



MEDFORD BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

A Division of the Medford Fire Department

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Preparing Your Property for Wildfire Season

Preparing your property in advance of fire season is the best preventative measure to reduce the risk of losing your home in a wildfire. Working now to create a defensible space will help protect your property should a wildfire develop in your area. The following are things you can do now to prepare:

Your Home

- Replace your shake roof or treat it with fire retardant if possible. Falling embers can easily ignite a shake roof. Composition roofs are much more difficult to ignite.
- Remove leaves, pine needles, dead limbs, and pine cones from your roof and rain gutters
- Remove combustible debris from under the decks and porches
- If you are building a deck or porch, consider using non-combustible materials
- Use non-combustible patio furniture on porches or decks or relocate indoors when threatened
- Consider enclosing all eaves, as they trap heat
- Consider installing non-combustible siding or another fire-resistant exterior wall covering
- Cover house vent openings with max. ¼" corrosion resistant wire mesh
- Consider installing heavy fire-resistant drapes or exterior fire resistant shutters that can be closed over window openings
- Consider installing a lawn-type sprinkler system on the roof that can wet the roof when threatened

Around Your Home

- Safety Zone-30' around perimeter of your home
 - Keep weeds and grasses cut to a maximum of 2" high
 - Remove leaves, pine needles, dead limbs, pine cones and vines from the house
 - Plant fire resistant shrubs and trees around your property
 - Move shrubs away from the house
 - Maintain green landscaping by ensuring it is watered
 - Trim tree crowns a minimum of 10' horizontally from any the house
 - Trim trees to maintain a minimum 10' clearance to chimneys
 - Move large firewood piles and other piles of combustible materials away from your house (recommended relocating 100' and uphill from your house)
- Safety Zone-100' around perimeter of your home
 - Reduce or replace as much as the flammable vegetation as possible
 - Eliminate ladder fuels (vegetation below trees-shrubs, smaller trees, bushes, etc)
 - Thin a 15 foot space between tree crowns and remove limbs within 15' of the ground
 - Thin small trees, keep larger ones, and remove dead or fallen trees
 - If you live on a hill, you may need to extend this zone by several hundred feet
 - Maintain a defensible space around propane tanks

Source Information: For more information, visit our office or the following websites:

<http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=343>

<http://www.rvfpc.com/>

<http://www.firewise.org/>

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=7533>