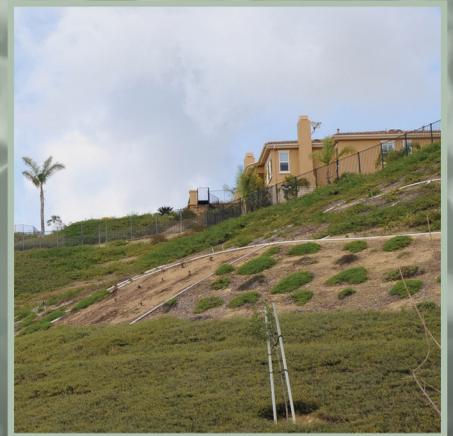
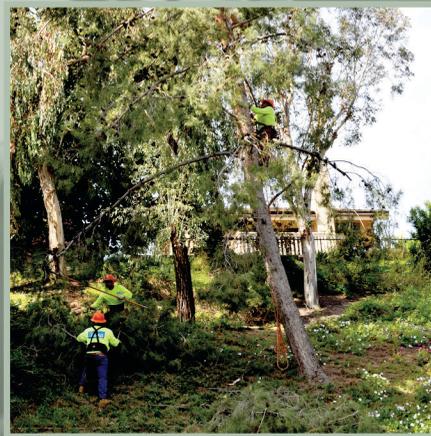




READY, SET, GO!

Be Proactive, Be Prepared



When wildfire threatens, every second counts. The Ready, Set, Go! program guides you through simple steps to protect what matters most—your home and family. Take proactive steps to harden your home, manage surrounding vegetation, and be prepared to leave early.

Wildfires are unpredictable, but your readiness doesn't have to be. Preparing today increases your home's chances of surviving a wildfire and ensures your family's safety.



READY, SET, GO!
**BE EMBER
AWARE**

Embers are burning pieces of vegetation or other flammable material and are the leading cause of structural damage and home loss from a wildfire.



In order to successfully protect your home, you need to understand the real threat during a wildfire.

Once they're picked up by strong winds, embers can travel as much as five miles in front of the active front of a wildfire. Before flames get anywhere near your home, embers can land in dry or flammable vegetation or small open spaces on your roof or walls, and ignite, threatening your home.

If embers fall on and ignite nearby plants, the radiant heat created by the fire can burn combustible siding, doors, or window frames. Radiant heat can also cause windows to break, creating openings that allow flames and embers to enter your home. Once the home is on fire, it will create more embers that can be picked up by winds, travel to other homes and neighborhoods, and increase fire damage for the entire community.

Embers create a huge threat during a wildfire. It's the steps you take now to make your home and landscaping more ember-resistant that will protect your family, your home, and your community during the next wildfire. Take responsibility!



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG



For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **(714) 573-6774** to schedule a Wildfire Home Assessment.



READY, SET, GO!
**IMMEDIATE
ZONE**



The main objective of the Immediate Zone, or 0 to 5 feet zone, is to reduce the potential that embers landing near a building will ignite fuels and expose the area around a home to a direct flame.



The Immediate Zone is the most important zone to reduce home ignition from flying embers. Install hard surfaces, reduce vegetation, and eliminate combustible mulch.



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Changes made to the Immediate Zone can make a big impact in reducing structure loss during a wildfire

- Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete and other noncombustible material. No combustible bark or mulch
- Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches and vegetative debris (leaves, needles, cones, bark, etc.); Check your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
- Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet
- Limit plants in this area to low growing (below 2 feet), nonwoody, properly watered and maintained plants
- Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, storage, planters, etc.) on top of decks
- Relocate firewood and lumber 30 feet away from buildings
- Replace combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attached to the home with noncombustible alternatives
- Consider relocating garbage and recycling containers outside this zone
- Consider relocating boats, RVs, vehicles and other combustible items outside this zone



For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call (714) 573-6774 to schedule a Wildfire Home Assessment.

Regulations for wildfire safety are dynamic and new requirements may be enacted by the State of California and its regulatory agencies at any time. Projects must comply with all state requirements for vegetation management and wildfire safety, in addition to the requirements in this guideline, in place at the time of plan submittal. Where a conflict between this guideline and other applicable regulations exists, the more stringent or specific requirement will apply.



READY, SET, GO!

HOME HARDENING



The main objective of Home Hardening is to give your home the best chance to survive a wildfire. Home Hardening addresses the most vulnerable components of your home, which includes the construction materials that make up your home and the quality of defensible space surrounding it.



Prepare (harden)
your home now
before a wildfire
starts!



