

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. Flash and upgrade combustible 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: Is there open-eave framing? Consider converting to a boxed-in design. Are there vents in the eaves? Upgrade to 1/8" metal mesh screening.

Pet doors: Close all openings when wildfire is near to prevent ember entry.

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

Chimney: Install spark arrestors (metal 1/2").

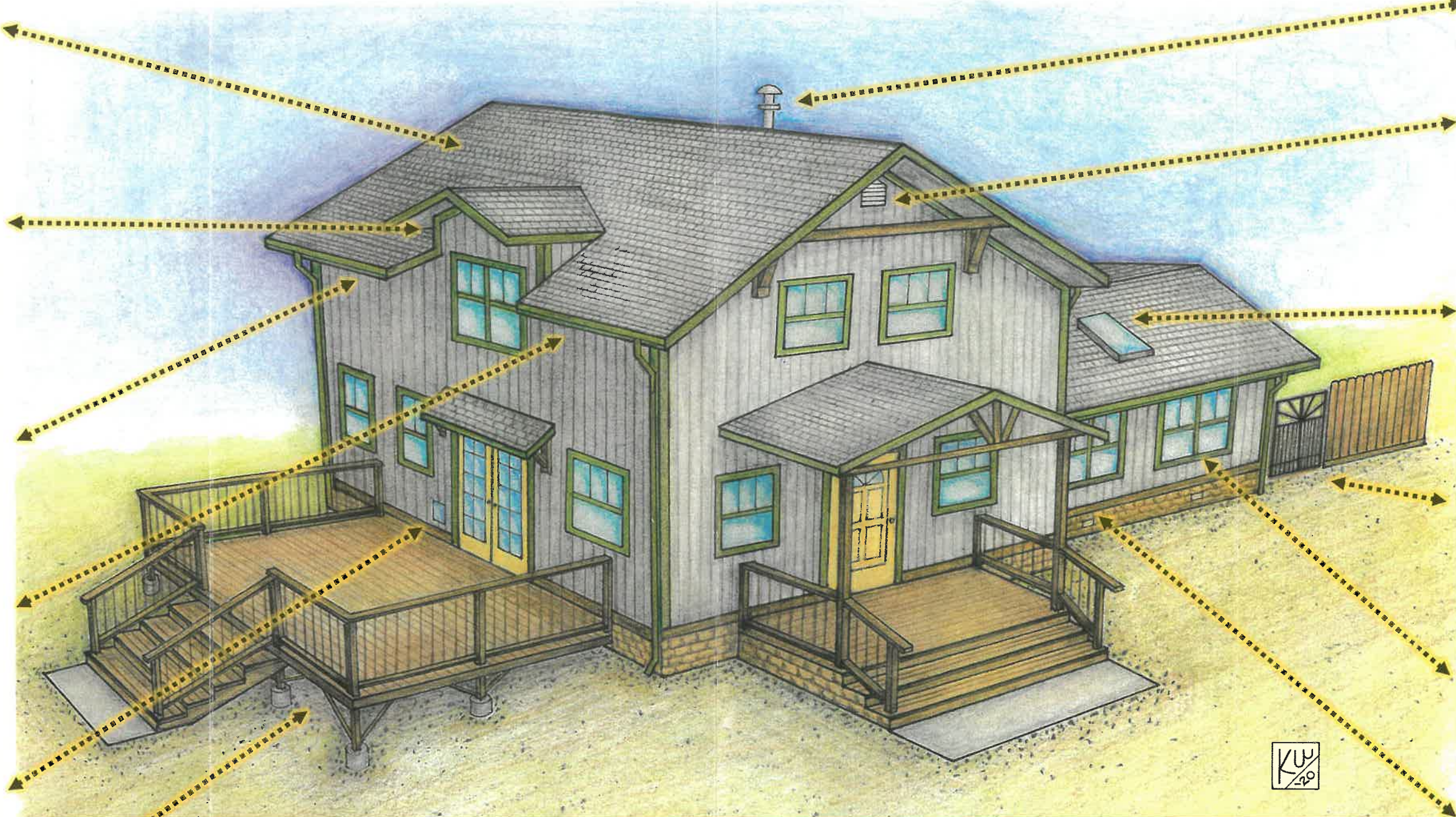
Vents: Roof, wall, and foundation vents should be covered with 1/8" metal mesh. Or upgrade to "ember and flame" resistant vents.

