

HARDEN YOUR HOME!

ReadyforWildfire.org

From the LHH Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee (fourth in a series)

Visit this site for additional details about how you can prepare and protect your home against wildfires.



LHHFD information:
call 562-694-8283

Flying embers from a wildfire can land on homes up to a mile away and cause destructive fires. Taking necessary measures to *harden your home* can help increase its chance of survival when wildfire strikes.

Here are ways you can harden your home and make it more fire-resistant:

ROOF—The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Roof valleys, open ends and barrel tiles, as well as rain gutters, are all points of entry for fire. Homes with wood or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire. Build your roof or re-roof with fire-resistant materials such as composition shingles, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent embers from catching.

VENTS—Embers can enter the attic and other concealed spaces through vents and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents. Cover all vent openings with 1/16-inch to 1/8-inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh, which can melt and burn.

EAVES—Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite exposed wood or other combustible materials. Box in or enclose eaves with ignition-resistant or non-combustible materials.

WINDOWS & DOORS—Embers can enter through open windows and gaps in doors, including garage doors. Plants or combustible materials stored near windows can ignite from embers and generate



heat that can break windows and melt combustible frames. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable. Install dual-paned windows with a least one pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire. Limit the size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation.

WALLS—Combustible siding or other combustible or overlapping materials provide surfaces or crevices where embers can nestle and ignite. Build or remodel your walls with ignition-resistant building materials such as stucco, fiber cement wall siding, wood treated with fire retardant, or other approved materials. Be sure to extend wall materials from the foundation all the way to the roof (no ember-trapping gaps!).

BALCONIES & DECKS—Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces and on the undersides of decks and balconies, igniting combustible materials and entering the home through walls or windows.

Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition-resistant, non-combustible or other approved materials. Remove all combustible items from underneath your deck.

RAIN GUTTERS—Keep gutters clear of accumulated leaves and plant debris that can burn—even better, enclose your rain gutters with fire-resistant screening.

CHIMNEYS—Cover chimneys and stovepipe outlets with non-flammable metal screens with openings no smaller than 3/8-inch and no larger than 1/2-inch to prevent fireplace embers from escaping and igniting a fire.

GARAGE—Keep a fire extinguisher and tools such as a shovel, rake, bucket and hose available for fire emergencies. Install weather stripping around and under your garage door to prevent embers from blowing in. Store all your combustible and flammable materials and liquids well away from possible ignition sources.