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All new homes built in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) are required to meet the minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the home's ability to resist ember intrusion, direct flames, and radiant heat. Homes can be retrofitted to these new building requirements using the recommendations listed below:

1. **Roof** - Ember-resistant material. Gaps are filled with ignition-resistant material. No loose roof flashing.
2. **Eaves** - Eaves are maintained with all gaps filled with caulking and painted over.
3. **Vents** - 1/8-inch metal mesh screen or ember proof vents.
4. **Chimney** - 1/2-inch spark arrestor screen. Clear tree branches and/or vegetation at least 10 feet away from opening.
5. **Gutters** - Install gutter guards. Remove combustible debris on a regular basis.
6. **Exterior Siding** - Exterior siding is maintained with all gaps filled with caulking and painted over.
7. **Doors** - Weather-stripping around door frames and doors adjusted for a "tight fit" within the frame.
8. **Windows** - Multi-pane windows, with at least one pane being tempered, and metal framing.
9. **Fences** - Non-combustible or ignition-resistant material. Maintain fencing by keeping vegetation clear.
10. **Patio Covers** - Ignition-resistant material. Fill all gaps and crevices. Install metal flashing between the patio and outside wall.
11. **Balconies & Decks** - Ignition-resistant material. Fill all gaps between the deck and outside wall with caulking or metal flashing. Remove or replace combustible items stored above and below.
12. **Immediate Zone** - No woody vegetation located within 5 feet of the home. No combustible items located within 5 feet of the home (trash bins, patio furniture, storage, mulch, etc.)

Refer to the California Wildland Urban Interface Code (CWUIC) for permits and specific requirements.

For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call (714) 573-6774 to schedule a Wildfire Home Assessment.



1. Roof



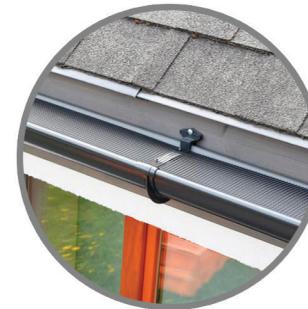
2. Eaves



3. Vents



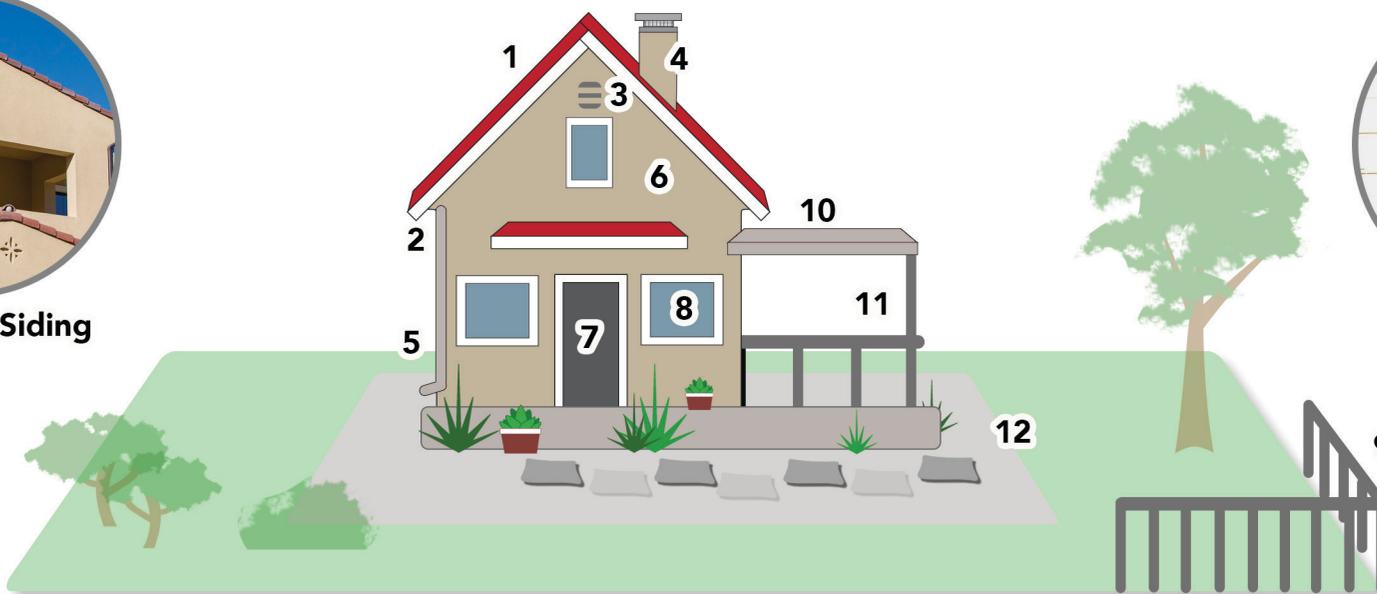
4. Chimneys



5. Gutters



6. Exterior Siding



7. Doors



8. Windows



9. Fences



10. Patio Covers



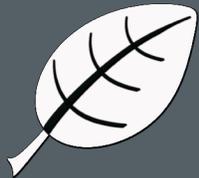
11. Balconies & Decks



12. Immediate Zone



Vegetation Management is controlling plant material to prevent wildfire spread. It requires a constant commitment to follow the 4 R's of Vegetation Management to reduce the threat of a wildfire.