Skylights: Remove accumulated debris. Upgrade to flat, tempered glass design. Close opening 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 tempered glass.

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



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW & WHERE TO START

Every homeowner needs to prepare for wind-blown ember, direct flame contact, and radiant heat exposures for all buildings. If a woodshed, shop, or garage is <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.

TIPS AND RESOURCES

Plan for evacuation:

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

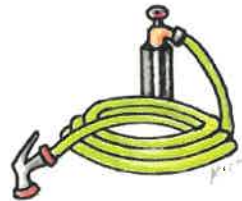
Fire tools:

Keep a stash of tools to help respond quickly to a wildfire and to help create and maintain your defensible space.



Water sources:

Have water available and easy to find for fire personnel. Place a blue reflector near your tank and on the road to help in location.



For more information visit:

- [Ucanr.edu/program/uc-anr-fire-network](http://ucanr.edu/program/uc-anr-fire-network)
- Humboldt.gov.org/firesafecouncil
- Humboldt.gov.org/FireSafetyResources
- Readyforwildfire.org



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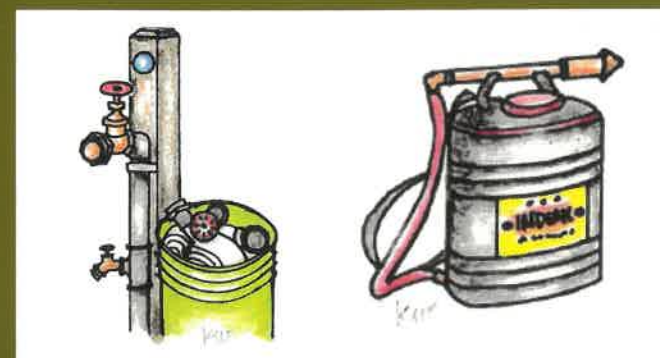
Thanks to Kathy Weber for the illustrations.



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KEY TIPS FOR THE RURAL LANDSCAPE



DEFENSIBLE SPACE WHAT DO YOU REALLY NEED?

Zone 0 0-5'

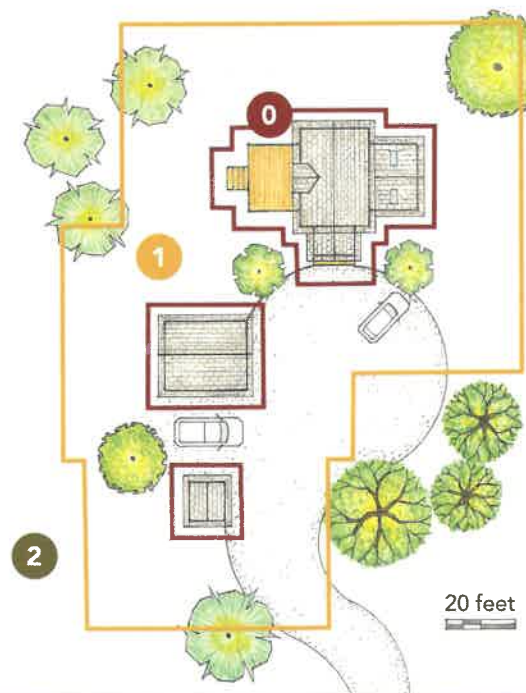
Remove combustibles (woody plants, mulch, and stored items) surrounding any structure and under and around attached decks. Cut grass or install hardscaping.

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 1 5-30'

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.

Zone 2 30-100'



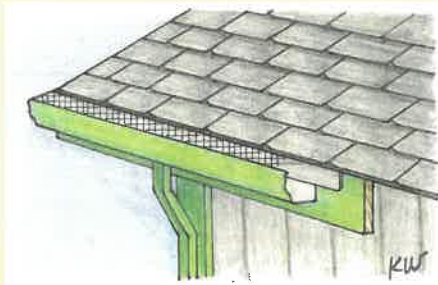
KNOW YOUR ZONES

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 bypassing 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: The proper placement and maintenance of plants around the home is essential. Any plant will burn under the right conditions. Keep vegetation 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.

