



Prepare Your Home

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT YOUR HOME DURING A WILDFIRE

Board of Directors
James Ashcraft, President
John Tanner
Nancy Hillgren
Randall Malin
Tucker Stine

Fire Chief
Fred Cox

Within 0-5 Feet of a Structure

- Remove all combustible vegetation.
- Mulch should be pulled back a minimum of 12 inches from a structure.
- Clear rain gutters and roofs of all combustible debris such as leave and pine needles.
- Fencing should be made of non-combustible material, such as iron.
- Inspect roof for loose or missing shingles or tiles that could allow embers to get inside.
- Make sure eave and attic vents are screened.
- Never store combustible material under decks or porches.



Copyright © 2019, National Fire Protection Association. All rights reserved.
Additional information on the Firewise USA® program can be obtained through the NFPA web site at www.nfpa.org.



Mulch is pulled back at least 12 inches away from the structure.

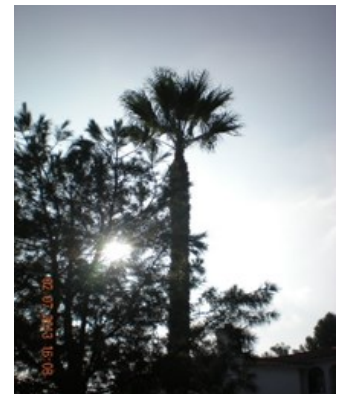
Within 5-50 Feet of a Structure

- Remove any dead vegetation. That includes palm fronds and eucalyptus debris
- Plant drought-tolerant, fire-resistive vegetation.
- Trim back tree branches at least 10 feet from rooftops and chimneys.
- Depending on the size, propane tanks should be a minimum of 10 feet away from structures, vegetation, and other combustible materials.
- Fire wood should be stacked neatly a minimum of 30 feet away from a structure.
- Trash enclosures or trash cans should be a minimum of 10 feet away from a structure and stored with the lid on.

Within 50-100 Feet of a Structure

- Remove any dead vegetation. That includes palm fronds and eucalyptus debris.
- Thin out native vegetation by 50% or more.

The palm tree on the left needs to have its fronds removed. Flying embers can get trapped in the dense fronds and cause the tree to catch fire, creating more embers. Embers are less likely to be trapped in the tree on the right.



Additional Steps

- Dispose of yard clippings, plant waste, trash, debris, and other combustible materials appropriately, not in the middle of a property, canyon, or open space.
- Make an emergency plan that includes at least two ways out of your neighborhood, what items you are going to take with you, and plans for your pets.
- Create an inventory of your home, photos or video can make this easier, and make sure your insurance policy is up to date.



Above: Property that needs to have their vegetation thinned and grasses cut.

Below: Property with well-maintained trees and landscaping.



Tips for Safely Removing Vegetation

- Complete mowing and weed whipping before 10:00 am, especially if it is a hot or windy day.
- Use a weed whipper instead of a lawn mower on weeds and dry grasses.
- Before you begin, remove all rocks from the area as a blade striking a rock can create a spark and cause a fire.
- Spark arresters are mandated for all portable gasoline powered equipment.
- Make sure the exhaust system, spark arresters, and mower are working correctly.
- Keep the mower, including the engine, free of dust, oil, carbon build up, and other flammable materials.
- Have a garden hose or fire extinguisher and shovel on hand at all times and know how to use them. Keep a cell phone nearby as well in case of an emergency.
- Double check that equipment has not been recalled.

This handout is not an endorsement of any company nor does it guarantee your structure surviving a wildfire. It is merely a guide to help you prepare for the upcoming wildfire season. For more information, contact the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District at 858-756-5971 or visit www.rsf-fire.org.