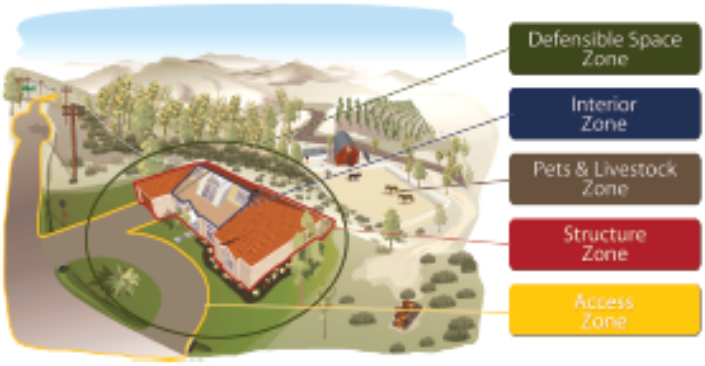
Wildfire Tip Card Series

Information on wildfire hazards and risks with tips on how to reduce them.

front

ACCESS ZONE

Signs, Roads & Driveways



WHAT IS THE ACCESS ZONE? THE ACCESS ZONE IS THE AREA THAT HELPS EMERGENCY CREWS AND FIREFIGHTERS TO LOCATE AND ARRIVE AT YOUR HOME IN A TIMELY MANNER.

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Check to make sure street signs are posted at each intersection leading to your address. Street signs should feature letters at least four inches high and be constructed of a reflective, fire resistant material.
- Notify your local road or street department of missing, damaged, or hard-to-see signs.
- Ensure your home's address sign is clearly visible from the road or street. Single-home address signs should feature numbers at least four inches high and made of a reflective, fire-resistant material. A minimum of six-inch high numbers are required for multi-residential buildings.
- If your home is not visible from the road or street, place an address sign where your driveway leaves the main road.
- Check that bridges and culverts leading to your home are posted with load limits and that the load limits are adequate for local firefighting equipment. Inadequate bridge and culvert structures may prevent firefighters from reaching your home.
- Equip automatic gates with approved emergency key-operated switches that override all command functions so the gate can be opened by emergency personnel. Contact your local fire agency to ensure that emergency gate plans are in place.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

ACCESS ZONE

Signs, Roads & Driveways

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Ensure that your driveway is at least 16 feet wide. Check with your local fire agency for greater widths required in some situations.
- Provide at least 13 ½ feet of vertical clearance over your driveway by removing overhead obstructions. If tree limbs are near power lines contact SDG&E at 1-800-411-SDGE (7343).
- Provide turnaround areas at the end of long driveways and dead-end roads. The turning radius should be a minimum of 28 feet. Residential area cul-de-sacs serving more than two structures should be 36 feet wide.
- Remove vegetation at least ten feet on each side of your driveway. This reduces the risk of a fire from cigarettes thrown from cars and exhaust sparks. Burning roadside vegetation may prevent you from safely evacuating your home or keep firefighters from reaching it.
- Check with your local fire agency to make sure that water access is adequate for your area. Diminished water supply may require more extensive fire protection plans.

The 13'6" vertical and 16' horizontal area is free of tree branches, bushes and other obstructions.

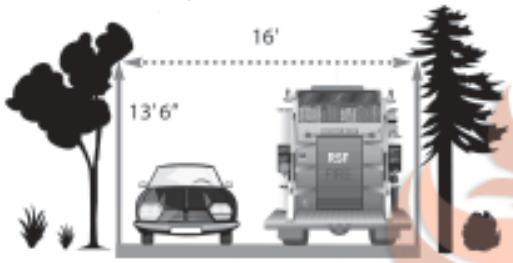


Illustration adapted with permission from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department.

To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

www.wildfirezone.org

front

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Plants & Shrubs

WHAT IS THE DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONE? DEFENSIBLE SPACE IS THE AREA AROUND YOUR HOME WHERE VEGETATION IS MANAGED TO REDUCE THE RISKS TO LIFE AND PROPERTY.

