



READY, SET, GO!

Understanding Wildland Fire and Preparedness in San Diego County

Working with
North County Fire Protection
District

Understanding the Threat of Wildland Fire

The Threat of Wildland Fire in Our Area?

- Gavilan Fire (February 10, 2002)*
- Cedar Fire (October, 2003)*
- Paradise Fire (October, 2003)*
- Rice Fire (October 22, 2007)*
- Cocos, Highway Fire (May 2014)*



Understanding the Threat of Wildland Fire

- ***What Drives Wildland Fires in Your Area?***
 - ***California's Native Plants are among the most Flammable in the World***
 - ***Topography***
 - ***Hot, dry Santa Anna Winds***
 - ***Year-round Fire Season***



2012 Wildland Fire Frequency Mapping



The Ready, Set, Go! Program (RSG)

- ***RSG Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan***
 - ***Family and Property Preparation***

The Goal is to learn how to improve your homes resistance to wildfires and prepare your family to leave EARLY in a safe manner.



National Level Response

- Creating Communities Adapted to the Fire Threat



- Collaborative efforts at the community level
- RSG and is a national tool for this effort
- Learn more at www.iafc.org/FAC and www.FireAdapted.org



Ready : Prepare your home and family

- **Home: Creating Defensible Space and Hardening the structure**
- **Family: Create a Family Disaster Plan**
ReadySandiego.org
Alert San Diego



Wildland Fire Environment



SD Counties Damage assessment team

2007 Rice Fire in Fallbrook:

The two main reasons homes were lost:

1. Lack of Defensible Space

(Homes overgrown with flammable vegetation)

2. Lack of Ignition Resistant Construction

(Homes built to burn)



Create Defensible Space

Protecting your home from wildfire damage requires limiting the amount of fuel that could bring flames and embers dangerously close to your property.

“fuel that could catch embers and ignite your property”



Be Ember Aware

- **Embers are the most common cause of home ignition.**
- **2 of 3 homes destroyed during 2007 Witch Creek Fire were ignited by wind driven embers**
- **A home within one mile of a natural area is at risk of flying embers.**



