Creating Defensible Space to Help Survive a Wildfire Ember Storm

DURING AN EMBER STORM, flying embers can ignite anything combustible in their path, including your home and anything near it, such as plants or patio furniture.

Defensible homes should have nothing ignitable within the first 5 feet, and reduced fuels out to 100 feet or the property line (whichever is closer).

Creating and maintaining defensible space around a house—while hardening the home against wind- or heat-driven embers, flames, and heat—will increase the likelihood that it survives a wildfire. Defensible space also helps firefighters be safer while protecting property.

If a home is difficult to find, is surrounded by dense vegetation, or doesn’t provide enough safe space for firefighters to work, it may be too dangerous to attempt to save.

This brochure is a guide to help you create your defensible space and find additional information and resources.