

# Practice “fire-distancing” to protect your home from wildfire

Millions of homes across the country are at high or extreme risk of wildfire losses. To protect your home, start by building a defensible space that cuts off a fire’s fuel and makes it harder for flying embers to reach the structure. Here are a few actions you can take:



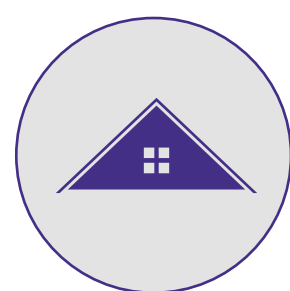
## Make it a fuel-free zone

Start by removing all combustible vegetation, such as mulch, leaves and pine needles, as well as dead or dying trees, shrubs, weeds, grasses and ground cover.



## Prune tree branches

Tree limbs should be pruned at least 10 feet from the chimney and stove pipes – and away from the roof in general. Beware of ladder fuels, or any vegetation that can carry a fire from the surface or low-growing plants to taller plants.



## Reduce fire ignitions in gutters

Wire mesh is your friend. It covers exterior attic vents and gables and repels flying embers. Cover the gutter, too, to keep out dry leaves and pine needles. You don’t want a ring of fuel sitting around the entire roof.



## Clear areas below decks and porches

Keep the weeds beneath the deck trimmed low, and resist the convenience of storing your mower, firewood, patio cushions, recycling, and trash cans under it.



## Make repairs wisely

When it’s time to replace the roof, install tile or metal instead of asphalt, and replace wood siding with brick or stucco.

No amount of preparation can guarantee protection from a raging wildfire, but taking actions like these can mitigate your risk.

For more information, and resources visit: [amig.com](http://amig.com)



Sources: [www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/fire-resistant-landscaping/](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/fire-resistant-landscaping/), [www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire](http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire), [jacksoncounty.org/emergency/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/API/Entries/Download?Command=Core\\_Download&EntryId=40983&language=en-US&PortalId=13&TabId=1549](http://jacksoncounty.org/emergency/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/API/Entries/Download?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=40983&language=en-US&PortalId=13&TabId=1549)

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