Plants and shrubs can increase or decrease the wildfire risk to your home, depending on type, placement and care. Overgrown and dry vegetation can be ignited by flying embers. Burning vegetation increases the intensity of a fire and can become another source for embers, which increases the risk of additional fires starting in the community. A minimum of 100 feet of defensible space is mandated by State and County ordinances. Residents can be fined if found noncompliant. By providing 100 feet of defensible space around your home, this area helps firefighters safely defend your home.

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Focus on creating a defensible space area for a distance of at least 100 feet around your home. Defensible space should be created around entire neighborhoods as well as individual homes.
- Create a "lean, clean, green" area by using fire-resistant, irrigated landscaping in the first 50 feet around your home is required for defensible space. These plants must be maintained year-round. Fire-resistant plants typically have the following characteristics: grow close to the ground; have a low sap or resin content; do not accumulate dead branches, needles or leaves; and are easily maintained and are drought-tolerant.

www.wildfirezone.org

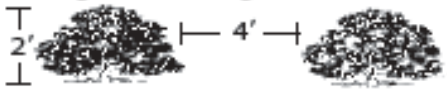
back

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Plants & Shrubs

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Remove all dead and dying vegetation in the remaining 50 feet of the 100 feet of defensible space. Next, reduce vegetation coverage by at least 50 percent. The goal is to have sporadic vegetation to slow down a fire, its flame length and intensity. Do not completely remove natural vegetation. If cutting back natural vegetation is needed to achieve desired plant spacing, you should cut back no more than six inches above the ground.
- Use only legal practices for reducing vegetation such as mowing, cutting and grazing, leave the root structure intact. Do not **completely** remove all vegetation and leave the ground bare. Illegal clearing practices or removal of all vegetation may cause soil erosion and habitat destruction.
- Remove all dead or dying vegetation, debris, green-waste, rubbish and other combustible materials.. Depending on where you dispose of the materials, they can provide fuel for a wildfire to burn up to your home.
- Thin dense stands of shrubs, individual or small groups of shrubs, should be separated from one another by at least twice the height of the average shrub.



- Create vertical separation between shrubs and trees by removing lower vegetation or trimming off the trees' lower branches. Separation is necessary to avoid creating a "fire ladder" from which the fire can easily ignite from ground vegetation and spread into the trees' branches.
- Residents are responsible for following all environmental policies and obtaining all the necessary permits required for their local area.

To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

www.wildfirezone.org

front

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Trees

WHAT IS THE **DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONE?** DEFENSIBLE SPACE IS THE AREA AROUND YOUR HOME WHERE VEGETATION IS MANAGED TO REDUCE THE RISKS TO LIFE AND PROPERTY.

Dead, weak or diseased trees outside your home provide fuel for a wildfire, which increases the fires' intensity. Have a minimum of 100 feet of defensible space around your home to help reduce the impact of wildfire and provide firefighters adequate space to safely defend your home.

Reduce **YOUR** Risk:

- Focus on creating a defensible space area with a distance of at least 100 feet around your home. Defensible space should be created around entire neighborhoods as well as individual homes.
- Remove dead, weak or diseased trees from your property, particularly in heavily wooded areas. This can improve growing conditions for existing trees and help remove fire hazards.
- Create vertical separation between shrubs and trees by trimming or removing lower vegetation or trimming off trees' lower branches. Separation between trees and shrubs is necessary to avoid creating a "fire ladder" from which the fire can easily ignite from ground vegetation and spread into the tree's branches.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

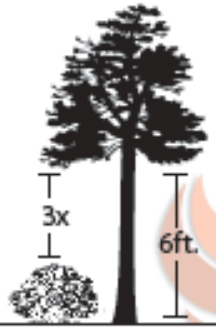
DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Trees

Reduce **YOUR** Risk:

