


# HAZARD INSPECTIONS BEGIN MAY 15. DEFENSIBLE SPACE IS REQUIRED BY LAW!

All properties in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas are required to maintain Defensible Space at all times during fire season. Please complete Defensible Space no later than May 15, and maintain regularly. Fire inspectors will visit properties beginning in mid-May and may leave notices if violations are found. Defensible Space is required by law, even if you do not receive a violation notice. Violation notices must be corrected within 30 days. For questions, email [defensiblespace@kentfieldfire.org](mailto:defensiblespace@kentfieldfire.org)

 Kentfield Fire Protection District  
1004 Sir Francis Drake Blvd  
Kentfield, CA 94904  
[www.kentfieldfire.org](http://www.kentfieldfire.org)

This notice relates to the property located at:  
[SITEADDRESS], [SITECITY], [SITESTATE]

[OWNER]  
[MAILADDRESS]  
[MAILCITY], [MAILSTATE] [MAILZIP]

## Wildfire Preparedness Checklist

- Defensible Space** (see inside for detailed requirements)
- 100' (or to your property line) of Defensible Space is required by law. Additional space may be required on large properties.
  - Create a buffer zone around your home by removing grass, weeds, brush and all dead vegetation.
  - Create space between plants; limb trees 6'-10' above ground.
  - See additional requirements inside...
- Evacuation, Including Roads and Driveways**
- Owners are responsible to maintain vegetation on their property to keep roads, driveways, and routes clear!
  - Emergency vehicles need 12' width & 14' vertical clearance.
  - Coordinate & help neighbors, especially elderly and disabled.
  - Leave immediately when ordered, or if you feel unsafe.
- Hardening your home**
- Make an ember resistant home with design and materials.
  - Keep balconies and decks clean. Embers will ignite debris, combustible surfaces, and undersides of decks.
  - Roofs are most vulnerable surface where embers can land. Use gutter guards and keep free of leaves and needles at all times.
  - Embers enter the attic & crawlspaces through vents. Screen vents with baffles and 1/8" or finer wire mesh.
  - Seal gaps with weatherstripping or caulk to keep embers out.
  - See inside for additional details...

## Fire Resistant Plants

[www.firesafemarin.org/plants](http://www.firesafemarin.org/plants)

Choose only fire resistant plants, and remove or avoid fire prone (pyrophytic) plants. Remember that all plants can burn if they are not properly irrigated or poorly maintained.

- |                          |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Ground Covers</b>     | Perennial Verbena        | Azaleas              |
| Carpet Bugle             | Creeping Red Fescue      | Blueberry            |
| Common Thrift            | +60 More online!         | Yucca                |
| Snow-in-Summer           |                          | Lavender Cotton      |
| Creeping Coprosma        | <b>Shrubs and Hedges</b> | +20 more online!     |
| White Trailing Ice-plant | English Laurel           |                      |
| Rosea Ice Plant          | Privet, Glossy Privet    | <b>Trees</b>         |
| Winter Creeper           | Bird of Paradise         | Maple                |
| Beach Aster              | Creeping Mahonia         | Strawberry Tree      |
| Beach Strawberry         | Angel's Trumpet          | Carob                |
| Wood Strawberry          | Bush Anemone             | Western Redbud       |
| Bush Ice Plant           | Breath of Heaven         | Mountain Ironwood    |
| Evergreen Candytuft      | Bush Morning Glory       | Citrus               |
| Giant Turf Lily          | Coreopsis                | Beech                |
| Ivy Geranium             | Escallonia               | Pineapple Guava      |
| Common Lippia            | Lantana                  | Ash                  |
| Alpine Cinquefoil        | Lavender                 | Macadamia Nut        |
| Green Lavender           | Malva Rose (Tree Mallow) | New Zealand Xmas     |
| Cotton                   | Catalina Cherry          | Chinese Pistache     |
| Stonecrop                | Pomegranate              | African Sumac        |
| Blue chalksticks         | India Hawthorn           | Oaks (all varieties) |
| Creeping Thyme           | Rhododendron             | +20 more online!     |

**Mulches**

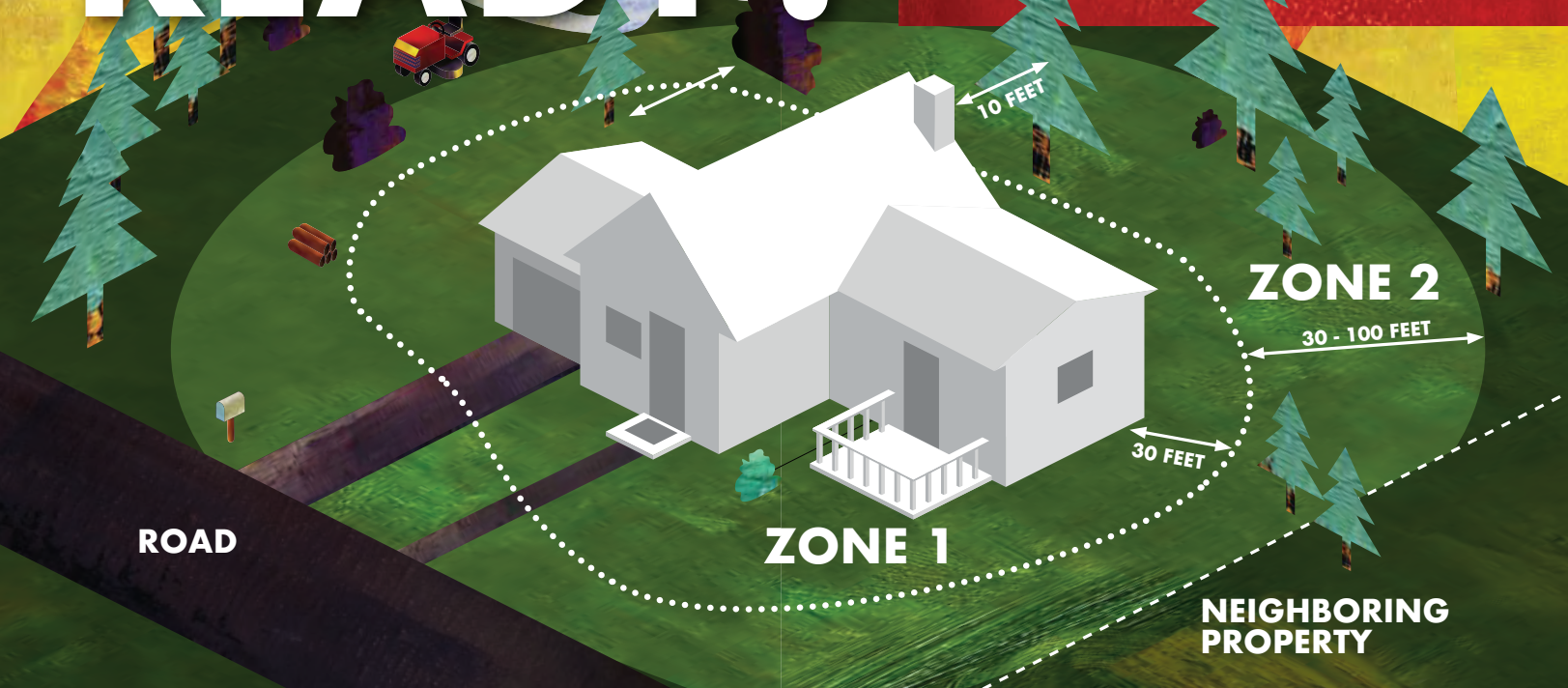
Use only compost or heavy bark or wood chip mulches greater than 1/2" diameter. Fine bark or shredded redwood mulch is highly combustible and ignites easily from embers.



# WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU... READY?

**KNOW THE LAW BE FIRE SMART**

100' of Defensible Space is required by Sec 4907.2 of the California Fire Code. Chapter 7A of the California Building Code requires certain construction materials and methods for homes in wildland areas. Contact Kentfield Fire District for more information to be sure your home is compliant with the law. [www.FireSafeMarin.org/TheLaw](http://www.FireSafeMarin.org/TheLaw)



## FIRE HAZARDOUS PLANTS

Certain shrubs and trees, like juniper, cypress, pampas/jubata grass, bamboo, and many conifer trees are so flammable that they should be removed & replaced with fire resistant varieties.



Ready, Set, Go

## EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS

PREPARE AND LEAVE EARLY

Preparing and evacuating early may mean the difference between life and death. Register for Alert Marin, assemble a "Go Kit," and train your family in advance. Act early when a fire strikes!

[www.firesafemarin.org/preparedness/evacuation](http://www.firesafemarin.org/preparedness/evacuation)

**Evacuation Process**

Monitor radio, TV, and phones for evacuation notices. Leave immediately when evacuation is ordered or if you feel unsafe. Wear long clothes (cotton or wool is best even if it's hot out), sturdy shoes, and gloves. Wear goggles, an N95 respirator (available at hardware stores for less than \$5), and cover face with a bandana.

Evacuate by car with windows rolled up, vents closed, lights on.

**Stay in your car, avoid fire roads and hillsides. Drive downhill, away from the fire if possible. Evacuating on foot should be a last resort. Keep sturdy shoes and a flashlight near your bed in case of evacuation at night.**

**Pets and Animals**

Place pets in carriers or on leash at the first sign of fire. Keep them by the front door with food and water. Microchip all pets. Large animals require additional pre-planning and time.

## WILDFIRE & EMERGENCY "GO KIT"

Put together your emergency supply kit in advance and keep it easily accessible. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have their own Go Kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items.

- |                                                                              |                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandana, N95 respirator, goggles, leather gloves    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitation supplies                                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottles and food                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of important docs (birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map marked with two evacuation routes (if possible) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet food and water, leashes, pet supplies and medications                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription medications                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothing                                  |                                                                                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses                  | <b>Items to take only if time allows:</b>                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash           | <input type="checkbox"/> Easily carried valuables                                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Family photos and other irreplaceable items                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight and headlamp with spare batteries        | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal data and digital information backups on hard drives and/or disks         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-powered radio and extra batteries           |                                                                                                            |

[www.AlertMarin.org](http://www.AlertMarin.org) 

## Sign up to receive emergency alerts!

All Marin residents must register their cell phones, VoIP phones, and landlines to receive emergency alerts by call, text, email, or app from the County of Marin.

Register contact numbers for all family members so they'll receive warning when emergencies threaten your community. Practice evacuation drills regularly!

## Structures: 0'-10'

Embers are your home's biggest threat! Small details here make a big difference in protection.

Remove all objects and fuels that can ignite and protect openings where embers can enter.

## Zone 1: 0'-30'

Zone 1 extends 30 feet out from buildings, decks, and other structures.

Keep this area "Lean, Clean, and Green," and repeat regularly during fire season!

## Zone 2: 30'-100'

Zone 2 is the space from 30 to 100 feet from buildings, decks, and other structures.

Reduce fuel for fire and separate trees and shrubs in this area. Remove dead vegetation regularly.

## All Zones: 0'-100'+

Some measures must be taken equally in both Zones, from 0 to 100 feet.

Take action all the way to your property line and work with neighbors to expand Defensible Space.

### The First 10 Feet is Critical

The area closest to your home, driveway, and nearby roads is critical. Start at your roof and work outwards, being sure to keep all surfaces of your home and other structures free of leaves and debris.

Even a small handful of leaves or needles in a gutter, on your roof, at the base of a wall, or on a deck may be enough to ignite your home. Don't forget the undersides of decks.



Remember to repeat regularly in autumn when leaves are falling and fire season is at its worst.



Simple measures like replacing jute doormats with rubber can protect your home. Keep potted plants and vegetation well irrigated here.



### These zones make up the 100' of Defensible Space required by law



- Mow grass before 10 a.m., and never on "Red Flag" days or when it's windy or hot and dry.
- Maintain vegetation near driveways and roadways 10' horizontally and 14' vertically.
- Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Leave some low (3") ground cover or mulch.
- You may be required to maintain vegetation that threatens a neighbor's home even if it's more than 100' from your structures. Check with your local fire department (CFC 4907.2).
- Address numbers must be clearly visible from the road, with at least 4" numbers on a contrasting background. Reflective or lighted numbers are best.

#### Power Equipment

Lawn mowers, string trimmers, chain saws, grinders, welders, and tractors can all start fires if not used properly. Use caution and mow before 10 a.m. when the air is calm, cool, and moist.

Spark arresters should be installed on all portable, gas-line-powered equipment.

### Plant and Tree Spacing

Mature trees usually don't need to be removed. Clear small trees, shrubs, and grasses beneath them. Remove limbs 6'-10' above ground (or 1/3 the height of tree) to eliminate "fire ladder."



Create spacing between shrubs & trees; add space on steeper slopes.

### Hardening Your Home

Embers are the most significant cause of home ignitions during wildfires. "Hardening" your home to protect from embers is critically important, and can be as simple as retrofitting vents, sealing gaps and openings, and weatherstripping doors. Look for any gaps more than 1/8" as a potential entry point for embers.

Other measures, such as installing dual-pane, tempered glass windows and replacing wood roofs can make a significant difference and are required for new construction and remodels. Learn more: [www.firesafemarin.org](http://www.firesafemarin.org)



### Attachments

Wood fences, gates, and other structures should not be attached directly to the house. Consider using fire resistant materials instead, such as steel, aluminum, or masonry. Protect all attachments by removing all vegetation and other fuels within 5 feet.



- Remove all dead grasses, weeds, plants, & foliage.
- Remove dead or dry leaves and needles from roof, gutters, decks, porches, and stairways.
- Remove all fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. Up to 3" of leaf litter may be permitted where erosion control is an issue.
- Trim trees to remove limbs 6' to 10' from the ground.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and 10 feet from chimneys.
- Relocate exposed firewood or lumber piles outside of Zone 1 unless they are covered.
- Remove combustible plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove combustible vegetation and items around and under decks and awnings.
- Clear vegetation around fences, sheds, outdoor furniture, play structures.
- Irrigate plants within 30' of structures, and choose only fire resistant species.
- Outbuildings and LPG storage tanks must have 10' clearance to bare mineral soil.
- Maintain regularly, focusing on the areas closest to the structure.

- Cut annual grasses and weeds to a maximum height of 4".
- Provide horizontal spacing between shrubs & trees.
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and lower tree limbs.
- Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark cones, small branches is permitted to a maximum of 3" depth.
- Remove piles of dead vegetation.

### Driveway & Road Clearance

Property owners are responsible for vegetation adjacent to roads and driveways.

Clear vegetation 14' overhead and 10' from sides of driveways and roads in the same manner as Defensible Space Zone 1. Maintain 12' of unobstructed pavement for passage.



### Beyond 100' and Open Spaces

Work with neighbors or land managers to reduce fuel on nearby properties or create fuel breaks to protect your community. Contact FIRE Safe MARIN and your local fire department for help organizing your community to create a Firewise USA Site.



**FIREWISE USA**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

[www.firesafemarin.org/firewise](http://www.firesafemarin.org/firewise)