

HARDENING YOUR HOME

What can I do to harden my home?

■ **ROOFS:** The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Due to its large horizontal surface, embers land and ignite combustible materials and debris such as leaves and needles. Clean roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles and rain gutters on a regular basis. Upgrading to ignition resistant material such as composition, metal or tile.

■ **EAVES:** Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite exposed wood or other combustible material. 'Boxed-in' or soffited eaves provide better protection.

■ **VENTS:** Embers can enter the attic or other concealed spaces through vents and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents. All vent openings should be covered with 1/8 to 1/4 inch metal mesh.

■ **WALLS:** Combustible siding or other combustible or overlapping materials provide surfaces or crevices for embers to nestle and ignite. Build or remodel with ignition resistant building materials such as stucco, treated wood or other approved materials.

■ **WINDOWS AND DOORS:** Embers can enter through open windows and gaps in doors, including garage doors. Plants or combustible storage near windows can ignite from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames. Install dual-paned with one pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire.

■ **BALCONIES AND DECKS:** Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces or the undersides of decks and balconies, ignite the material and enter the home through walls or windows. Remove all combustible items near or around your deck or balcony.

Reasons to properly display your address:

- Protection in case of an Emergency.
- Identification for Utility Services.
- Identification for Mail Services.
- It's the LAW!



For more information on displaying your address or wild fire safety please go to www.slocity.org



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WILDLAND FIRE PREPAREDNESS

A Hardened Home



How will you prepare?

What is a hardened Home?

Construction materials and the quality of the defensible space surrounding the home are what gives the best chance to survive a wildland fire. Embers from a wildland fire can find the weak link in your home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand due to a small, overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factors.



HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST



- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screen with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn.
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

HOW CAN I HELP THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GAIN ACCESS TO MY HOME?

Driveways and Access Roads: Driveways should be designed to allow fire and emergency vehicles and equipment to reach your house. Access roads should have a minimum 10-foot clearance on either side of the traveled section of the roadway and should allow for two-way traffic, a minimum of 16 feet wide. Ensure that all gate openings are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment. You should trim all trees and shrubs that overhang the road, to a minimum of 14 feet, to allow emergency vehicles access.

Turnouts and turnarounds: Create turnouts in the driveway that will allow vehicles and fire engines to pass each other safely. Homes with long driveways or dead end roads should have a turnaround with atleast a 40-foot radius or suitable for a three point turn.



Displaying your address properly: Your numbers should be greater than 5 inches. Use colors that contrast and can be easily seen from the street. If you have a long driveway or the driveway leads to more than one address, post all numbers at the end of the driveway and also post the correct number on each building.