- Trim lower tree branches at least six feet off the ground, even if there is no ground vegetation below. Burning needles and twigs lying on the ground can ignite low-growing tree branches.
- Trim tree branches that overhang or touch your home. Remove any tree limbs within ten feet of your chimney. A burning tree may produce embers that could ignite your home. Burning debris can fall directly on your roof, in gutters or enter your home through the chimney or vents.
- Trim or remove trees located under or near electrical power lines. Contact between trees and electrical power lines can start a fire. If tree limbs are near power lines contact SDG&E at (800) 411-SDGE (7343).
- Never remove more than 1/3 of a tree's branches. Removing too many branches can compromise the tree's health, which can make it more likely to catch on fire.
- Residents are responsible for following all environmental policies and obtaining all the necessary permits required for their local area.

For trees, create vertical space 3x height of shrub to lowest branches.



Vertical space should be minimum 6 feet from ground.

To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

UC CE University of California

www.wildfirezone.org

front

INTERIOR ZONE

Smoke Detectors, Fire Extinguishers & Fire Sprinklers

WHAT IS THE INTERIOR ZONE? THE INTERIOR ZONE IS LOCATED INSIDE YOUR HOME. THERE ARE MANY FIRE SAFETY TIPS THAT WILL HELP YOU PROTECT THIS AREA.

Smoke detectors can be the first way to detect a fire and can provide you with adequate time to react. Failure to install and maintain smoke detectors can leave your home vulnerable, especially when sleeping. Homes without fire extinguishers lack the means to quickly respond to small fires that may grow out of control. Homes without fire sprinkler systems lack the added protection sprinklers can offer when a fire breaks out.

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Smoke alarms are inexpensive devices that save many lives. Install an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) listed smoke alarm in every bedroom and common area of your home, including the basement. UL is an independent, not-for-profit organization that performs product safety certification and quality system registration services.
- Test each smoke alarm once a month to ensure they are working and replace the batteries once a year. When the detector begins "chirping" the batteries are low and you should replace them. **The typical service life of a smoke detector unit is 8 to 10 years.** Replace them on a regular schedule.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

INTERIOR ZONE

Smoke Detectors, Fire Extinguishers & Fire Sprinklers

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Use the hose attachment on your vacuum to clean your smoke alarms regularly. Dust and debris can interfere with proper functioning.
- Own and maintain fire extinguishers to quickly put out small fires. Multi-rated A:B:C fire extinguishers are useful for most common residential-related fires.
- Fire extinguishers are rated by the type of fire they can extinguish. (A) rated extingushers put out wood or cloth fires. (B) rated extinguishers put out flammable liquid fires. (C) rated extinguishers are for electrical fires and (D) rated extinguishers for flammable metals.

- Check fire extinguishers annually and recharge after each use. Many fire extinguishers come equipped with a gauge to indicate their readiness.
- Consider installing an interior fire sprinkler system. Interior sprinkler systems are *life saving* systems. They can immediately begin to fight a fire, even when you are not home and might keep fire from spreading. Check with your local fire and building authorities prior to installation. Verify that system meets applicable fire and building code requirements. Ensure your sprinkler system is installed by a licensed contractor.

To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

www.wildfirezone.org

front

INTERIOR ZONE

Fireplaces & Woodstoves

WHAT IS THE INTERIOR ZONE? THE INTERIOR ZONE IS LOCATED INSIDE YOUR HOME. THERE ARE MANY FIRE SAFETY TIPS THAT WILL HELP YOU PROTECT THIS AREA.

Fires can begin in chimneys when excessive creosote builds up on the chimney walls. Creosote is a combustible substance that is a natural by-product of burning wood and is usually found in deposits on chimney walls. Improper burning procedures can accelerate creosote build-up. A fire hazard exists if 1/4 inch or more of creosote coats the inner wall of a chimney. Embers from chimneys with no or non-functioning spark arrestors can ignite a fire outside of the home. Be careful when disposing of hot ashes because they can ignite other materials. Firewood stored too close to your home can also increase your home's susceptibility to wildfire.

