



Home Assessment Checklist

This checklist serves as a guide that both the assessor and resident can use to determine problem areas around the home that can be retrofitted or restructured to mitigate damage when a wildfire strikes. Many of the items listed in the checklist are free or low cost modifications; however, some items may require more significant investment in order to increase a home's safety and survivability during a wildfire. A key for estimating costs is included for most items. Remember, if it's predictable, it's preventable!

Resident Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address of Home Being Assessed: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fire Department Name: _____

Phone: _____ Date of the Assessment: _____

Assessor(s): Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

KEY

\$	less than \$500
\$\$	\$500 - \$1,000
\$\$\$	\$1,000 - \$5,000
\$\$\$\$	more than \$5,000

Information and resources were utilized from but not endorsed by the following agencies:

- Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety
- International Association of Fire Chiefs, Ready, Set, Go! Program
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Ready.gov
- Center for Fire Research and Outreach, College of Natural Resources, University of California, Berkley

Inside the Home

- Y / N / NA** Residents have reviewed homeowner's insurance policy and prepared/updated a list of home's contents. **Free**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** All residents know where the gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them. **Free**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Heavy, fire-resistant drapes are installed throughout the home. **\$ – \$\$**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Newspapers and rubbish are regularly disposed of at an approved site. Local burning regulations are followed. **Free**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** A screen is installed in front of each fireplace or wood stove. **\$**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Fireplace and wood stove ashes (also applies to outside grill) are stored in a metal container and disposed of only when cold. **Free**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Residents created a family disaster plan and supply kit to be prepared for wildfire and potential evacuations. **Free**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Electric and gas stoves are in good operating condition. **Free – \$**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Security bars on windows and/or doors have an approved quick release mechanism. **Free – \$**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** A solid door with self-closing hinges is installed between living areas and the garage. **\$**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** The garage has a garage door to help protect combustible materials stored there. **\$\$**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Garage door perimeters are weather-sealed. **\$**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Gasoline, oily rags, and other flammable materials are stored in approved safety cans. Cans are placed in a safe location away from the base of buildings. **Free – \$**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Combustibles are kept away from ignition sources, such as water heaters. **Free**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Tools – such as a shovel, rake, bucket, and hoe – are available for emergencies. **\$**
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Fire extinguishers are on-hand (kitchen, garage, living room) and all residents are trained to use them. **\$**
Suggested Action: _____

Outside the Home

Defensible space is comprised of three zones. The selection and maintenance of vegetation and other combustible items in these zones will determine the adequacy of the defensible space.

ZONE 1: 0-5 feet around the perimeter of the home (\$ – \$\$)

Y / N / NA Hard surfaces are installed in this zone, such as a concrete walkway.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Noncombustible mulch products are used, such as rock.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA The lawn is well irrigated and only has low-growing, herbaceous plants.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Dead vegetation is removed and is continuously maintained.

Suggested Action: _____

ZONE 2: 5-30 feet around the perimeter of the home or to the property line (Free – \$\$\$)

Y / N / NA Islands or groupings of vegetation form a discontinuous path to make it difficult for the fire to burn directly to the home.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Dead plant material and tree branches are removed. Lower tree branches and shrubs positioned under the tree line are removed so that a surface fire cannot reach the tree crown.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Trees in this zone are maintained with a minimum horizontal spacing of 10 feet between crowns, with the distance increasing with slope.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Limbs and branches are pruned to a height of up to 15 feet. For shorter trees, pruning does not exceed $\frac{1}{3}$ of the tree height.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Propane tanks larger than 125 gallons (water capacity) are located at least 30 feet from the house. There are at least 10 feet of Zone 1 defensible space around the tank.

Suggested Action: _____

ZONE 3: 30-100 feet around the perimeter of the home or to the property line (Free – \$\$\$)

Y / N / NA Trees in this zone are maintained with a minimum horizontal spacing of 10 feet between crowns, with this distance increasing with slope.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Ladder fuels under taller trees are eliminated.

Suggested Action: _____



Y / N / NA A separation between groupings of shrubs and bushes exists and is continuously maintained.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Dead plant material is removed from all vegetation and is continuously maintained.

Suggested Action: _____

SLOPE (\$ – \$\$)

Y / N / NA The home is located on a steep slope; vegetation is managed beyond 100 feet.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA The home is located in the middle of a steep slope or at the top of a slope with minimal setback; vegetation management is increased in the five to 100 feet zones.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA A noncombustible wall is installed within 15 to 20 feet of the downslope side of the home, particularly if a deck overhangs the slope.

Suggested Action: _____

ROOF COVERING (\$\$\$\$)

Y / N / NA The roof is product-rated class A.

ROOF EDGES (Free – \$\$)

Y / N / NA The gutters are clean of all debris.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA A drip edge is installed at the roof edge to protect any exposed roof sheathing or fascia.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Debris that has accumulated at roof-to-wall intersections is removed; for example, near a dormer or a chimney.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Roof-to-wall intersections are sided with a noncombustible or ignition-resistant siding product.

