



1-Hour Wildfire Ready Checklist



Improving your home's wildfire preparedness can take just 1 hour! Check out the guide below to taking the first steps to wildfire preparedness!



00:00 - 30:00 | Improve Defensible Space

- ☐ Cut dry grass and weeds to no more than 4 inches within 30 feet of your home. Remember not to use metal cutting blades when cutting dry grass and weeds!
- ☐ Clear combustible materials (dry plants, outdoor furniture) from within 5 feet of your home. Remember, wood piles should be at least 30' away or completely protected by an ignition cover.
- ☐ Ensure lawns and ornamental plants are well maintained prior to an emergency.



30:00 - 45:00 | Strengthen Your Home & Fireproof the Perimeter

- ☐ Move smaller or portable propane tanks and gas grills at least 10 feet from your home.
- ☐ Check vents for gaps and cover them with 1/8-inch metal mesh to block embers.



45:00 - 50:00 | Emergency Readiness

- ☐ Don't forget about your pets. Make a plan for their safety. Have carriers, food, and water ready so they can leave quickly and safely with you.



50:00 - 60:00 | Final Safety Check

- ☐ Identify at least two evacuation routes and discuss them with family members.
- ☐ Double-check your go-bag with essentials (documents, medications, supplies)
- ☐ Sign up for local emergency alerts and check battery-powered radios.

In just one hour, you've taken the first crucial steps to protect your home from wildfires!



DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Defend your home against wildfires by
creating a safe perimeter.

ZONE 0



Zone 0 extends 5 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

Use this checklist to make your home Zone 0 compliant!



Clear dead weeds, grass, and debris.
Check roofs, gutters, and outdoor areas.



Use gravel, pavers, or concrete instead of
combustible mulch.



Keep branches trimmed 10 feet away from
chimneys and stovepipes.



Minimize combustible items like furniture
and planters on deck.



Replace combustible fencing and gates
with fire-resistant materials.



Shift garbage and recycling containers to a
safer area outside this zone.

Don't forget to move firewood and lumber to Zone 2 (100 feet away) and relocate boats, RVs, and vehicles away from Zone 0 to reduce fire risks!

While not legally required yet, **Zone 0** is key for wildfire defense
and preventing fires from spreading to your home!

Learn More at [ReadyForWildfire.org](https://www.ReadyForWildfire.org)



LOW-COST RETROFIT LIST

LOW-COST WAYS TO HARDEN YOUR HOME



REPLACE

When it is time to replace your roof, replace it with a Class A fire-rated roof. [OSFM Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) Products](#).



INSTALL

Install a noncombustible gutter cover on gutters to prevent the accumulation of leaves and debris in the gutter.



BLOCK

Block any spaces between your roof covering and sheathing with noncombustible materials (bird stops).



COVER

Cover your chimney and stove-pipe outlets with a noncombustible corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen ([spark arrestor](#)), with $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch openings.



INSTALL

Install ember and flame-resistant vents. Consult your local building official and hire a licensed contractor for this project as these modifications may reduce airflow. [OSFM Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) Products](#).



BLOCK

Caulk and plug gaps greater than $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch around exposed rafters and blocking to prevent ember intrusion into the attic or other enclosed spaces.



REPLACE

When it's time to replace your windows, replace them with multi-paned windows that have at least one pane of tempered glass. [OSFM Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) Products](#).



INSTALL

Install weather-stripping to gaps greater than $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch between garage doors and door frames to prevent ember intrusion. The weather-stripping must be compliant with UL Standard 10C.



BLOCK

Inspect exterior siding for dry rot, gaps, cracks, and warping. Caulk or plug gaps greater than $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch in siding and replace any damaged boards, including those with dry rot.



REPLACE

When it's time to replace your siding or deck, use compliant noncombustible, ignition-resistant, or other [OSFM Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) Products](#).



INSTALL

Install a minimum 6-inch metal flashing, applied vertically on the exterior of the wall at the deck-to-wall intersection to protect the combustible siding material.



COVER

Cover openings to operable skylights with a noncombustible metal mesh screen with openings in the screen not to exceed $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch.

*This list was developed as a best practices guide and to assist homeowners to ensure their home is more ignition-resistant from wildfires. Low cost can be subjective. Some of these items are based on upgrading to more stringent materials when that feature is up for replacement due to normal maintenance or lifespan, i.e. roofs.

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April 2025

LOW-COST RETROFIT LIST

LOW-COST WAYS TO CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE
AND ENHANCE THE EFFECTS OF A HARDENED HOME



REPLACE

Replace wood mulch products within five feet of all structures with noncombustible products such as dirt, stone, or gravel.



CLEAN

Regularly clean your roof, gutters, decks, and the base of walls to avoid the accumulation of fallen leaves, needles, and other flammable materials ([see Defensible Space Webpage for more details](#)).



REMOVE

Ensure that all combustible materials are removed from underneath, on top of, or within five feet of a deck.



STORE

Ensure exposed firewood is stored at least 30 feet away from structures or completely covered in a fire-resistant material that will not allow embers to penetrate. Additionally, make sure you have 10 feet of clearance around your wood piles.



REMOVE

Remove vegetation or other combustible materials that are within five feet of windows and glass doors.



STORE

Be sure to store combustible outdoor furnishings away from your home when not in use.



REMOVE

Remove all dead or dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds, and pine needles within 30 feet of all structures or to the property line.



STORE

Remember to properly store retractable awnings and umbrellas when not in use so they do not collect leaves and embers.

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