Reduce YOUR Risk

- Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from woodstoves and fireplaces to prevent unintended fires by flying embers.
- Use metal, mesh or glass screening in front of your fireplace opening. Screens or glass help prevent burning embers or sparks from escaping and starting a fire inside your home.
- Use proper lighting procedures to start a fire. Never use flammable liquids like gasoline.
- Do not use excessive amounts of paper when starting a fire and do not use any colored paper. This can accelerate creosote build-up and increase the likelihood of a chimney fire.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

INTERIOR ZONE

Fireplaces & Woodstoves

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Know the signs of a chimney fire. The signs of a chimney fire include roaring/sucking sounds, shaking stovepipes and flames coming out of the chimney. If you detect the signs of a chimney fire, immediately call the fire department and evacuate your home. Have your chimney professionally inspected at least once a year and after any chimney fire. Check with your local fire agency for more information. Chimney fires do not occur in clean, intact, properly installed chimneys.
- Soot and creosote build-up increases your risk of a chimney fire. Reduce creosote build-up by using dry wood for more efficient burning and having your chimney professionally cleaned.
- Be sure chimney spark arrestors that meet the required standards for your area are installed and maintained.
- Dispose of all ashes in a metal ash container and wait a minimum of seven days before transferring them to another container. Ashes can remain hot for many days and can ignite other combustible materials.
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home and clear combustible vegetation within ten feet of the firewood pile. Burning embers can easily ignite a firewood stack and endanger your home, particularly if stacked next to the house. Do not store firewood stacks in an uphill location from your home. A burning firewood stack can fall apart, roll down a hill and ignite your home.

To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

UC CE University of California

www.wildfirezone.org

front

STRUCTURE ZONE

Roofs & Gutters

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE ZONE? THE STRUCTURE ZONE CONTAINS TIPS TO REDUCE FIRE RISKS TO YOUR HOME AND OTHER STRUCTURES ON YOUR PROPERTY.

The roof of your home is the most vulnerable structural part of your home to a wildfire. While your home may only be exposed to wildfire flames and radiant heat for a few minutes, burning embers can rain down on your home for a few hours. Homes with roofs made of non-fire retardant wood shakes or wood shingles are less likely to survive a wildfire than homes with fire-resistant roofs. Gutters can also easily accumulate debris that can ignite.

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Upgrade your roof to a Class A fire-resistance rating, which is the most fire-resistant and is required by law for new or replacement construction. Class A ratings can be obtained in two ways: By the roof covering alone or as a roof covering assembly, which includes both the covering and underlying materials. To determine the rating of your roof, talk to a licensed roofing contractor. To find a list of licensed contractors, visit www2.cslb.ca.gov/CSLB_LIBRARY/Name+Request.asp.

- Inspect your roof and replace when needed. Many roof coverings used in residential construction should be replaced every 20 to 40 years.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

STRUCTURE ZONE

Roofs & Gutters

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Maintain your roof and make necessary repairs. Fix gaps or spaces in tile roofs. Roof coverings should be maintained and repaired to avoid exposing the underlying roof sheathing materials to burning embers.

- Keep roofs and gutters free of fallen debris such as needles, leaves and branches. Roof debris can accumulate near collection points such as vents, skylights, roof intersections or valleys, and against exterior walls. Even if a roof is fire-resistant, burning debris can ignite the roof or other adjacent materials or the debris can enter into the attic through vents. Consider gutter covers or guards to help reduce the frequency of cleanings. Remember, you will have to maintain these covers.

- Install bird stops at the eave ends of barrel-style roof coverings. Bird stops prevent the accumulation of debris and keep birds from building nests in the space between the roof's covering and underlying roof sheathing.

Illustration adapted with permission from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department.

To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

UC CE University of California

www.wildfirezone.org

front

STRUCTURE ZONE

Eaves, Vents & Siding

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE ZONE? THE STRUCTURE ZONE CONTAINS TIPS TO REDUCE FIRE RISKS TO YOUR HOME AND OTHER STRUCTURES ON YOUR PROPERTY.

