



PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR A WILDFIRE

Whether caused by people or naturally occurring, wildfires can happen anywhere and can destroy your home and property.

The Idaho Department of Insurance and Idaho State Fire Marshal offer these tips to protect yourself and your property, and details steps to take now so that you can act quickly when you or your home are in danger.

Manage Vegetation

REMOVE dead vegetation (pine needles, leaves and other flammable materials) especially within the first 5 feet of your home. This includes roof lines, gutters, decks, porches, patios along fence lines. Falling embers will have nothing to burn.



PRUNE any shrubs or tree branches that come within 5 feet to the house and attachments, as well as any overhanging branches.

TRIM trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet above the ground to help reduce the chance of fire getting into the crowns of the trees.

DISPOSE of branches, weeds, leaves, pine needles and grass clippings that you have cut to reduce fuel for fire.

WATER your lawn and keep maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity.

Safeguard Your Home

SCREEN & SEAL Wind-borne embers can get into homes easily through vents and other openings and burn the home from the inside out. Walk around your home to see what openings you can screen or temporarily seal up.



INSTALL smoke detectors and fire extinguishers inside your home. Check that they are working properly at least once per year.

REPLACE landscaping with fire-resistant plants and mulch.

INSPECT shingles or roof tiles and repair/replace as needed. Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection.

STORE AWAY furniture cushions, potted plants and other decorations from decks, porches and patios. These items can catch embers and help ignite your home if left outside.

CONSIDER USING fire-resistant building products when remodeling or building a new home. A new home built to wildfire-resistant codes can be constructed for roughly the same cost as a typical home.

Be Prepared

REVIEW your property policy with your agent. Familiarize yourself with the coverage.

CREATE a home inventory list. Video or photograph important belongings.



STORE important documents (policy numbers, phone numbers, home inventory list, etc.) in a secure location.

MAKE an emergency plan. Learn and practice evacuation routes. Make a list of nearby shelters. Have an emergency contact who lives out of the area so you can confirm that you are safe, or if you get separated from your family and lose communication.

PACK a go-bag in case of evacuation. The bag should include essential medications, important documents, and a change of clothes.

HELP your neighbor.



Resources

doi.idaho.gov | 208-334-4319

doi.idaho.gov/state-fire-marshal | 208-334-4370

firewise.org

disastersafety.org

ready.gov