

TIPS AND RESOURCES

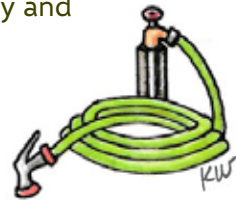
Join or Start a Neighborhood Fire Safe Council:

Neighborhoods that organize are more likely to successfully withstand wildfire. Meet with your neighbors to: discuss and share wildfire-safety preparation tips, create a phone tree, identify and map neighborhood hazards, water resources and escape routes, organize workdays, identify critical needs such as emergency water storage, share defensible space-clearing tools, or just enjoy social and informational get-togethers! Go to <https://firesafemendocino.org/> for help getting started.



Help Your Local Fire Department:

During a wildfire, firefighters will need adequate space and other resources to safely and effectively protect your structure. You can help by keeping water hoses and a ladder available, making your home easier to find in all conditions with a reflective address sign, and inviting your fire department to a local meeting, to learn how else you can help them protect your neighborhood.



Plan for Evacuation:

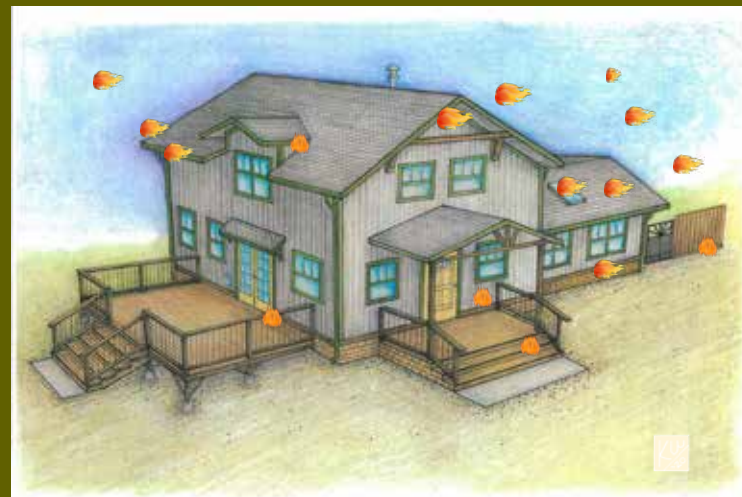
Develop a plan with your family and neighbors for you and your pets. Prepare go-bags.

For more information visit:

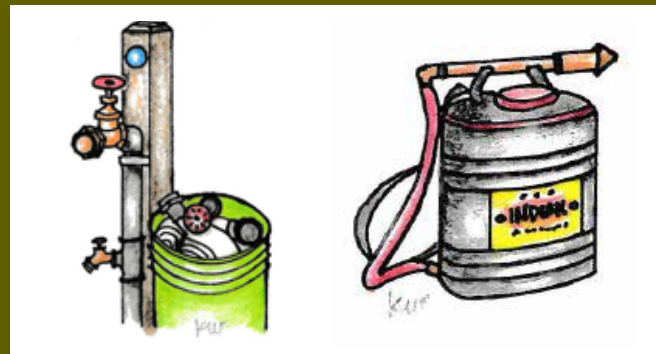
<https://firesafemendocino.org>



PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRE



KEY TIPS FOR THE RURAL LANDSCAPE



DEFENSIBLE SPACE

WHAT DO YOU REALLY NEED?

Zone 0
0-5'

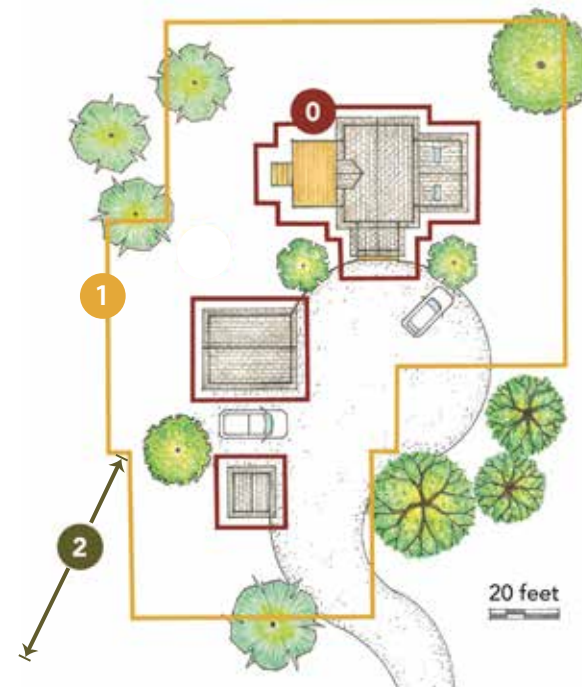
Remove combustibles (woody plants, mulch, and stored items) surrounding any structure and under and around attached decks. Cut grass or install hardscaping.

