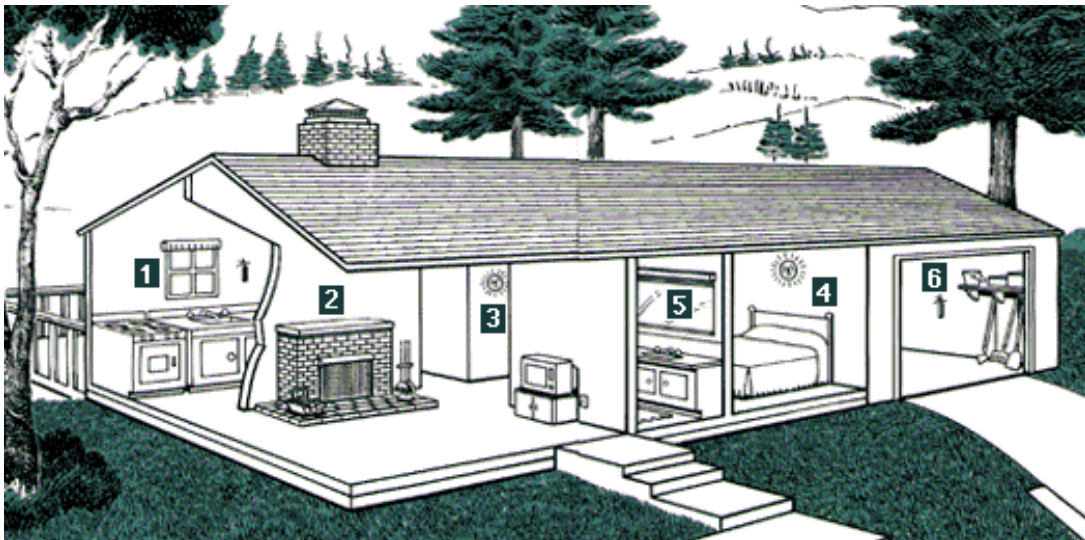




HOMEOWNERS' "INSIDE AND OUT" WILDFIRE CHECKLIST

Tom DeGomez and Chris Jones



INTERIOR

1. Kitchen

- A fully charged fire extinguisher is kept in the kitchen.
- Electric and gas stoves are in good operating condition.
- Baking soda is kept handy to extinguish stove-top grease fires.
- Handles of pots and pans containing hot liquids are kept away from the front of the stove.
- Flammable curtains and towels are kept away from burners on the stove.
- Matches and lighters are stored out of the reach of children.
- Flammable liquids are properly stored in approved containers and away from ignition sources such as pilot lights.

2. Living Room

- A screen is installed on the fireplace.
- Fireplace and barbeque ashes are stored in a non-combustible container and disposed of only when cold.
- Fireplace chimneys and flues are cleaned at least once a year.

3. Hallway

- Smoke detectors are installed between living and sleeping areas.
- Smoke detectors are tested monthly and batteries replaced twice a year.
- All electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads.
- Child safety plugs (caps) are inserted on electrical outlets.
- Electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections or are frayed have been repaired or replaced.

4. Bedroom

- Smoke detectors are installed in the bedrooms.
- Electric blankets and other electric appliances are turned off or unplugged when not in use.
- Residents do not smoke in bed.

5. Bathroom

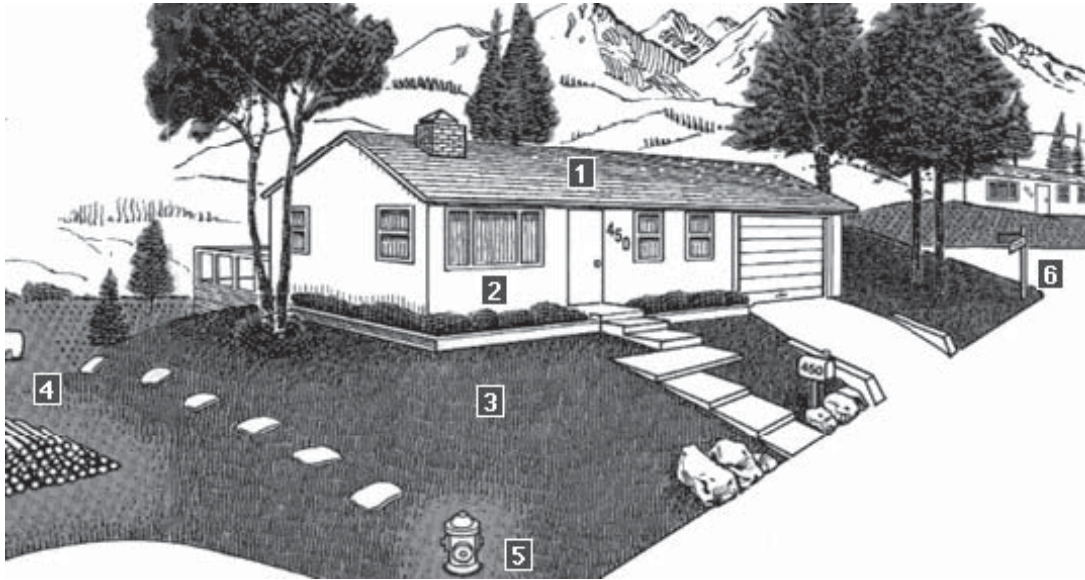
- Hot appliances such as curling irons and electric irons are disconnected when not in use and stored in a safe location until cool.
- Flammable items such as towels are kept away from wall and floor heaters.