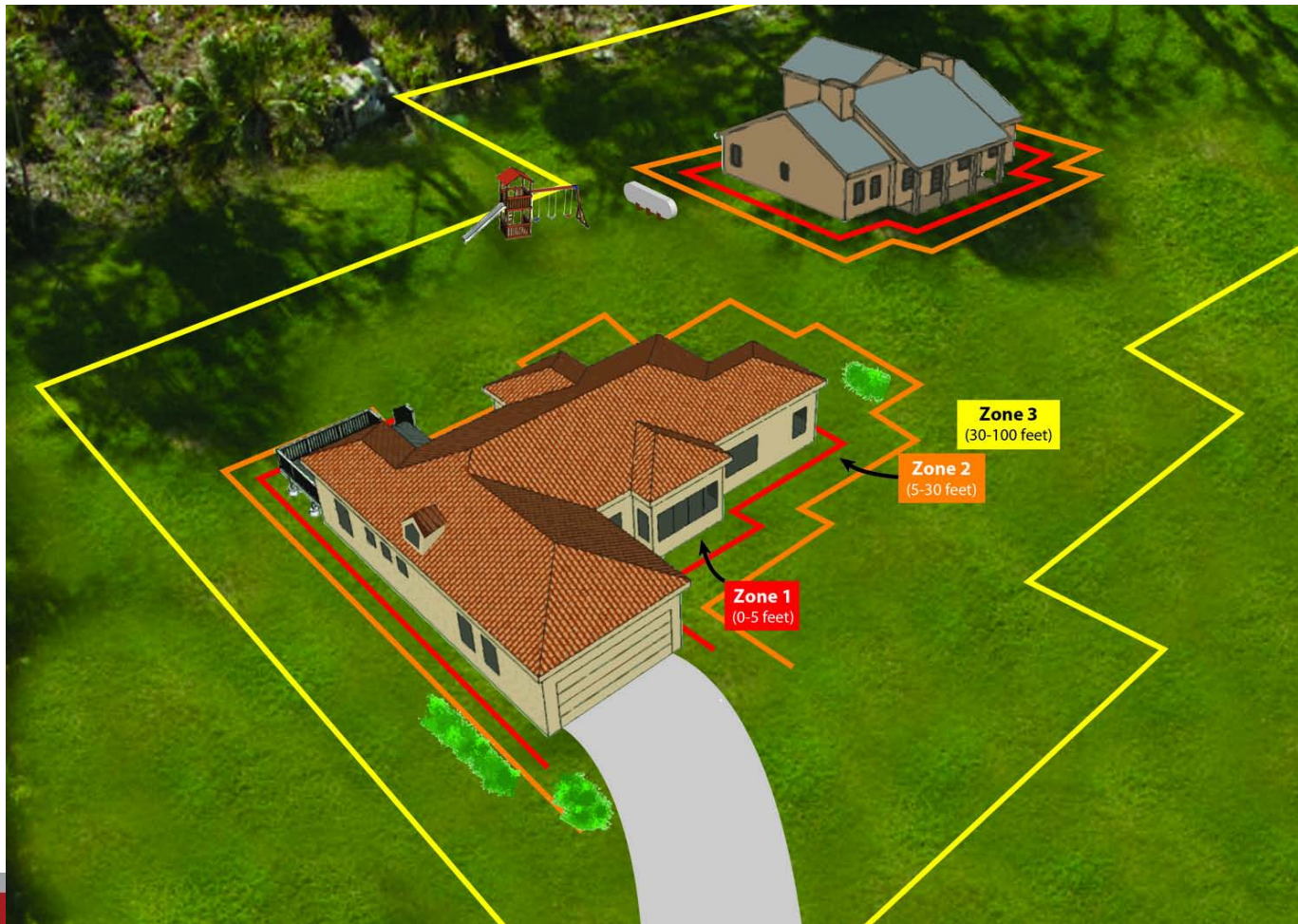
RSG! Program – Be Ready

- What you can do to make a Difference
 - Prepare your property by creating defensible space
 - Home Ignition Zone: start with your home and work outward



RSG! Program – Be Ready

- Defensible Space Works



Roofs: clean rain gutters:

Pine needles in rain gutter ignited by embers



Replace bark and remove flammable plants





Southwest Style Home: What's Wrong?



Zone 1: Maintenance is critical –first 5ft.

- For all plants, shorten the height, remove branches that are close to the ground, prune to reduce the amount of material in the plant, and remove dead material.
- Don't forget your potted plants and exterior decorations



***Porch and
deck accessories...***



Zone 4– 50 feet from home

- Fire Resistive Plants: retain moisture and have less of a woody mass.
- Maintenance is key
- Junipers, Cypress and Rosemary are examples of highly flammable plants with a woody mass.



About Palm Trees

- Not on Fire Prone or Fire Resistant list
- Palms with clusters of dried fronds and a trunk that is not skinned, pose the greatest risk during a wildfire.
- Flying embers can ignite the upper portion of the palms causing a shower of burning embers spreading the fire.





Zone 3: Reduced Fuel Zone 50 – 100 ft

- 100 feet does not mean moonscape devoid of plants.
- Remove all dead and dying vegetation
- Remove / mow all non-native species, Grasses, weeds, etc. leaving 6 inches for soil stability
- Thin native vegetation by 50 percent
- Trim large trees up 6 feet



Example of Good Defensible Space



Harden the Home: Be Ember Aware

- **Embers are the most common cause of home ignition.**
- **2 of 3 homes destroyed during 2007 Witch Creek Fire were ignited by wind driven embers (IBHS STUDY)**
- **A home within one mile of a natural area is at risk of flying embers.**







Photo courtesy of the USDA Forest Service - LTBMU

How did these Condos Burn?



Ember material...



Ember material...





Where is this house vulnerable?