The eaves of a home act as a heat trap for hot air, gases and burning embers, which greatly increases the chance of a fire igniting your home. Wide roof overhangs provide greater moisture protection for the exterior walls of your home, but if not properly protected, roof overhangs can also increase your risk of a wildfire. Vents are used to remove excess moisture from your attic or crawl space, but they can also provide an entry point for burning embers. The siding of your home is another area that can be exposed to direct flames, radiant heat and burning embers during a wildfire, especially if the siding is made of combustible materials.

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Cover the undersides of your eaves to box them in, which will protect the eave area and help keep hot air out. Use fire-resistant materials approved by your local building and fire authorities.
- Cover your roof and vertical wall vents with 1/4 inch, non-combustible, corrosion-resistant, metal mesh. Metal mesh will help keep burning embers from entering the attic and/or crawl spaces, while still allowing airflow for moisture control.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

STRUCTURE ZONE

Eaves, Vents & Siding

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- For exterior siding, select non-combustible materials approved by your local building and fire authorities. Approved siding materials may include stucco, brick, fiber-cement material and wood products pressure treated with fire retardant and listed for exterior use.
- Maintain and repair exterior siding to ensure no gaps are present that expose the underlying wall. Inspect the area near the ground for moisture rot. Exposing the underlying wall can increase the chance of igniting your home, even if the exterior siding is non-combustible. Decaying wood is also easily ignited.
- Maintain or remove combustible vegetation and decorative plantings from the exterior area around your home. Burning vegetation adjacent to your home also greatly increases your home's exposure to direct flames, radiant heat and burning embers.

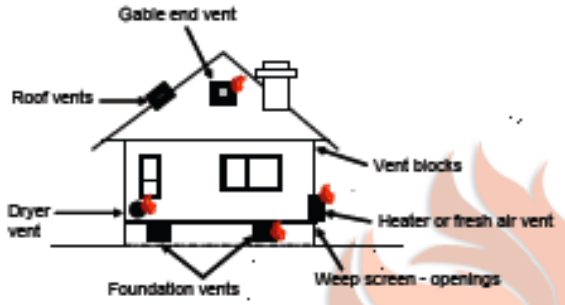


Illustration adapted with permission from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department.

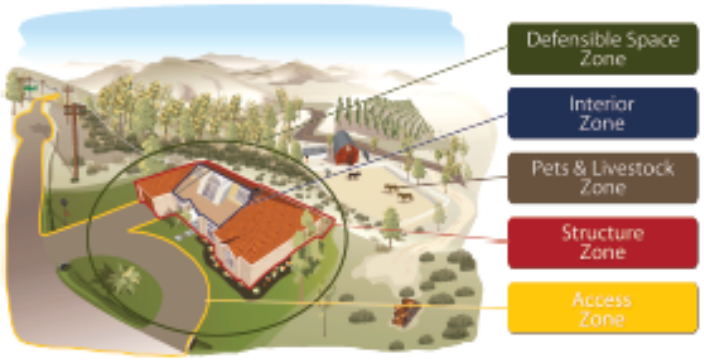
To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

www.wildfirezone.org

front

STRUCTURE ZONE

Decks



WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE ZONE? THE STRUCTURE ZONE CONTAINS TIPS TO REDUCE FIRE RISKS TO YOUR HOME AND OTHER STRUCTURES ON YOUR PROPERTY.

Attached decks can be exposed to direct flames, radiant heat and burning embers when a wildfire breaks out. Flames or embers can ignite your deck and endanger your entire home. The largest threat is from airborne embers that can ignite combustible debris above and below the deck. Attached decks are frequently located adjacent to sliding glass doors which are susceptible to breaking when exposed to the flames and the heat of a fire. Decks are often built with combustible materials and usually incorporate spaces between board gaps that can collect debris. Furnishings on the top of the deck can also catch on fire.