Zone 1
5-30'

Eliminate the connectivity between islands of vegetation by increasing the spacing between trees, removing lower branches of trees and shrubs, and creating areas of irrigated and mowed grass or hardscape between lush vegetation islands. Plants should be properly irrigated and maintained to remove dead/dry material.

Zone 2
30-100'

Reduce the density of the trees, shrubs, plants, and grasses to slow fire spread and reduce flame heights. Keep shrubs and trees well-spaced and pruned to eliminate fuel ladders, where fire can climb from the ground to the tops of the vegetation.



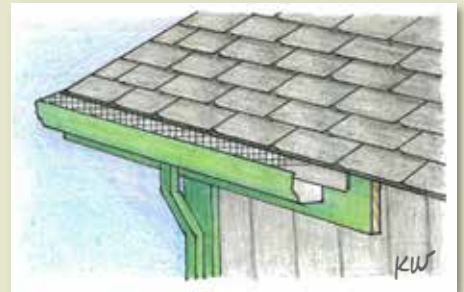
KNOW YOUR ZONES

HOME PROTECTION GUIDANCE

You can significantly improve the chances that your home will survive a future wildfire through material choices, design and installation options, and regular maintenance.

Fire-resistant construction relies on awareness of small details that can make your home vulnerable to embers, in addition to building with appropriate materials, and regular home and property maintenance. Key ideas include:

Keep gutters clean: Embers ignite debris in gutters that can result in flames going under the roofing. A piece of flashing called a metal drip edge can block flame penetration at roof edge. A noncombustible gutter guard can be helpful.



Implement 0-5: Embers can ignite plants, debris, and mulch around the home and attached decks and stairs resulting in flames touching the house. Keep vegetation and mulch away from the first 5 feet of the home.



Be aware of slopes: Fire easily moves up slope. Reduce vegetation down slope of the home. Site new construction away from the slope.



