Is Your Home Hardened to Survive a Wildfire Ember Storm?

FIRE HARDENED means your home is prepared for wildfire and an ember storm. It does not mean fireproof. Home hardening addresses the most vulnerable components of your house with building materials and installation techniques that increase resistance to heat, flames, and embers that accompany most wildfires.

Learning to live with wildfire includes taking steps to reduce the risk to homes. Homes built to modern (2008 or later) building codes, with an adjacent and well-maintained defensible space, have a much better chance of surviving wildfire. Maintenance and upgrades to older homes can significantly improve the chance of your home surviving a fire.

Part of learning to live with wildfire is understanding that we have some control in how we prepare for and address this hazard, and how we manage fire in our individual communities.

This brochure can help you better understand options for hardening your home and where to find more information.

CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL / FireSafeCouncil.org
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.

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