HELPFUL PRODUCTS

**Block and Decker “Alligator Chainsaw”** [Order from Google]
Lightweight design provides easy maneuverability and comfortable operation. Dual hand switches must activate simultaneously to begin cutting. Protects against accidental starting.

**Ryobi -- 8 in. 5-Amp Electric Lopper**
Pruning and trimming of branches and limbs up to 4 in. in diameter

**1/8” Galvanized Mesh:** Cover openings with 1/8” metal screens to block firebrands and embers from collecting under the home or deck. ‘Box’ (close off) eves, fascias, soffets, and vents, or enclose them with metal screens.

**Fire Resistant Foam Spray:** For closing off attic daylight cracks & ground vents where companies run their cables through the screens.

**Fire Resistant High Density Fiber Cement Board**
Fiber cement board is noncombustible, fireproof, and can be used in a variety of fire-rated designs. It has an A1 certificate and can resist direct fire for 120 minutes. It masquerades as wood or masonry, wears like concrete, and survives even the harshest elements. Common noncombustible materials include three-coat stucco, metal siding, and fiber cement siding.

**Flame/Ember Resistant Vents**
Vents on most homes create openings for flying embers. Ember entry through eave vents results in the ignition of combustible materials in the attic, and results in a building burning from the inside out. The importance of ember and flame entry into vents during wildfires has resulted in the development of commercially-available vents designed to resist the intrusion of embers and flames, and recommendations for new or retrofit homes to protect existing openings.

**Gutter Guards**
LeafGuard may be more expensive, but the Grass Valley Company will service their product. Micro-mesh gutter guards will accumulate less debris inside a gutter, is easier to clean, and is affordable. Other self-installation wire grid products have a tendency to collect debris and shed water over the gutter because wind cannot easily blow debris off of it. Most gutter systems still need to be serviced twice a year. Remove any gutters made of plastic, which melts and holds heat.

**PHOS-CHEK® Long-Term Fire Retardant**
Safe for pets. The product is designed to be a preventative pre-treatment by spraying dry grasses, brush, wood, or other cellulose material around your home prior to evacuation. It is a colorless and long-term fire retardant that is easily mixed with 5 gallons of water. Phos-check can be applied anytime up to hours of a wildfire reaching your home by using any garden or agricultural sprayer. It will remain effective until washed away by ½ inch of rain. Sold at True Value hardware in Pollock Pines. Order through [https://phos-chekhomedefense.com/](https://phos-chekhomedefense.com/)

**Ember Resistant Residence**
The biggest threat to property comes not from flames and burning brush but from flying embers. Even if the flames at a fire’s edge never reach your home, embers can be carried a mile or more in front of a wildfire and find their way into a crack or eave of your home, setting the whole place ablaze. Residents must focus on a defense strategy that starts from the home and moves outward, including some fixes that won’t necessarily break the bank. Details matter in protecting homes from firebrands. Fire-resistant construction materials and well-maintained landscaping can prevent fires from spreading.

[Image of Retrofit Dormers with Cement Siding]

Ember-resistant vents are addressed in Chapter 7A of the CA Building Code. [https://www.firesafemarin.org/home-hardening/vents](https://www.firesafemarin.org/home-hardening/vents)

[Image of The LeafGuard® gutter system and Micro-mesh systems]

Fire Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness