

HOW FIRE SAFE IS YOUR HOUSE? Can You Pass This Brief Test?

1. Have you created a minimum 30-foot "defensible space" around your home to allow firefighters to defend your home in the event of a wildfire? (Establishing a defensible space means clearing all flammable plant material away from your home to protect it and to give firefighters a safer area to defend it against wildfire)
2. Does your home have a fire resistant roof? (A fire resistant roof is made of non combustible material such as various asphaltic products, ceramic tile or metal)
3. Are the undersides of decks and balconies made of fire resistant materials or sealed off to help stop sparks and embers from starting a fire under your deck?
4. Are dead branches removed from your home's roof and around the chimney?
5. Is your home easily identifiable and accessible from a main road?
6. Are all the trees on or near your property:
 - Planted away from overhead utility lines?
 - Pruned back 10 feet from your roof and 15 feet from any chimney?
 - Pruned of their lower branches within six feet of the ground to keep fire from moving from the ground into the trees?
 - More than 15 feet apart?
7. If your home is on a slope is the defensible space increased on the downhill side?
8. Is firewood stacked at least 15 feet from buildings?
9. Are grass and weeds mowed and is vegetation well watered?
10. Have you disposed of all the slash, clippings, dead leaves, needles, dead limbs, and other ground litter left from thinning?
11. Do you have an evacuation plan for your family prepared and practiced?
12. Do you have an emergency water supply with a gasoline powered pump in case electricity is cut off?
13. If you have a well, do you have a gasoline powered electrical generator for the well pump?