

Beverly Hills Fire Department Presents:

Reduce Home Vulnerability During Wildfires



A wildfire can happen at any moment and with nearly 2,000 homes in Beverly Hills located in the High Severity Zone Area, the BHFD would like to provide additional information that can help save your home.

Homes ignite in one of three ways: Embers/firebrands (glowing fragment from fire / flames, ash), radiant heat exposure (heat waves generated by flames) or direct flame contact (flame/fire touching material).

Protecting your home from wildfire damage requires limiting the amount of fuel that could bring flames and embers dangerously close to any building on the property. Here are some additional recommendations to help reduce exposure:

- Remove <u>ALL</u> dead / dry vegetation from your property.
- Provide additional clearances for residences located on slopes.
- Provide a defensible space from house to vegetation (100 feet minimum)
- Avoid wood piles / debris near your home.
- Remove vegetation and or debris (pine needles, leaves, twigs, etc.) from your roof, gutters, awnings on a regular basis.
- Remove combustible items underneath your deck, patio, porch, and breezeways.
- Avoid attaching combustible fences to structures and keep clear from debris.
- Avoid placement of combustible mulch near a fence or home.
- Avoid planting High Hazard Plants: Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus, Fir, Juniper, Pampas Grass, Pine, Bamboo. (choose landscaping plants that are fire-resistant)



• Verify existing roof coverings and sidings meet fire rating requirements per BHMC and California Building Code.

• Cover vents in attic and crawl spaces (foundation) with 1/8inch metal mesh screens, which are the most likely entry points for hot embers.

*For additional clearance requirements, please refer to "Brush Clearance Program Information Brochure"

Facts:

Remember that wind-driven embers, not flames from the wildfire, are the biggest threat to residential properties during a wildfire. Once these embers land on and ignite combustible materials, the potential for the wildfire to spread is much greater.



Before & After Picture of a community destroyed by wind driven wildfires. (2017 Santa Rosa)

