



Tips To Protect You And Your Home From Wildfires

This year's fire season started early. Wildfires are popping up in rural areas of the Bay Area, but even if you don't live in a rural area, here are some things you can do to protect your home:

- Create a zone around your house that will slow the wildfire down and possibly direct it around your home. To do this, you must view your yard as a fuel source. Fire will only burn if fuel is present. Fuel can be your landscaping, woodpiles, decks, etc. To create your defensible space, take the following steps within 30 feet of your home, 50 feet if you live in a heavily treed area or 100 feet if your home is on a hillside. The state of California requires a minimum of 100 feet.
- Introduce more native vegetation.
- Space trees at least 10 feet apart.
- Remove dead or dying trees and shrubs.
- Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Branches should be a minimum of 6 feet from the ground and shrubs under trees should be no more than 18 inches high.
- Mow your lawn regularly and dispose promptly of cuttings and debris.
- Maintain your irrigation system.
- Clear your roof, gutters and eaves of debris.
- Trim branches so they do not extend over the roof or the chimney.
- Move firewood and storage tanks 50 feet away from the home and keep 10 feet of space around them.
- Store flammable liquids properly.
- Do not connect wooden fencing directly to your home.
- Keep the grounds around your home free of pine needles.

Retrofit Your Home With Non-Flammable Materials

- Use only non-combustible roofing materials
- Box in eaves, with fire resistant materials like treated wood, reducing air vent sizes.
- Apply non-combustible screening to all vents or eave openings.
- Install spark arresters in chimneys
- Enclose the undersides of decks with fire-resistant materials
- Cover exterior walls with fire resistant materials like stucco, stone or brick
- Use double paned or tempered glass for all exterior windows
- Make sure your street address is visible from the street.

When Wildfire Threatens

- Become familiar with your community's disaster preparedness plans and create a family plan.
- Identify escape routes from your home and neighborhood and designate an emergency meeting place for your family.
- Put together an emergency kit that includes first aid supplies, a weather radio, basic tools, flashlight and extra batteries, work gloves, clothing, blankets, medications and extra car and house keys, cash credit cards and most importantly your insurance information!

For A Free Quote

Contact: Corrin Trowbridge or Virginia Trowbridge
License #0D88229 and #0F52752
650-FARMERS 650-876-9600

Corrin@TrowbridgeInsurance.com
Virginia@TrowbridgeInsurance.com
www.TrowbridgeInsurance.com