- 1. Wood Roof**
- 2. Roof Openings**
- 3. Roof Debris**
- 4. Skylights**
- 5. Spark Arrester**
- 6. Windows**
- 7. Vents**
- 8. Rain Gutters**

- 9. Siding**
- 10. Woodpiles**
- 11. Patio Furniture**
- 12. Deck Boards**
- 13. Deck Debris**
- 14. Deck Accessories**

- 15. Under Deck**
- 16. Flowerboxes**
- 17. Eaves**
- 18. Flowerbeds**
- 19. Vehicles**
- 20. Garage Door**
- 21. Garbage Cans**
- 22. Wooden fences**





Roof openings...



Wooden fences...



Embers penetrating vents



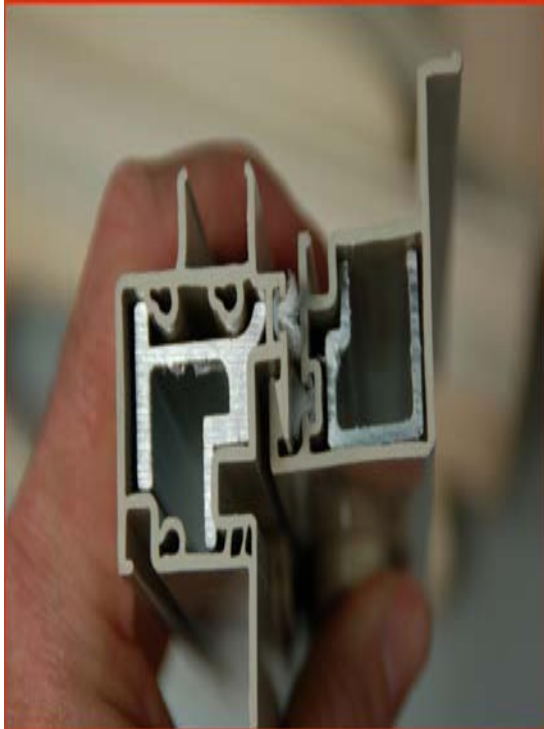
Retrofit Vents with Ember Resistant type

- Brandguard and O Hugins
- Brandguardvents.com retrofit products and installation videos.



Vinyl replacement windows

- Must have metal reinforcement



Windows: Dual-pane, tempered glass

- DP-tempered glass resists breaking from heat and impact and even if the outer-pane of glass breaks, the inner pane may remain intact.
- Keep all windows closed during wildfires – the most vulnerable window during a wildfire is one that is left open.



Skylights...



Siding: Make sure it is non-combustible

Siding is an expensive element of any home, and many types of siding are combustible.



Decks: 3 areas of vulnerability

1. *slope leading up to the deck,*
2. *combustible materials stored underneath the deck or debris that can accumulate there,*
3. *and materials used to build the deck.*



Composites must be fire resistive:

- Far left is composite deck that burned longer than real wood deck on right. Middle deck is composite with fire retardant.



Alternative to retrofitting: Pre cut

Use a fire-resistive material (like plywood) to cover up a home's vulnerable areas:

- Eave vents
- Sub-floor vents
- Roof vents
- Windows



Get your Family READY!

**-Register for Reverse 9-1-1,
www.ReadySanDiego.org; www.AlertSanDiego.org
to register cell phones VoIP number & email**

**Visit North County Fires Website for more
information.**

www.ncfireprotectiondistrict.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Pre-planning your Evacuation



...Set

- What Does it Mean to be “Set”
 - Situational Awareness
 - Ability of response
 - Local methods of emergency communication



Make a Kit – the “Six P’s”

- 1. People & Pets**
- 2. Papers, Phone numbers, documents**
- 3. Prescriptions, vitamins, eyeglasses**
- 4. Pictures & irreplaceable memorabilia**
- 5. Personal computers (info on hard drive)**
- 6. “Plastic” (credit cards, ATM cards), cash**



Get Set: As Fire Approaches

- DON'T WAIT TO BE TOLD TO EVACUATE
- Alert Family and Friends
- Keep updated on Fire



Inside your Home

- Shut all Windows and Doors, lock exterior doors
- Leave your lights on so Firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.