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Use deck boards constructed of fire resistant materials approved by local building and fire authorities. These materials will improve your deck's fire resistance when compared to non-approved wood-plastic composite decking products. Solid surface decks constructed of fire-resistant materials like concrete and stone are another good option.

- For wood deck construction, use thicker deck boards at least three inches thick that have been pressure treated with a fire-retardant listed for exterior use. Thinner boards ignite easier, release heat much faster and can be a higher hazard to adjacent windows and siding.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

STRUCTURE ZONE

Decks

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Keep gaps in between deck boards free of combustible debris. Cleaning gaps also improves ventilation and drainage to prevent decay. Dry, decaying wood ignites easier than wood in good condition.

- Remove combustible debris, vegetation, furnishings and other materials located on top, around, and on the undersides of attached decks. Combustible materials can easily ignite from burning embers, long after wildfire flames have passed.

- Enclose or screen the underside of decks to prevent the accumulation of debris and prevent flying embers from reaching the underside of the deck. Use a rock mulch to prevent vegetation growth. To prevent moisture related damage, make sure your deck enclosure is adequately ventilated. This eliminates the need to clean underneath your decks and is particularly helpful for decks that are slightly raised above ground and are difficult to access.

Illustration adapted with permission from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department.

To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

www.wildfirezone.org

front

STRUCTURE ZONE

Windows

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE ZONE? THE STRUCTURE ZONE CONTAINS TIPS TO REDUCE FIRE RISKS TO YOUR HOME AND OTHER STRUCTURES ON YOUR PROPERTY.

The glass in your window pane is the most vulnerable part of a window in a wildfire. Broken window glass can allow wildfire flames and burning embers to enter the inside of your home and the flames can quickly ignite the interior. Damage to window frames from radiant heat or direct flames can burn through the frame material and catch on fire, causing the glass to break or fall out.

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- For the greatest amount of protection, install dual-pane windows. Two panes offer added protection with the outer pane serving as a thermal shield for the inner pane.
- Dual panes should be dual glazed glass with at least one pane tempered. Tempered glass is stronger that regular annealed glass.

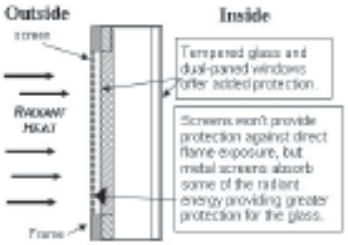


Illustration: Adapted from Rene Quarles, UCCE

www.wildfirezone.org

back

STRUCTURE ZONE

Windows

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Use low-growing, irrigated vegetation under or near windows. Remove combustible debris and furnishings located near windows and glass doors. Windows may break when exposed to the flames and heat of burning materials nearby.
- Make temporary window covers, such as pre-cut and marked pieces of plywood, which can be quickly installed prior to evacuation. Even fire-resistant windows are likely to break in a severe firestorm. Temporary covers add additional protection.

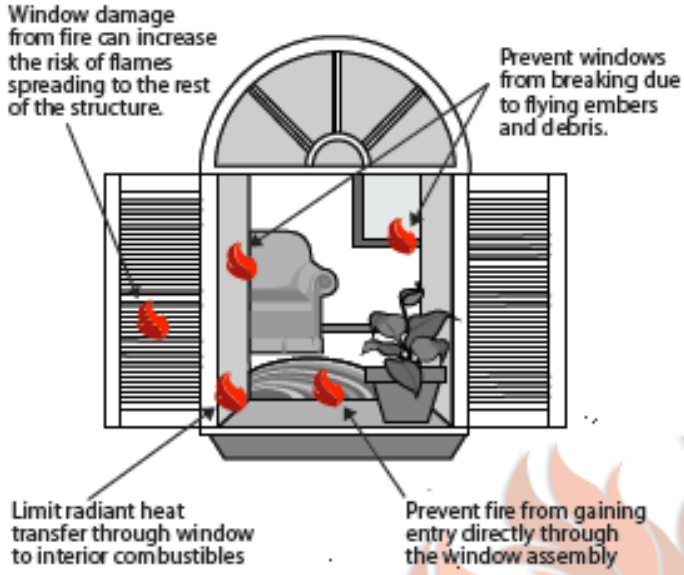


Illustration adapted with permission from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department.

