

Get Ready for Fire Season — Get Defensible Space

Homes with defensible space have a much greater chance of surviving a wildfire than homes without.

We at the California Fire Safe Council encourage you to give your house a fighting chance during a potential wildfire by establishing your defensible space.

Defensible space breaks up the continuous path of plants that could carry wildfire to your home. And it gives firefighters a safe zone from which to fight a wildfire. It's worth your effort.

Defensible Space: You Can Do It

- Remove all flammable vegetation around all structures. State law requires a minimum of 100 feet of clearance, but check with your insurance agent to see if your carrier requires more. For more information about state law, contact your local fire department.
- Trim trees so branches are six feet from the ground and 10 feet from your chimney. Remove branches overhanging your roof.
- Call your utility company for help with trees near power lines. Never trim these yourself.
- Remove any dead trees.
- Cut weeds and dead grasses six inches or shorter.
- Always work early in the morning and make sure your power tools have spark arresters to prevent equipment-caused fires.
- Ask your local nursery about landscaping with beautiful, fire-resistant plants.
- Maintain defensible space by cleaning up plant litter and watering properly.



Which house
would you rather
come home to
after a wildfire?



Photo courtesy CDF

Need help? Contact your local Fire Safe Council to learn about their chipping, home consultations and other programs that can help you become fire safe.

Find a Council near you by going to www.firesafecouncil.org.



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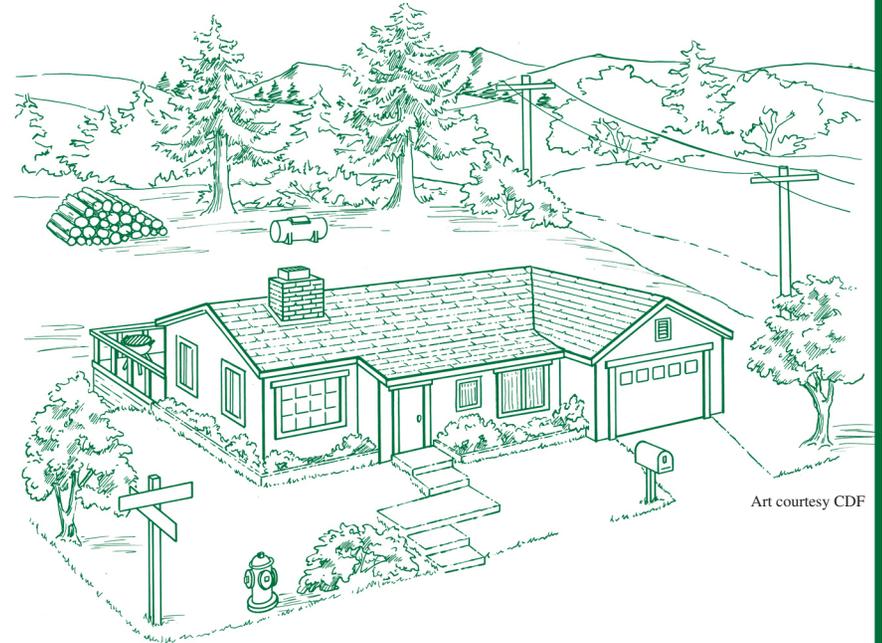


Get Ready for Fire Season — Fire Safe Your Home

We at the California Fire Safe Council hope you'll agree your future happiness is worth this effort. We encourage you to make your home fire safe, inside and out—it could be a life-saver.

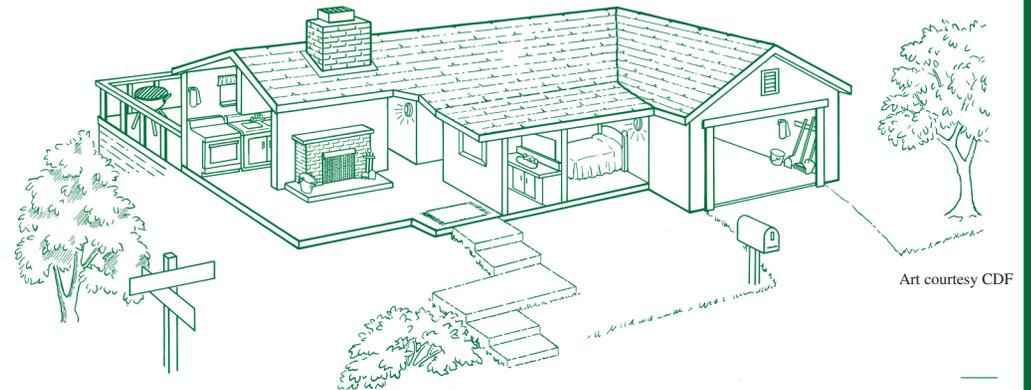
Fire Safe Outside: You Can Do It

- ❑ Clean dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters.
- ❑ If you're reroofing, follow your fire department's current fire safe roofing standards.
- ❑ Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with non-flammable 1/2" mesh screen.
- ❑ Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and decks with fire resistant materials to keep out flying embers.
- ❑ Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures.
- ❑ Locate LPG tanks at least 30 feet from any structure; maintain 10 feet of clear space around the tanks.
- ❑ If you're replacing windows, install only dual- or triple-paned windows.
- ❑ Establish defensible space.



