



## Firewise: Things You Can Do Before a Wildfire Threatens Your Area

There are several steps you can take to protect your property during fire season. Pay heed to the following information suggested from the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) as well as their fact sheets at:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Firewise-USA-Resources/Research-Fact-Sheet-Series>

### In and Around Your Home

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks to prevent embers from igniting your home
- Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and in the zero to five feet around your home as required in the Oakmont Firewise Policy
  - ⇒ then start working on the rest of your property
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with 1/8" wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds
- Prune trees so the lowest branches are 10 feet from the ground as wildfire can spread to treetops
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained
  - ⇒ if it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity
  - ⇒ dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire
- Dispose of debris and lawn cuttings quickly to reduce fuel for fire
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 " to prevent sparks from entering the home
- Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screens with 1/8 " metal mesh to prevent ember entry
- If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch
- Learn more about how to protect your home and property at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

## Create an Emergency Plan

- Assemble an emergency supply kit and place it in a safe spot
  - ⇒ remember to include important documents, medications and personal identification
- Develop an emergency evacuation plan and practice it with everyone in your home
  - ⇒ know the ways out of your neighborhood  
<https://santarosa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/ZoneLookup/index.html?appid=ff3a4030335e416d99c293de29ef287e>
  - ⇒ plan and designate a meeting place
- Learn more about emergency preparedness planning on NFPA's emergency planning webpage: [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org)

## During a Wildfire in Your Area

- Stay aware of the latest news and updates from your local media and fire department
- Get your family, home and pets prepared to evacuate
- Place your emergency supply kit and other valuables in your vehicle
- Move patio or deck furniture, cushions, door mats and potted plants in wooden containers either indoors or as far away from the home, shed and garage as possible
- Close and protect your home's openings, including attic and basement doors and vents, windows, garage doors and pet doors to prevent embers from penetrating your home
- Connect garden hoses and fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs, or other large containers with water as Firefighters have been known to use the hoses to put out fires on rooftops
- Leave as early as possible, before you're told to evacuate
- Do not linger once evacuation orders have been given
  - ⇒ promptly leaving your home and neighborhood clears roads for firefighters to get equipment in place to fight the fire, and helps ensure residents' safety

## After a Wildfire has been Contained

- Continue to listen to news updates for information about the fire
- Return home only when authorities say it is safe