Vegetation Management isn't a one-time fix. It's an ongoing commitment.



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Removal:

- Remove all dead and dying plants within 100 feet of your home
- Identify and remove plants found on OCFA's Undesirable Plant List

Reduction:

- Prune and thin plants within 100 feet of your home, including your plants within 100 feet of your neighbor's home
- Provide 6 feet vertical separation between shrub tops and lower tree branches to reduce "ladder fuels"
- Use Horizontal Separation Guidelines for plants over 2 feet in height (15 feet minimum or 3 times the tallest plant)
- Keep all shrubs within 10 feet of your home trimmed to 2 feet or lower
- Prune or remove plants near windows
- Remove all tree branches or plants within 10 feet of chimney outlets
- Move wood piles at least 30 feet from your home, or to the property line
- Keep annual grasses and weeds cut to 4 inches or less

Replacement:

- Replace fire-prone plants with fire-resistant and drought tolerant plants. See the OCFA Planting Guide for recommendations
- When putting in new plants, leave enough space for them to grow to mature size

Resistant:

- Use fire-resistant plants whenever possible
- Keep in mind that even plants listed on the Planting Guide must be maintained using Spacing Guidelines for both vertical and horizontal separation. Plant separation is an important part reducing wildfire threat

For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call (714) 573-6774 to schedule a wildfire home assessment.



READY, SET, GO!
SAFETY TIPS

Are You doing the right thing, the wrong way...for example, trying to eliminate the fire hazards around your home, and in the process, starting a wildland fire?



Lawn mowers,
weed eaters,
chainsaws,
grinders, welders,
tractors, and
trimmers can all
spark a wildland
fire.

*Do your part,
the Right Way,
to keep your
community fire
safe.*



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**ONE LESS
SPARK**
ONE LESS WILDFIRE

Each year, Californians start over 1600 fires by using equipment the wrong way.

Whether working to create defensible space around your home, just mowing the lawn, or pulling your dirt bike over to the side of the road, if you live in a wildland area, you need to use all equipment responsibly.

Here's how to use Equipment the Right Way:

- Do all yard maintenance that requires a gas or electrical motor before 10 A.M. (Not in the heat of the day, or when the wind is blowing!)
- Lawn mowers are designed to mow lawns. (Never use lawn mowers in dry vegetation.)
- Use a weed trimmer to cut down dry weeds and grass.
- Remove rocks in the area before you begin operating any equipment. (A rock hidden in grass or weeds is enough to start a fire when struck by a metal blade.)
- In wildland areas, spark arresters are required on all portable gasoline powered equipment, including tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed eaters, mowers, motorcycles, and All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs).
- Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters and mower in proper working order and free of carbon buildup. (Use the recommended grade of fuel and don't top off.)
- Keep the engine free of oil and dust, and keep the mower free of flammable materials.
- In wildland areas, a permit may be required for grinding and welding operations, and spark shields may be required on equipment.
- Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires you won't even see, until it's too late! (Don't pull off into dry grass or brush.)
- Keep a cell phone nearby and call 911 immediately in case of a fire.
- Have a water-type fire extinguisher ready to use.
- Keep a shovel close at hand.



For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **714-573-6774** to schedule a wildfire home assessment.



A Wildfire Home Assessment is a meeting at your home with a Fire Department representative, who will give you tips on how to better protect your home from a wildfire.



*Don't wait.
Set up a
FREE Home
Assessment to
protect your
home today.*



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG

Experts can't tell you when the next wildfire will happen, but they do know that wildfires can happen at any time in Southern California. Many residents have not taken the most basic steps to protect their families, homes and neighborhoods from Orange County's #1 fire risk.

During your FREE Wildfire Home Assessment, the outside of your home and property, along with other risk factors, will be evaluated. Then, you'll be given specific steps you can take to reduce your home's vulnerability to wildfire.

Many proven tips to help your home survive a wildfire are available 24/7 at ocfa.org, including:

Landscaping	Construction	Safety
Plant Selection Spacing Separation Dead & Dying Plants Fuel Modification Creating Defensible Space Vegetation Management	Balconies & Decks Chimneys Fences Garages Patio Covers Rain Gutters Roofs, Eaves, & Vents Walls and Siding Windows	Ember Awareness As Wildfire Approaches Wildfire Evacuation If You Get Trapped Disaster Kits & Go! Bags Red Flag Warnings

Homes survive wildfires because of what you do to prepare for them ahead of time, not by fate or luck. No matter where you live, or how much money you can spend, there are things that you can do right now to help protect your home.

To schedule your FREE Home Assessment:

