# OCP&R - Oakland Community Preparedness & Response

## ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST
HOME HARDENING FOR WILDFIRE

**Guide #15**

Take a walk around the outside of your home and answer all of the questions below that apply. Determine what needs work and prioritize projects around preparing your home to be more fire-resistant. **"Remember the Ember" – top priorities should be near-home vegetation, roof, vents and gutters.**

**NEAR-HOME VEGETATION** and combustible mulch immediately around your home and under windows, eaves, and vents can ignite and provide a way for fire to enter the home

- Is the 5-foot zone around your home and deck free of flammable vegetation and all combustibles such as mulch, jute/natural fiber door mats, dry leaves/pine needles, firewood, etc? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- In order to break up fuel, is there recommended space between plants and between the ground and the lower branches of trees? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Are grasses kept to a height of 4 inches or less? ☐ good ☐ needs work

**THE ROOF** has the greatest exposure to embers and is the most vulnerable part of a home

- Is the roof covering composed of approved fire-rated material, such as metal, tile or asphalt composition shingles? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Are there any damaged areas needing repair/replacement? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Is the rooftop, especially crevices around chimneys, sky-lights and architectural elements, clear of flammable debris? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Are there any gaps at the edges of the roofing that can be filled? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Are end tiles blocked (with metal mesh or steel wool, for example) to prevent bird nesting? ☐ good ☐ needs work

**VENTS** can allow embers to enter a crawlspace or the attic

- Are all vents covered with 1/8-inch metal mesh, or are special vents designed to resist embers and flames installed? ☐ good ☐ needs work

**RAIN GUTTERS** should be cleared of leaves and needles that embers can easily ignite

- Are the gutters clear of all flammable debris? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Do the gutters have metal screens/covers in good condition? ☐ good ☐ needs work

**EAVES & SOFFITS** with open-eave construction should be inspected

- Wherever possible, are open eaves enclosed? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Have gaps around exposed rafters and blocking been caulked and plugged? ☐ good ☐ needs work

## CHIMNEY

- Are all chimney and stovepipe outlets covered with non-combustible mesh screen/spark arresters in good condition? ☐ good ☐ needs work

**WINDOWS** can break from heat, even before a home ignites, allowing embers or flames to enter

- Are all windows multi-pane, tempered glass? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Is outside flammable vegetation or other combustible materials cleared from within 5 feet of windows and glass doors? ☐ good ☐ needs work

**SIDING** is vulnerable if exposed to flames or radiant heat for periods of time

- Have all gaps and joints been caulked and plugged? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Is there 6 inches or more of vertical noncombustible material maintained between the ground and the start of the siding? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Has wood shingle or shake siding been replaced with ignition-resistant materials such as fiber cement or stucco? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Is the dryer vent cover noncombustible and either louvered or self-closing? ☐ good ☐ needs work

**DECKS** are vulnerable to fires from embers igniting nearby vegetation or materials above/below

- Are all combustible items removed from underneath, on top of and next to all decks and porches? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Is there a noncombustible layer between wood decks and siding? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Are under-deck and porch areas screened-in with wire mesh? ☐ good ☐ needs work

**GARAGES** are especially vulnerable to embers as they can enter through large gaps around the door, and attached garages can potentially ignite a house from the inside

- Is there weather stripping or gaskets around and under the garage door to limit ember entry? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Are all combustible and flammable liquids stored in approved containers and away from ignition sources? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- Can you easily open the garage door when there's no power? ☐ good ☐ needs work

**FENCES** can burn right up to a structure and quickly ignite it

- Do fences or gates that connect to structures have noncombustible materials such as brick or metal within 5 feet of the building? ☐ good ☐ needs work
- As specified in Oakland's Fire Code, is all hazardous vegetation maintained within 10 feet from any combustible fence? ☐ good ☐ needs work



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