To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

www.wildfirezone.org

front

STRUCTURE ZONE

Outdoor Structures & Storage

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE ZONE? THE STRUCTURE ZONE CONTAINS TIPS TO REDUCE FIRE RISKS TO YOUR HOME AND OTHER STRUCTURES ON YOUR PROPERTY.

Outdoor structures such as storage sheds and gazebos can catch fire easily when constructed with combustible materials. If connected directly to your home, fences made with combustible material can also threaten your home. Combustible materials stored outdoors, such as firewood can pose another risk as well.

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Move combustible wooden structures, such as storage sheds or gazebos, at least 30 feet or more away from your home. Remove unnecessary structures from your property. The closer other structures are to your home, the greater fire hazard they present.
- Use approved, non-combustible materials for roofs and siding, particularly if a structure must be located close to your home. The same construction concepts used to protect your home should also be used for other structures on your property.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

STRUCTURE ZONE

Outdoor Structures & Storage

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Use fire-resistant materials as approved by your local building and fire authorities for fences and gates attached to your home and for fences on the lot line. Fences constructed of combustible materials present a greater fire hazard the closer they are to your home. Avoid using combustible materials in fencing especially within five feet of your home.
- Keep the bottom of fence boards clear of leaves and debris. These materials can accumulate and ignite from ember exposure. Maintain and water nearby vegetation and climbing vines on your fence. Dead vegetation can easily ignite.
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet from your home and clear combustible vegetation within ten feet of a firewood pile. Burning embers can easily ignite a firewood stack and endanger your home, particularly if stacked next to the house.
- Do not store firewood stacks in an uphill location from your home. A burning firewood stack can fall apart, roll down a hill and ignite your home.

Illustration adopted with permission from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department.

To learn more, contact your local fire, building and planning departments or visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

www.wildfirezone.org

front

PETS & LIVESTOCK

Planning & Evacuation

WHAT IS THE **PETS & LIVESTOCK ZONE?** THE PETS AND LIVESTOCK ZONE IS ABOUT EVACUATION AND PREPAREDNESS SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK.

Failure to plan for the evacuation of pets and livestock can create delays when time may be limited. Lack of supplies or arrangements may result in inadequate care and distress for your animals, or difficulty in finding a place for them. Because evacuating your animals can be time-consuming, you should leave sooner rather than later when there is an approaching wildfire. Firefighters are not responsible for rescuing and evacuating your pets and animals. Last-minute evacuations can become stressful and dangerous.

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Create defensible space around barns, pastures, kennels and enclosed pens, just as you would your home. Defensible space provides additional protection for animal boarding and animal care spaces.
- Plan where to take your animals if you have to evacuate. Choices for an evacuation location may be limited. Often times, there is not room to house family pets at evacuation shelters. For smaller animals, consider whether to board your pet with a friend or family member, pet-friendly hotel or animal shelter. For livestock, consider larger facilities. Shelter areas are inspected and approved by authorities prior to disaster to ensure the best protection as possible.
- Plan transportation for your animals. When evacuating, some animals may require additional time and special equipment. Be sure that you have adequate pet carriers for each pet – large enough for pets to stand up and turn around in. For livestock, if you do not have access to a truck and trailer, you should make other arrangements.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

PETS & LIVESTOCK

Planning & Evacuation

Reduce YOUR Risk:

- Make arrangements with someone to check on and evacuate your pets and livestock, if you are unavailable.
- Create a disaster preparedness kit with essential supplies.

  For pets, provide food and water for three days; stakes and tie-outs for dogs; leashes and collars with ID tags; waste disposal supplies; medications and first-aid kit; health records; veterinarian contact information with authorization to treat; and, proof of ownership, such as photos or registration.