IF YOU HAVE TIME CONSIDER:

- Shut off gas at meter, turn pilot lights off
- Remove lightweight curtains
- Shut off Air Conditioner



Outside Checklist

- Gather up flammable items and bring them inside the house or garage; trash cans, patio furniture, garden hoses
- Don't leave water on or running
- Turn off Propane tanks
- Back car into driveway, not Garage ***
- Take a lap around the house.



Prepare your home...

IF THERE'S TIME:

Use a fire-resistive material (like plywood) to cover up a home's vulnerable areas:

- Eave vents
- Sub-floor vents
- Roof vents
- Windows



Go!

- **Go – “Leave Early”**
- **DON'T WAIT TO BE TOLD TO LEAVE!**
 - **Leaving Early Makes it Safer for You, Your Property and Responding Firefighters**
 - **Where to Go: Know routes, go away from Fire**

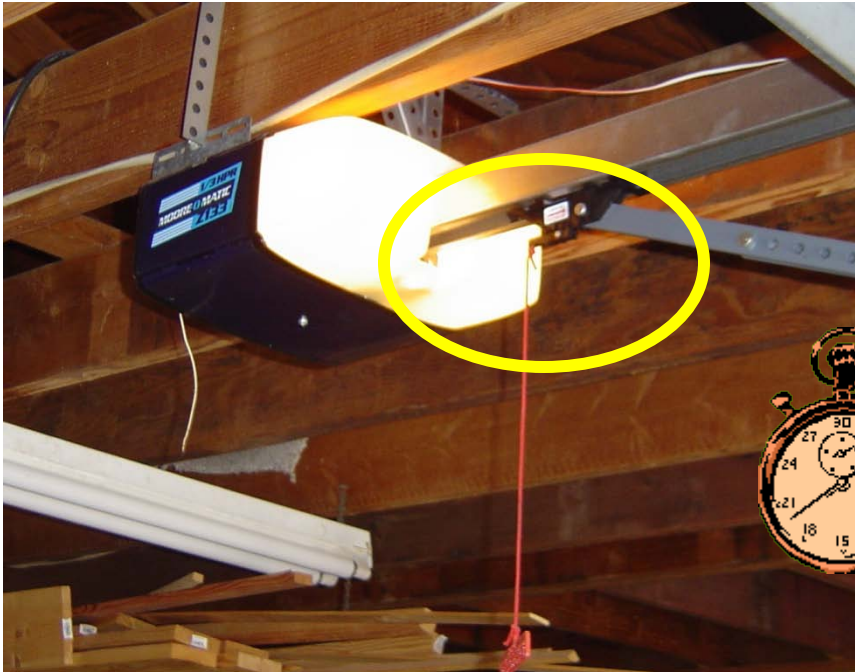


Ready, Set, Go! Program Tenants

- **What if you are Trapped by a Moving Fire Front? STAY PUT**
 - **Bring Garden Hoses inside**
 - **Patrol inside your home: don't forget attic**
 - **Wear long sleeves, long pants, eye protection**
 - **Fill sinks and tubs for emergency water supply**



Remember Power will go out



- Back your car into the garage & turn off the engine
- Leave keys in the ignition
- Keep garage door(s) closed until you are ready to leave
- Disconnect electric garage door(s) from the motor

GATES:

- Disconnect motor on automatic gates
- Leave manual gates open & unlocked



Don't Panic

- **Smoke Alarms will be sounding,**
- **Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.**
- **HOT, Remember it will be 4 to 5 times hotter outside, let fire front blow by then:**
- **Check outside and roof, extinguish any fires, sparks or embers**



Questions?

- **To schedule a free wildland home inspection contact:**

North County Fire Protection District

760 723-2010



References and Websites

- http://www.disastersafety.org/wp-content/uploads/wildfire-checklist_IBHS.pdf
- <http://www.livingwithfire.info/be-ember-aware>
- www.fire.ca.gov

