

Oakland Community Preparedness & Response



Guide #15



ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

HOME HARDENING FOR WILDFIRE

Take a walk around the outside of your home and answer all of the questions below that apply. Determine what needs work and prioritize projects around preparing your home to be more fire-resistant. **Top priorities should be near-home vegetation, roof, vents and gutters.**

NEAR-HOME VEGETATION and combustible mulch immediately around your home and under windows, eaves, and vents can ignite and provide a way for fire to enter the home

- Is the 5-foot zone around your home and deck free of vegetation and all combustibles such as mulch, jute/natural fiber door mats, dry leaves/pine needles, firewood, etc? good needs work
- In order to break up fuel, is there recommended space between plants and between the ground and the branches of trees? good needs work
- Is grass kept to a height of 4 inches? good needs work

THE ROOF has the greatest exposure to embers and is the most vulnerable part of a home

- Is the roof covering composed of a Class A fire rated material, such as metal, tile or asphalt composition shingles? good needs work
- Are there any damaged areas needing repair/replacement? good needs work
- Is the rooftop, especially crevices around chimneys, skylights and architectural elements, clear of flammable debris? good needs work
- Are gaps between the roof covering and sheathing plugged? good needs work
- Are tile caps covered to prevent bird nesting? good needs work

VENTS can allow embers to enter a crawl space, the attic, soffit or foundation

- Are all vents covered with 1/8-inch metal mesh, or are special vents approved to resist embers and flames installed? good needs work

RAIN GUTTERS should be cleared of leaves and needles that embers can easily ignite

- Are the gutters clear of all flammable debris? good needs work
- Do the gutters have screens/covers in good condition? good needs work

EAVES & SOFFITS with open-eave construction should be inspected

- Wherever possible, are open eaves enclosed? good needs work
- Have gaps around exposed rafters and blocking been caulked and plugged? good needs work

CHIMNEY

- Are all chimney and stovepipe outlets covered with non-combustible mesh screen in good condition? good needs work

WINDOWS can break from heat, even before a home ignites, allowing in embers or flames

- Are all windows multi-pane, tempered glass? good needs work
- Is outside vegetation or other combustible materials cleared from within 5 feet of windows and glass doors? good needs work

SIDING is vulnerable if exposed to flames or radiant heat for periods of time

- Have all gaps and joints been caulked and plugged? good needs work
- Is there 6 inches or more of vertical noncombustible material maintained between the ground and the start of the siding? good needs work
- Has shingle or shake siding been replaced with ignition-resistant materials? good needs work
- Is the dryer vent cover noncombustible and either louvered or self-closing? good needs work

DECKS are vulnerable to fires from embers igniting vegetation or materials near or beneath

- Are all combustible items removed from underneath, on top of and next to all decks and porches? good needs work
- Is there a noncombustible layer between wood decks and siding? good needs work
- Are under-deck and porch areas screened-in with wire mesh? good needs work

GARAGES are especially vulnerable to embers and ash as they can enter a garage as easily as dust, potentially igniting a house from the inside

- Is there weather stripping or gaskets around and under the garage door to limit ember entry? good needs work
- Are all combustible and flammable liquids stored in approved containers and away from ignition sources? good needs work
- Can you easily open the garage door when there's no power? good needs work

FENCES can burn right up to a structure and quickly ignite it

- Do fences or gates that connect to structures have non-combustible materials within 5 feet of the building? good needs work
- As specified in Oakland's Fire Code, is all hazardous vegetation maintained within 10 feet from any combustible fence? good needs work

OCP&R is a program of the Oakland Firesafe Council

Contact OCP&R for more information and assistance with assessing your home for wildfire hardening

Thanking the California Firesafe Council for their contribution to this content. Version 1.1 7/21/20

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