6. Garage

- A fully charged fire extinguisher is mounted in the garage.
- Shovel, hoe, rake, and buckets are readily available for use in a wildfire emergency.
- A solid door with self-closing hinges is installed between living areas and the garage.
- A metal container is available for disposing of oily rags.
- All combustibles are stored away from ignition sources such as water heaters.
- All electrical tools and appliances are disconnected when not in use.
- Hot tools such as glue guns and soldering irons are allowed to cool before storing.

7. Disaster Preparedness

- A three-day supply of food is available that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking.
- A three-day supply of drinking water is available.
- A portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, portable lanterns and batteries are kept handy.
- A First Aid kit is readily available and fully stocked.
- A list of valuables has been made and valuables are stored together for easy access and removal.
- A portable generator is kept on hand to supply power to lights and cooking appliances.
- A contingency plan has been made to enable family members to contact each other.
- All family members are trained and ready to protect themselves with STOP, DROP AND ROLL in the event their clothing catches on fire.



EXTERIOR

1. Roof

- Tree branches touching or overhanging the roof have been removed.
- Tree branches within 10 feet of the chimney have been removed.
- All dead leaves and needles have been cleaned from the roof and gutters.
- Roof meets the Uniform Building Code fire resistance classification of "Class B" or better.
- Chimney outlet and stovepipe covered with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh.

2. Construction

- Home placement is away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge.
- Home placement is at least 30 feet from the property line.
- House is constructed with fire resistive building materials.
- Underside of balconies and above ground decks are enclosed with fire resistive materials.
- Size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation are limited.
- Windows are dual-paned or triple-paned glass construction.

3. Landscape

- A "defensible space" has been created by modifying flammable vegetation to a distance of 75 to 125 feet around all structures.
- On steep slopes, flammable vegetation has been modified out to a distance of 100 feet or more.
- Trees and shrubs are at least 10 feet apart.
- Branches of remaining trees are pruned 8-10 feet above ground fuel.
- Landscape plants are resistive to fire and burning.
- The number of trees in heavily wooded areas is reduced by thinning.
- All plants are maintained regularly by removing dead branches, leaves and needles.

4. Yard

- Woodpiles are stacked at least 30 feet from all structures and flammable vegetation is cleared away within 10 feet of woodpiles.
- LPG tanks (butane and propane) are located at least 30 feet from any structure, on the same elevation as the home, and surrounded with 10 feet of clearance.
- All construction materials and debris are removed from the yard.
- You have checked to see if open burning is allowed in your area; if so, you have obtained a burning permit.

5. Emergency Water Supply

- An emergency water supply is established and maintained that meets fire department standards.
- All emergency water sources are clearly marked and visible.
- Firefighter access is readily available to your closest emergency water source.
- If you have a water well, an emergency generator is available to operate the pump in the event of a power failure.

6. Access

- At least two exit routes from your neighborhood are identified.
- Roads allow two-way traffic.
- Road width, grade and curves are designed to allow access for large emergency vehicles.
- Driveways are constructed to allow large emergency equipment to reach your house.
- Bridges are designed to carry heavy emergency vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks.
- Road signs are clearly posted to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations.
- Dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas wide enough for emergency vehicles.
- Turnouts are constructed along one-way roads.
- Flammable vegetation is cleared at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways.
- Overhanging tree branches above roads and driveways are removed.
- Fire barriers, such as greenbelts, parks, golf courses and athletic fields are in place.
- Streets are named or numbered, and signs are visibly posted at each street intersection.
- House address is readily visible and readable at the beginning of the driveway, or on the house if easily visible from the road.

7. Outside

- An emergency outside meeting place has been designated.
- Emergency exit drills are practiced regularly.
- Electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code.

This checklist is based on and draws heavily from a publication produced by the Colorado State Forest Service. FIREWISE is a multi-agency program that encourages the development of defensible space and the prevention of catastrophic wildfire.



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This information has been reviewed by University faculty.
cals.arizona.edu/pubs/natresources/az1288.pdf

Originally published: 2002

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kirk A. Astroth, Interim Director, Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture Life Sciences, The University of Arizona.

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