



**Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Public Information / Education Office
4410 Cathedral Oaks Rd.
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93110**

Fire & Life Safety Information *“Wildland Safety”*

- Have a pre-plan.
- Build or re-roof your home with fire resistant roofing materials.
- Clear pine needles, leaves or other debris from your roof and gutters.
- Remove any dead branches that hang over your roof.
- Remove any tree branches within 10 feet of your chimney.
- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a non flammable screen of ½ inch or smaller mesh.
- Build or re-model your home with fire resistant materials: brick or stucco.
- Enclose the underside of balconies and ground decks with fire resistant materials.
- Limit the number of windows that face large areas of vegetation. Install double or triple-paned windows to reduce the potential of breakage in a fire.
- When a brush fire threatens, place all ladders against the street side of your home so anyone who stops to help can see them.
- Create “defensible space” by removing all dry grass, brush, and dead leaves at least 100 feet from you home. Use ornamental landscaping plants that are fire resistant.
- Trees can be pruned to keep the ground fires from spreading to the tree tops by removing all lower branches within 6 feet of the ground, and higher up if there is any burnable vegetation underneath of the tree.
- Stack firewood and scrap wood piles at least 30 feet away from structures and clear flammable vegetation that is within 10 feet of the wood piles.
- Place LPG tanks (butane and Propane) away from any combustibles.
- Turn off gas at the meter or turn off the LPG tank before you evacuate.
- Defensible space must be regularly maintained to be effective.
- Clearly mark all emergency water sources and maintain easy firefighter access .
- If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during power failure.
- **You should know all exit routes from you neighborhood in case of an emergency Evacuation.**
- Make sure that any road leading up to your house allows two-way traffic, that it is not too steep

and does not have curves too sharp to accommodate large emergency vehicles.

- Driveways and bridges must be strong enough to carry heavy emergency vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks.
- Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas that are wide enough for emergency vehicles.
- Your house address and street name should be printed in numbers and letters that are at least four inches tall, on a contrasting color background. They should be visible from all directions of travel.
- If your house is set back from your street or road, post your address at the entrance of your driveway.
- Store at least a three-day supply of drinking water and food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking. Include food and water for any pet as well.
- Store first aid supplies, portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, portable lanterns and batteries.
- Prepare a list of valuables to take with you in case of evacuation. If possible, store these valuables together to save time.
- Pre-plan all escape routes from your home and neighborhood. Designate an emergency meeting place for the reunion of your family members in separate vehicles and establish a contact point to communicate with concerned relatives.
- Practice your home escape plan regularly.
- Nail plywood covers over windows and vents when a brush fire threatens your home.
- Move the lawn furniture indoors and keep combustible furniture away from the windows.
- Turn on the lights in the house, porch, garage and yard so firefighters can find your home.
- Park your car in the garage facing out for a quick get-away if needed.
- Leave keys in the ignition.
- Close all house doors, windows and garage door and leave them unlocked.
- Remove light weight curtains and close heavy drapes and blinds before leaving the home.
- If you lack a garage space, park vehicles in the direction of escape.
- Do not forget the family pets.
- Close all windows so that airborne sparks and embers cannot enter and ignite the upholstery of the vehicle.