

FOCUS on the First 5 Feet

It's the area closest to your house, including plants, decks, outdoor furniture, and the outside walls and coverings. *This area is most vulnerable and should be more aggressively maintained for fire resistance.*

- Remove combustible outdoor furniture. Replace with metal or non-combustible varieties.
- Replace jute or natural fiber doormats with heavy rubber or metal grates.
- Remove or relocate all combustible materials including garbage and recycling containers, lumber, trash, and patio accessories.
- Clean all fallen leaves and needles.
- No vegetation is recommended within 5' of any structure.
- Remove tree limbs that extend into this zone. Fire-prone tree varieties (such as bay and eucalyptus) should be removed if they extend into this zone.
- Do not store firewood, lumber, or combustibles here, even (especially) under decks or overhangs. Move stored combustibles inside or at least 30' from any structure.
- Use only inorganic, non-combustible mulches such as stone or gravel.
- Hardscaping is strongly recommended around the base of structures.

Other Considerations

There are other actions you should take to protect your home in the event of a wildfire:

- Consider having multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach all areas of your home and other structures on your property.
- Have available in your garage a fire extinguisher, tools (e.g., shovels, rakes, buckets), and extra garden hoses and nozzles available for fire emergencies.
- Remember that firefighters may need to locate your home quickly at night, during a storm, or in smoky conditions. Help them find your home by making your address clearly visible from the road.
- California requires by law that address numbers be a minimum of four inches, and be placed on a contrasting background.

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Want more detailed information? Visit <https://www.firesafemarin.org/>
<https://sccfiresafe.org/>

