



The 30-Minute Wildfire Walkaround

Take this guide outside and walk around your property. Check off the items you have already addressed. The unchecked boxes become your personal wildfire action list.



The First 5 Feet (Zone 0)

- ☐ Replace bark or wood mulch next to structures with gravel, pavers, or concrete.
- ☐ Notice where leaves and debris naturally collect. Embers may collect in those same places.
- ☐ Remove dead leaves, needles, weeds, grass, and other debris.
- ☐ Relocate combustible planters, decorations, and stored items.
- ☐ Store doormats, cushions, umbrellas, and wicker furniture when wildfire threatens.
- ☐ Move wood piles, lumber, cardboard, and spare building materials at least 30 feet away.
- ☐ Keep vehicles, boats, and RVs away from structures during wildfire threats.
- ☐ Move trash and recycling bins away from walls, eaves, and decks.
- ☐ Keep plants from touching siding, windows, vents, eaves, or decks.
- ☐ Create a 5-foot noncombustible section where a fence or gate is close or attached to the home.



Roof, Gutters & Eaves

- ☐ Clear leaves, needles, and debris from the roof and roof valleys.
- ☐ Clear debris from around and beneath solar panels, skylights, and other roof attachments.
- ☐ Repair loose or missing roof covering, flashing, and exposed gaps.
- ☐ Clean gutters; consider noncombustible gutter covers.
- ☐ Check roof-to-wall intersections for combustible siding or trapped debris.
- ☐ Make sure chimney and stovepipe outlets have an appropriate metal spark arrestor.
- ☐ Seal openings under roof tiles or shingles that could admit embers.
- ☐ Inspect eaves and soffits for gaps; remove furniture, stored items, and vegetation directly below.



Vents, Windows, Doors & Siding

- ☐ Install listed flame- and ember-resistant vents, or cover existing vents with corrosion-resistant metal mesh openings no larger than 1/8 inch.
- ☐ Clear leaves, nests, and other debris away from every vent.
- ☐ Check door, garage-door, and pet-door gaps for possible ember entry.
- ☐ Seal gaps around pipes, wires, vent blocking, and other exterior penetrations.
- ☐ Repair holes, rot, and gaps in exterior siding and trim.
- ☐ Repair window screens and make sure windows close completely.
- ☐ Keep plants and combustible items away from windows and exterior doors.
- ☐ Plan upgrades for vulnerable single-pane windows or combustible siding.

Note: Structural upgrades should be reviewed with a licensed contractor or local building official.



Decks, Porches, Fences & Storage

- ☐ Remove leaves and debris from decks, stairs, balconies, porches, and deck-to-wall joints.
- ☐ Remove stored combustible items from beneath decks, porches, and stairs.
- ☐ Keep the ground beneath and within 5 feet of decks free of vegetation and combustible mulch.
- ☐ Move cushions, planters, doormats, and decorations when wildfire threatens.
- ☐ Keep vines and climbing plants away from the house, and remove dead growth from fences, trellises, and arbors.
- ☐ Repair or replace damaged, rotted, or widely gapped deck boards.
- ☐ Keep the area around deck edges free of leaves, weeds, and combustible materials.
- ☐ Store firewood in Zone 2 (30-100 feet from structures) when possible.



Trees, Landscaping & Outbuildings

- ☐ Remove dead or dying plants, branches, and fallen debris.
- ☐ Reduce ladder fuels - shrubs, grasses, and low branches that could carry fire from the ground into tree canopies - especially near the house.
- ☐ Prune lower tree branches to at least 6 feet above the ground.
- ☐ Separate shrubs from tree canopies: the open space above a shrub should be at least 3 times the shrub's height. Example: a 3-foot shrub needs 9 feet of open space above it.
- ☐ Increase spacing between plants and trees on steeper slopes; use CAL FIRE's plant spacing guidance:
[ReadyForWildfire.org/defensible-space](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/defensible-space)
- ☐ Keep branches at least 10 feet from chimneys and stovepipes.
- ☐ Mow annual grass to no more than 4 inches where required.
- ☐ Keep plants from touching siding, windows, eaves, vents, or decks - especially within the first 5 feet.
- ☐ Maintain 10 feet of bare-soil clearance around propane tanks, plus another 10 feet without flammable vegetation.
- ☐ Give sheds and outbuildings their own ember-resistant zone.



Access, Garage & Utilities

- ☐ Make address numbers large, contrasting, and clearly visible from the road.
- ☐ Keep your driveway or private access lane clear of vegetation that could obstruct or endanger emergency vehicles.
- ☐ Keep turnarounds, hydrants, and other water-access points clear.
- ☐ Trim overhead branches to preserve emergency-vehicle clearance.
- ☐ Check garage-door weather stripping and the manual release or battery backup.
- ☐ Make sure gates open fully and can operate during a power outage.
- ☐ Keep garden hoses long enough to reach all sides of the home.
- ☐ Keep a fire extinguisher and basic tools where adults can reach them.

Remember: Embers and small flames are primary ways homes ignite. As you walk, ask: If embers landed here, what could ignite - or where could they get inside?