



Fire Season 2020: Prepare Your Home

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT YOUR HOME DURING A WILDFIRE

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Immediate Zone: Within 0-5 Feet of a Structure

- Remove all combustible vegetation, including palm fronds.
- Combustible mulch should be removed within 5 feet of a structure.
- Clear rain gutters and roofs of all combustible debris such as leaves and pine needles.
- Fencing should be made of non-combustible material, such as iron, concrete block, or stucco.
- Inspect roof for loose or missing shingles that could allow embers to get inside.
- Make sure eave and attic vents are an approved ember resistant model or screened with 1/8 inch non-combustible mesh.
- Never store combustible material under decks or porches.



Mulch is pulled back at least 5 feet away from the structure.

Within 50-100 Feet of a Structure

- Cut dead weeds and remove any dead vegetation.
- Thin native vegetation to provide separation between shrubs or small groupings of shrubs that is equal to 3x the height of the shrub for flat areas, 4x the height for moderate slopes, and 6x the height for high-sloped areas.
- Limb up trees at least 6 feet above the ground. Remove dead palm fronds and eucalyptus debris.

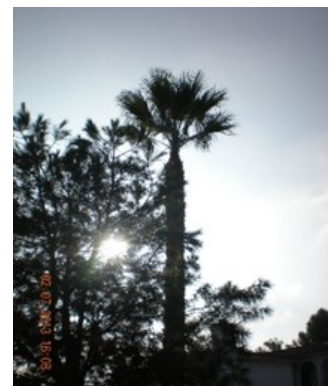
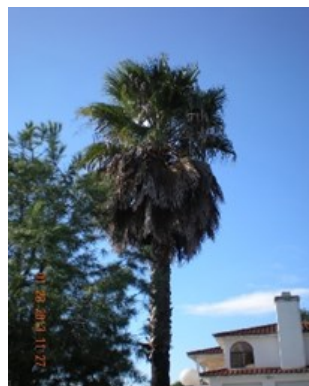
The palm tree on the left needs to have its fronds removed. Flying embers can get trapped in the dense fronds and cause the tree to catch fire. Embers are less likely to be trapped in the tree on the right.



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Additional information on the Firewise USA® program can be obtained through the NFPA web site at www.nfpa.org.

Within 5-50 Feet of a Structure

- Remove any dead vegetation. That includes palm fronds and eucalyptus debris
- Plant drought-tolerant, fire-resistive vegetation with irrigation.
- Trim back tree branches at least 10 feet from rooftops and chimneys.
- Depending on the size, propane tanks should be a minimum of 10 feet away from structures, vegetation, and other combustible materials.
- Fire wood should be stacked neatly a minimum of 30 feet away from a structure.
- Trash enclosures or trash cans should be a minimum of 10 feet away from a structure and stored with the lid on.
- Limb up trees at least 6 feet above the ground.



Additional Steps

- Dispose of yard clippings, plant waste, trash, debris, and other combustible materials appropriately, not in the middle of a property, canyon, or open space.
- Make an emergency plan that includes at least two ways out of your neighborhood and what items you are going to take with you. Have a plan for your pets, do not leave them behind.
- Create an inventory of your home, photos or video can make this easier, and make sure your insurance policy is up to date.



Above: Property that needs to have their vegetation thinned and grasses cut.

Below: Property with well-maintained trees and landscaping.



Tips for Safely Removing Vegetation

- Complete mowing and weed whipping before 10:00 am, especially if it is a hot or windy day.
- Use a weed whipper instead of a lawn mower, brush blade, and tractor on weeds and dry grasses.
- Before you begin, remove all rocks from the area as a blade striking a rock can create a spark and cause a fire.
- Spark arresters are mandated for all portable gasoline powered equipment.
- Make sure the exhaust system, spark arresters, and mower are working correctly.
- Keep the mower, including the engine, free of dust, oil, carbon build up, and other flammable materials.
- Have a garden hose or fire extinguisher and shovel on hand at all times and know how to use them. Keep a cell phone nearby as well in case of an emergency.
- Double check that equipment has not been recalled.
- If possible, have a spotter work with you to help watch for fire.

This handout is not an endorsement of any company nor does it guarantee your structure surviving a wildfire. It is merely a guide to help you prepare for the upcoming wildfire season. For more information, contact the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District at 858-756-5971 or visit www.rsffire.org.