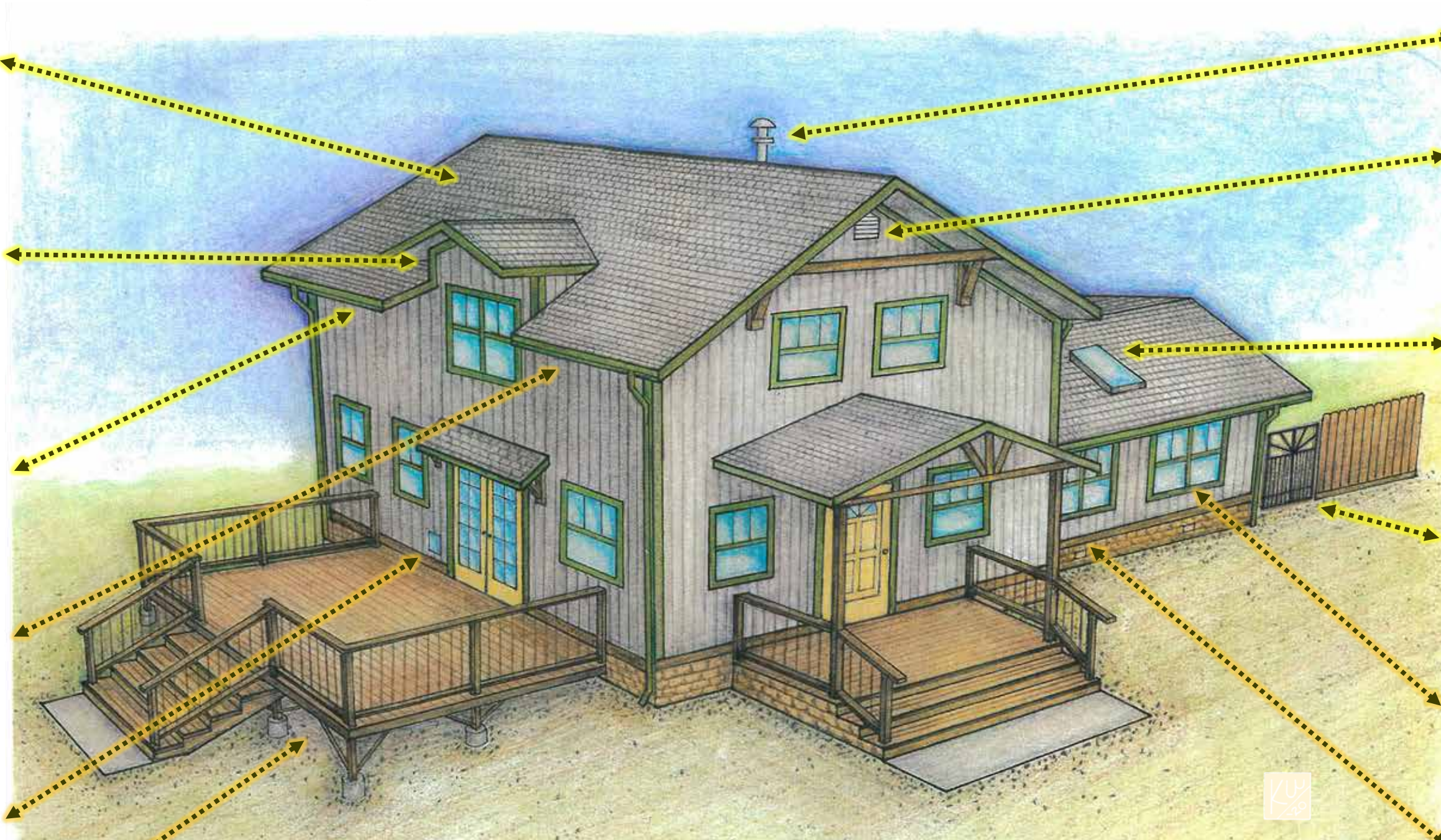
SPONSORS AND THANKS

Thanks to Kathy Weber for the illustrations.



PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRE

Key Elements of Wildfire Resistance



Roof: Is the roof Class A fire-rated? If not, upgrade. Inspect for wear and tear. Clean off debris.

Roof-to-wall intersections: Keep these locations free of debris. Install metal flashing and noncombustible siding in these locations to enhance fire resistance.

Roof edges: Are gutters free of leaves? Install noncombustible gutter guards. Confirm that the roof edge has a metal drip flashing.

Eaves: If the eaves have open framing, consider converting to a boxed-in design. Are there vents in the eaves? Upgrade to 1/8" metal mesh screening.

Pet doors: If wildfire is approaching, close all openings to prevent ember entry.

Decks: Remove all combustibles around and under decks. Regularly clean debris between deck boards.

Chimney: Install metal 1/2 inch spark arrestors.

Vents: Roof, wall, and foundation vents should be covered with 1/8" metal mesh. Or upgrade to "ember and flame-resistant" vents.

Skylights: Remove debris. Upgrade to flat, tempered-glass skylights. Close any open skylights when wildfire is near.

Fences: To prevent fire from burning to the house, replace the 5 feet of wood fencing that connects to the house with a noncombustible option or metal gate.

Windows: Replace single-pane windows. Where buildings are within 30 feet, upgrade these windows to double-pane tempered glass.

Siding: To keep flames from touching the house, maintain a 5-foot noncombustible zone, and incorporate 6 inches of vertical noncombustible clearance up from the ground to the siding.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW & WHERE TO START

Every homeowner needs to prepare for wind-blown embers, direct flame contact, and radiant heat exposures for all buildings. If a woodshed, shop, or garage is less than 30 feet from the home, radiant heat exposures are likely.

Embers cause the majority of wildfire home ignitions. Embers can directly ignite the home. They can also ignite vegetation or materials on or near your home, resulting in flames touching your house or breaking window glass through a high or radiant heat exposure.

Prioritize the roof, vents, and creating a five-foot perimeter of defensible space. Hardening a home to wildfire exposure does not have to be costly, but it does require an understanding of the fire exposures that may impact your home.