Fire Safe Inside: You Can Do It

- ❑ Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas.
- ❑ Install smoke detectors in bedrooms if you sleep with the door closed.
- ❑ Change smoke detector batteries when changing to daylight savings and standard times.
- ❑ Keep a charged, ABC-type fire extinguisher in the kitchen and garage; make sure family members know how to use it.



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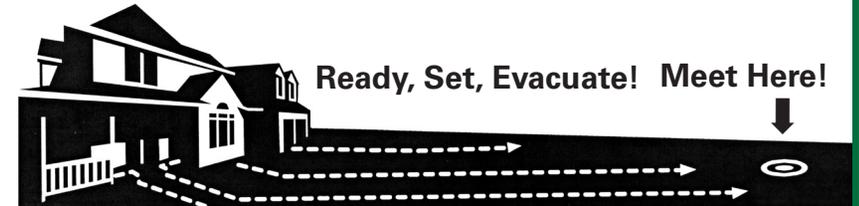
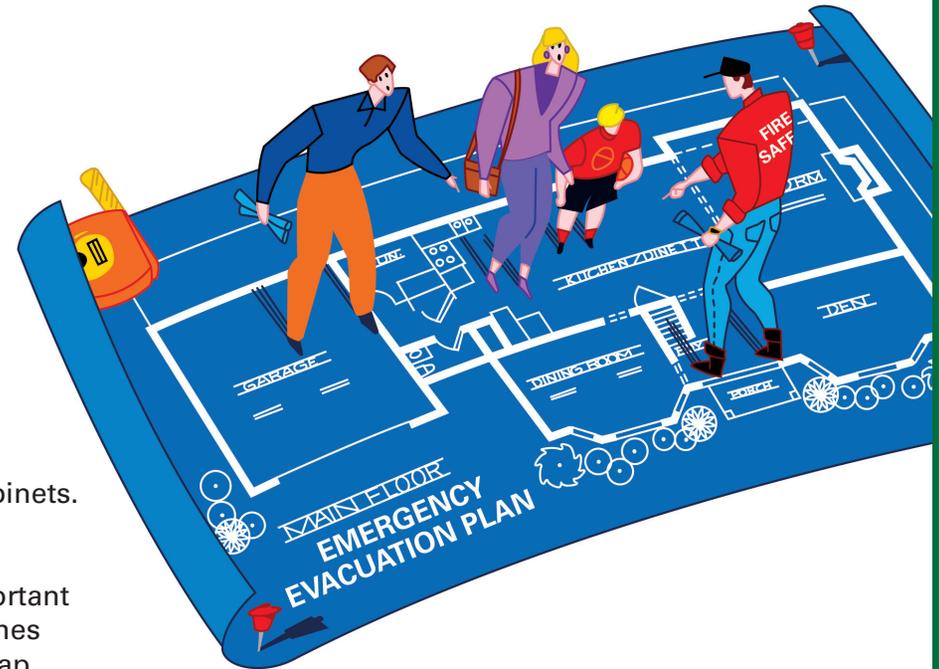
Get Ready for Fire Season — Ready, Set, Evacuate!

Wildfires can be unpredictable. Sometimes the safest bet is to get out, even if you think wildfire won't happen to you.

We at the California Fire Safe Council encourage you to create and practice an evacuation plan to ensure your family's safety in case of wildfire. It's easier than you think.

Evacuation Readiness: You Can Do It

- ❑ Draw a home escape plan that shows your home's floor plan, including all doors and windows. Mark two ways out of each room. Give family members a copy of the plan.
- ❑ Pick an emergency meeting place outside.
- ❑ Have a contingency plan so family members can contact each other. Establish a family/friend phone tree.
- ❑ Practice emergency exit drills in the house (EDITH), and make sure family members know how to STOP, DROP and ROLL.
- ❑ Draw at least two evacuation routes out of your area on a map.
- ❑ Create a home inventory that lists what you own, serial/ID numbers and value. Take pictures of the contents of each room, closets and cabinets.
- ❑ Create an evacuation plan for your pets because they can't stay at emergency shelters.
- ❑ Create an evacuation checklist and organize critical medications, important papers such as insurance policies, essential valuables, change of clothes and toiletries, cell phone, your home escape plan, your evacuation map, your home inventory and your pet evacuation plan.
- ❑ During a wildfire, if you think you should evacuate, it's OK to leave before you're asked by law enforcement or the fire department.
- ❑ When asked to leave, do so immediately. The safety of your family and the lives of firefighters who need to focus on putting out the fire depend on you getting to safety.



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