

Wildfire Preparedness at Home

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In California, many rural properties fall within the wildland-urban intermix where low-density homes and ranch infrastructure exist within a matrix of pasture, agricultural lands, and wildlands. Many of the buildings and infrastructure in the ranch environment are older, constructed with wood, and are in close proximity to wildland fuels, namely grass, shrubs, and forest vegetation. Emergency response in the wildland setting is often delayed due to remoteness, accessibility, and the availability of firefighting resources. Reducing vegetative, woody, and man-made fuels is important for any rural resident or ranching operation.

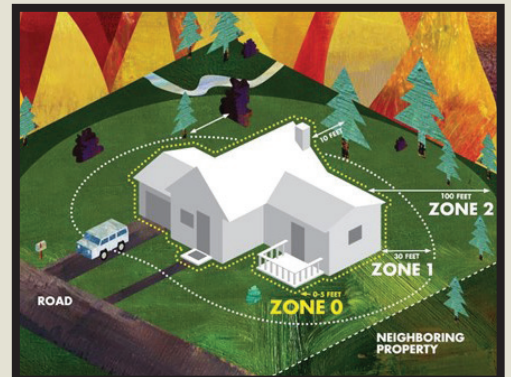
Zones	Width from home	General Theme & Practices
Immediate Zone	0 – 5 feet	<p>The “Non-combustible” area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardscaping is ideal for this zone; remove combustible vegetation. • Keep roof, gutters, and under deck free of leaf litter. • Trim dead branches overhanging roof or within 10 ft. of chimney. • Do not store firewood, furniture, or other combustibles against home. • Make sure fences or decks attached to the home are constructed with fire-resistant materials and/or designed to be resistant to ember ignition (e.g. fire resistant skirting around the underside of decks).
Intermediate Zone	5 - 30 feet	<p>Prevent fire spread or intensity close to the home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardscaping or well-watered low-growing vegetation or lawn. • Minimize use of flammable mulch material. • Landscape shrubs spaced away from home and trees. • Trees well-spaced/pruned to eliminate branch contact with home. • Prune branches lower than 6 to 10 feet in height. • Do not store firewood, lumber, propane tanks, RV/cars, and sheds.
Extended Zone	30 – 100 feet	<p>Modify fire behavior & severity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove dead vegetation and reduce density of live vegetation. • Keep grass and forbs under four inches high using mowing or grazing. • Trees and shrubs should be well spaced (horizontal and vertical) with limbs pruned to a minimum of 6 to 10 feet in height. Do not prune branches more than 30 -50% of the total tree height. • This zone should be extended if your home is on a steep slope.



Barn with combustible wood siding has low susceptibility to surface fire with litter and vegetation removed.

Wildland Resident Fire Preparation:

1. Create and maintain defensible space around homes
2. Harden homes and outbuildings to be more resistant to fire ignition
3. Develop an evacuation plan for people, pets and livestock



Source: CAL FIRE