your home, has been shown to provide the most significant protection. Additionally, prioritize hardening your roof, vents, deck, and windows, as they are the most vulnerable parts of your home.

### How do I know if there is a wildfire in my area or if I should evacuate?

You can track active wildfires at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/>. Stay informed by following your city and the LA County Fire Department on social media, tuning into local news on the TV and/or radio, and listening to emergency personnel. If you need to report a wildfire, call 9-1-1.

## Sign Up for County Emergency Alerts:



### Other ways to stay informed:

- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, or check the fire department website
- Use a portable radio or scanner tune your into NOAA Weather Radio (frequency between 162.400 and 162.550 MHz)
- Visit your City's website to sign up for emergency alerts