Suggested Action: _____

EAVES (\$ – \$\$\$)

Y / N / NA Venting exists in the soffit material and between the soffit and attic space.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Any vents in the eaves are covered with 1/8-inch mesh, corrosion-resistant metal mesh screening.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA If the home does have open-eave framing, vents have closure devices made of 1/4-inch thin sheet metal; closures can be removed or opened after the wildfire threat has passed.

Suggested Action: _____

ROOF VENTS (Free – \$\$)

- Y / N / NA** Attic vents located on the roof are covered with 1/8-inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh screening.
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Attic vents located on the roof are free of debris.
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** 1/8-inch screening is attached to the roof sheathing under turbine vents. Inspect this area through the attic where the vent attaches to the roof.
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** The home has low-profile vents instead of dormer-type, through-roof vents.
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Ridge vents are rated for high-wind/rain exposure.
Suggested Action: _____

SKYLIGHTS (Free – \$\$)

- Y / N / NA** Accumulated debris is removed, vegetation is pruned, and overhanging limbs are trimmed near any skylight.
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** The home has tempered-glass skylights instead of dome-type skylights.
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Operable skylights are kept closed when a wildfire threatens.
Suggested Action: _____

CHIMNEY (Free – \$)

- Y / N / NA** Chimney and stovepipe outlets are covered with a non-flammable, corrosion-resistant screen of 1/4-inch wire mesh or smaller.
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Chimney is at least 10 feet away from any tree branches.
Suggested Action: _____

SIDING (Free – \$\$\$\$)

- Y / N / NA** Siding and corner trim of the home is made of a noncombustible or ignition-resistant material.
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** There is a six-inch clearance between the foundation and siding so the siding does not extend to the grade.
Suggested Action: _____
- Y / N / NA** Embers cannot accumulate or lodge anywhere on or around the siding of the home.
Suggested Action: _____



Y / N / NA Caulk is applied at trim-to-siding locations where it is missing or has failed.

Suggested Action: _____

WINDOWS (\$ – \$\$\$\$)

Y / N / NA All windows are dual or multi-pane, preferably with tempered glass, instead of single-pane.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Window screening is installed to improve performance against radiant heat exposures and to minimize the size and number of embers that could enter the home.

Suggested Action: _____

FOUNDATIONS (Free – \$\$\$)

Y / N / NA Open crawl space style foundations are enclosed with a noncombustible material, a process sometimes called “skirting.”

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Enclosed spaces are ventilated according to local building code requirements.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA All foundation vents have 1/8-inch corrosion-resistant metal screening that is in good condition.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Combustible materials stored in the crawl space or under the building are removed for a non-skirted, open crawl space style foundation.

Suggested Action: _____

EXTERIOR WALL VENTS (Free – \$\$)

Y / N / NA Closeable foundation vents are closed when a wildfire threatens but opened after the wildfire has passed.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Non-closeable vents have detached closure devices that can be easily accessed and attached during a wildfire and removed after the threat has passed.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Dryer vents and wall-mounted air openings for furnaces are screened with 1/8-inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Dryer vent is closed unless the dryer is running.

Suggested Action: _____

DECK (Free – \$\$\$)

Y / N / NA The deck is built of noncombustible materials.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA For decks that overhang a steep slope, defensible space is sufficient to reduce flame length and minimize flames spreading up the hill so it is less likely that flames will come in contact with the underside of the deck.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA A noncombustible wall is installed across the slope approximately 15 to 20 feet from the edge of the deck.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA For decks that overlook a wooded area, trees are thinned and ladder fuels removed to minimize the chance of fire moving into the upper portion of the trees.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Combustible materials are not stored on or under the deck and are placed at least 30 feet away from the home, such as grill tanks.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Debris is removed between deck board joints and other areas where debris can accumulate.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA There are no rotted or degraded deck boards or structural support members.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Combustible items like deck furniture and cushions can be moved inside or as far away from the house as possible when a wildfire threatens.
Suggested Action: _____

FENCE (\$ – \$\$)

Y / N / NA Fencing attached directly to the home is made of noncombustible material and at least five feet long.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA There is no climbing vegetation growing on the fence.
Suggested Action: _____

DETACHED STRUCTURES (Free – \$\$)

Y / N / NA Detached structures (i.e. sheds, playsets, trellises) are at least 30 feet from the home.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Every detached structure has defensible space.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Detached structures are made of noncombustible materials.
Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Vegetation is maintained on trellis-type structures and pruned regularly to remove dead undergrowth.
Suggested Action: _____

SUPPRESSION (Free – \$\$)

Y / N / NA Address marking is at least three inches tall or larger to ensure it is readable.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Driveway is at least 12 feet wide or more and unobstructed.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Gates are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Trees and shrubs overhanging the road are trimmed to a minimum of 13½ feet to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

Suggested Action: _____

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

[illegible]