



Fire Season 2019

Piedmont Fire Department

Wildfire Risk Reduction

Our community has a collective responsibility to ensure our homes and residents are ready for the upcoming fire season. Portions of Piedmont lie within CalFire's "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone," and vegetation management plays a critical role in reducing the risks and spread of fire. We encourage your proactive preparation for the upcoming fire season. Please take time to look around your property for hazards and improve your home's survivability during a wildfire. The Piedmont Fire Department has begun our annual vegetation management and inspection program during which homeowners will be asked to make specific improvements. You can also seek assistance in identifying specific concerns with your property. The following list includes items that commonly need attention.

CalFire

www.readyforwildfire.org
www.preventwildfireca.org

Get Ready Piedmont

www.ci.piedmont.ca.us/fire/docs/get-ready-piedmont.pdf

Emergency Alerts

www.acgov.org/emergencysite/

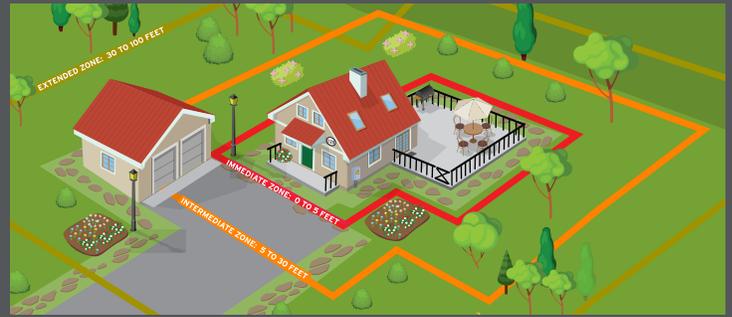
- Remove dead & dying plants, shrubs and tree material
- Trim shrubs and trees away from exterior walls and roofs
- Limb up trees to 6 feet off the ground
- Maintain clearance over driveways and roadways 15 feet up and 3 feet on both sides, for fire engine access
- Clear roofs and gutters of dead leaves and pine needles
- Remove dead branches that hang over your roof and keep all branches 10 feet from your chimney
- Cut dead grass/weeds to no higher than 3 inches

Abundant rainfall has led to above average amounts of grass and other vegetation this year. This increased vegetation will quickly turn brown as we transition to summer and can easily spread fire to shrubs, trees and your home. The Piedmont Fire Department is here to help assist and guide your efforts in making our community fire safe. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call us at (510) 420-3030 for guidance. Refer to the opposite side of this flyer for detailed guidelines from the National Fire Protection Association.



HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5 feet around the house; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30 feet; and the **Extended Zone**: 30 to 100 feet.

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and ensure mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house) are non-combustible options like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, for emergency vehicle access.

BE PREPARED

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay - don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK WHERE YOU LIVE.



FIREWISE USA™
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

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Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at [Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org)