  For livestock, items to consider are hay, feed, and water for three days; non-nylon leads and halters; first aid items; wire cutters and a sharp knife; leg wraps; blankets; lime or bleach; fly spray; shovel; water buckets; plastic trash barrel with lids; flashlights; medical records; veterinarian contact information with authorization to treat; and, proof of ownership, such as photos or registration.
- Place your contact information, including an emergency contact number on your pets' ID tags, microchip registrations and licenses. Contact information will help reunite you with your animals if you become separated.
- If you must leave your pets or livestock, leave them in a pre-selected area with enough food and water for 72 hours. Surplus food and water is needed in case you cannot immediately return to care for your animals. Pets and small animals may be kept closed in the house, in a bathroom, or utility room. For livestock, consider a cleared area, such as a pen or arena.
- When evacuating, leave a sign outside letting potential rescuers know if your animals were evacuated with you or if they are still on your property.

Learn more about animal safety and emergency planning from County of San Diego Animal Services at www.sddac.com or call (619) 236-4250.

For more wildfire information, visit the County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

UC CE University of California

www.wildfirezone.org

front

WILDFIRE ZONE

Personal Preparedness

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO CREATE AND REVIEW A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN IN THE EVENT OF A WILDFIRE. EVERYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE PLAN.

It is extremely important you and your family be prepared for the emergency and possible evacuation before the event of a wildfire. Time may be limited. Lack of planning and preparedness can create delays in an evacuation and increase the risk to life and property.

Create and review a family preparedness plan. Everyone in your household should be familiar with the plan. Review it annually with your family and keep it up to date. Failure to create a flamily plan can leave members of your household confused and distraught during a wildfire emergency.

Create a Family Preparedness Plan that includes:

- An "In Case of Evacuation" list posted prominently for quick reference. *(See back of card for list)*
- "3-Day Emergency Backpack" for each person and pet.
- Two ways to escape from each room and a meeting point outside
- Two escape routes from your neighborhood
- A contact person away from your neighborhood
- Preparations for pet or animal transportation
- Evacuation procedures for children, pets, or valuables in case adults are not available to oversee evacuation
- Posted message indicating where you can be found and the date and time you left
- Review home insurance coverage and limits annually. Financial hardship can result if homeowner's insurance does not cover your losses.
- Keep an up-to-date driver's license or ID card with current address. Identification may be required to re-enter your neighborhood after a wildfire.
- Keep at least a half a tank of gas in your vehicles at all times during wildfire season. Time or access may be limited to refuel during an evacuation.

www.wildfirezone.org

back

WILDFIRE ZONE

Personal Preparedness

"In Case of Evacuation" List

An "In Case of Evacuation" list saves time and ensures essential items are not forgotten. Prioritize items in order of importance and include:

- Household members' name and age
- Location of "3-Day Emergency Backpack"
- Pets and animals
- Family valuables
- Important documents such as birth/marriage certificates, vaccination records, financial documents, passports, insurance papers, and personal phone and address book.
- Computer back-up discs

3-Day Emergency Backpack

- ☐ Three days of water, dry or canned food and a change of clothing
- ☐ Sleeping bag or blanket and a first aid kit, including medications
- ☐ Important documents such as birth/marriage certificates, vaccination records, financial documents, passports, insurance papers and a personal phone and address book
- ☐ Sanitation supplies and wet wipes
- ☐ Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled
- ☐ Extra pair of eyeglasses
- ☐ Battery-powered flashlight, radio and extra batteries
- ☐ Dust-mask/bandana and work gloves
- ☐ Games, toys, books, or other entertainment items to pass time

If you have pets or livestock, more information can be found on the Pets and Livestock card in this publication series.

To learn more visit www.sdcountyemergency.com
For more information visit the
County of San Diego Wildfire Zone Web site at
www.wildfirezone.org or call toll free at 1-877-357-7705.

UC CE University of California

www.wildfirezone.org