

FIRE WISE EXHIBIT



Fire danger is a reality in Southern California. How you plan and maintain your property plays a big role in how safe your home can be during a fire. It begins with your home but includes your entire property. Although it's pretty much impossible to be fire *proof*, if you experience a fire in your neighborhood you improve your outcome by using fire resistance strategies. Materials used on and in your home make a big difference. When combined with other safety practices, like fire abatement, up-to-date maintenance, and awareness of fire danger levels, you are better armed for battle. This miniature mock-up of a typical home in San Diego County demonstrates several strategies for protecting your home and landscape from fire and aligns with guidelines from our own CalFire.

Safety First!



It's not shown in the display, but make sure you have a fire plan for your home and family. Plan where to go if evacuated, and where to meet up with the rest of your family if not all home together. It's a good idea to have some needed items prepared, packed, and easy to get to, or even keep them in the car so you have them ready wherever you are. Practice evacuating a few times with all members of your home, and you'll be ready. Now let's discuss how to protect your home. First, make sure you address is clearly visible so emergency vehicles to find you and your home!

FIRE WISE DISPLAY (continued)



House Safety: Fire resistant exteriors decrease the chance of flying embers igniting the walls. The same goes for your roof. A lot of materials may look nice, unless they catch on fire. Many roofing materials resist fire and keep sparks from consuming your roof. The eaves also should be boxed and screened to keep embers out of your attic. Also, clean debris from the gutters regularly since a lot of it is flammable. Update your windows to dual paned, tempered glass if you haven't already. It not only slows fire from entering the interior, but also saves on utilities and will keep you more comfortable year-round.



Inner Defensible Space: There are two zones surrounding your home. The first one is within 50 feet of the house itself. That's where most of your outdoor livable space is. The more water wise plants you have, the more fire resistant your yard will naturally be, and the safer your home will be too. Regardless of the types of plants in your inner defensible space, you can increase the level of fire protection by maintaining the landscaping and irrigation. That includes controlling erosion and limiting water runoff, too. Visit our Erosion Control or Water Wise Front Yard Exhibits for more details.



Outer Defensible Space: Now that you've used the right materials for your house and maintain your inner defensible space, the last thing to do is to care for the outer defensible space. This is the area from 50'-100' away from the house that makes it easier for fire fighters to defend your home. You want to reduce materials that are dry and combustible. So, in this space make sure there is plenty of separation between plants, and keep those weeds and dry brush down. Cut off dead branches from trees and remove whole dead trees. That's called fire abatement and in this case, less is more!