



## **Big Bear Fire Authority**

### **Educational Reference Guide**

#### **The Ignition of Your Structure Could Occur from One or More of The Following Sources:**

1. **Big Flames** - (crown fire or intense surface fire) Large flames burning in the tops of tree canopies. These large flames radiate heat that can ignite wood walls from up to 100' away. Other types of large flames can come from detached buildings, burning wood piles, and ignited vehicles.
2. **Small Flames** - (surface fire) Typically, small flames that burn through grass and forest litter. They can reach houses or attachments if there's no interruption in the chain of fuel sources. Flames touching a house or wood fence can cause them to ignite.
3. **Firebrands** - (embers) Burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than 10 miles through the wind, that can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris and other objects. They can also penetrate and smolder in woodpiles, patio/deck items, vents and openings, roofs and debris filled gutters. Most home losses are from embers, not from direct contact with flames.

#### **Think About the Location and Environment of the Home and How That Influences Vulnerability to Wildfire:**

- It is extremely important to work collaboratively with neighbors to reduce your shared risk.
- Dense neighborhoods with homes close together have an increased risk of building-to-building ignition because of the radiant heat and potential flames that are generated if a neighbor's home burns. Prioritize actions to reduce the possibility of homes igniting each other. Intensify defensible space by thinning trees and shrubs between homes.

# Wildfire Defensible Space Compliance Checklist

## Within 0-100 ft. From All Aspects of All Structures and/or Up to Your Property Line



- Abate pine needles on roofing, in gutters, under and on decking, stairs, landings, and parking pads.
- Prune branches and limbs that are within 10 ft. of a chimney opening, stovepipe, outlet, or that overhang a structure within 10 ft. vertical and horizontal distance from the roof line.
- Within 0-5 ft. of a structure:** abate pine needles, forest litter, dead vegetation, and mulches.
- Within 0-15 ft. of a structure:** abate high energy release vegetation. This includes hydrants, telephone poles, fencing, and propane tanks.
- Entire property:** remove dead, dying, and hazardous trees & cut weeds and grasses below 4 in. Also abate downed limbs, branches, and pine cone accumulations.
- Entire property:** abate pine needles and forest litter. Remove down to 2 in. in depth & retain up to 2 in. of forest litter for soil health and erosion control.
- Entire property:** prune lower 25% of shrubbery vegetation. Remove all dead wood from all aspects of shrubs.
- Entire property:** high energy release vegetation, should be spaced apart by doubling the size of the height of the tallest shrub. (Example: If you have a 6 ft. shrub high energy release vegetation should be spaced out 12 ft.)
- Entire property:** remove all native trees up to 6 in. in diameter that stand within 8 ft. of another tree (excluding deciduous trees).
- Entire property:** trees taller than 45 ft. - prune lower limbs and branches 12 ft. to 15 ft. up from ground level or no more than 25% of total height of tree. Prune all dead limbs and branches (excluding deciduous trees).
- Entire property:** trees less than 45 ft. in height, prune lower 6 ft. limbs and branches up from ground level or no more than 25% of total height of tree. Prune all dead limbs and branches (excluding deciduous trees).
- Entire property:** remove combustible hazards, tires, lumber, junk, & trash.
- Within 20 ft. of roadways, easements, and driveways:** abate all high energy release vegetation.
- Driveway access:** at least 14 ft. vertical clearance from overhanging vegetation.
- Firewood:** firewood shall be neatly stacked and stored in a weather resistant structure and/or covered with a fire-resistant tarp.

## Types of High Energy Release Vegetation



Spanish Broom



Manzanita



Mountain Mahogany



Rabbit Brush



Sage



Service Berry



Arborvitae



Rosemary



Leyland Cypress



Junipers

## Firewise Structure Hardening

### Recommendations

- Roofing Material - If the roof consists of Class B or C roofing materials, determine if the underlayment in the assembly provides Class A protection, if not replace to Class A protection
- Plastic Skylight - Upgrade to tempered glass skylight as plastic skylights may melt and burn when exposed to heat from a wildfire
- Chimney Spark Arrestor - Chimneys serving outdoor appliances or fireplaces shall be equipped with a spark arrester
- Gutters - Clean, repair, install gutter guards, & replace non-metal gutters
- Siding - Repair open gaps and crevices, repaint untreated materials, & replace siding with a noncombustible product
- Vents - Install 1/8" metal screening on all vents including attic, crawlspace, soffits and turbine vents
- Windows / Sliding Glass Doors - Replace with multi paned tempered glass
- Doors - Including crawlspace, garage and utility doors. Weather tight upgrades are recommended.
- Low Profile Decking - Place a 1/8" metal screen between decking and ground & keep the area under decking free of forest litter & debris
- Car Ports - Remove all flammable items stored in car ports
- Pet Access Doors - Should be hardcover
- Locked Gates - Install Knox locks for fire department access
- Wood Fencing Attached to Structure - Replace wood fencing within 10' of structure with non-combustible type fencing

### Contacts

- **Big Bear Fire Department**  
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(909) 866-7566
- **Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council/ Chipping Program**  
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(866) 923-3473
- **Bear Valley Electric**  
<https://www.bvesinc.com>  
1 (800) 808-2837
- **Treesaregood.org**
  - **Cal Fire**

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfire-public-education>