



WILDFIRE PREPARED

— A PROGRAM OF IBHS —

Take science-based, proven steps to reduce wildfire risk to your home and property.

During large wildfire events, homes may need to withstand ember storms without immediate firefighting response. Preparing the home and surrounding property in advance can significantly reduce the chance of ignition.

The **Wildfire Prepared Home** program translates this science into clear, practical actions homeowners can take to strengthen their property and reduce wildfire risk. Developed by the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), the program focuses on the vulnerabilities that research shows most often lead to home ignition.

Because wildfire exploits the **weakest link**, mitigation is most effective when multiple vulnerabilities are addressed together—including the roof, building features, and defensible space pathways. The program offers **two designation levels** that reflect increasing levels of protection:

- **Base Level – Essential Protection**

Focuses on **protection from wind-blown embers**, the leading cause of home ignitions. Most existing homes can be retrofitted to achieve the Base level.

- **Plus Level – Enhanced Protection**

Builds on the Base level by adding **protection against flames and radiant heat**. This level is often achieved during new construction or major exterior renovations.

SCIENCE-BASED
PROTECTION
STARTS WITH YOU.



Download the
How-To Prepare Checklist
at wildfireprepared.org
to get started.

The **Wildfire Prepared Home** designation program translates IBHS research into clear, actionable mitigation measures that reduce the likelihood of structure ignition—even during ember storms when immediate firefighting response may not be available. The program has two designation levels—**Base and Plus**—each with specific requirements that must be completed in full to earn a designation certificate.

Wildfire Prepared Home: Base vs. Plus Requirements

Compare essential ember protection (Base) with expanded protection from embers, flames, & radiant heat (Plus).

ROOF	BASE	Roof Covering: Use a Class A fire-rated roof covering (e.g., asphalt shingles, tile, slate, or metal).	
		Gutters: Install noncombustible gutters and downspouts (e.g., metal).	
		Roof & Gutter Maintenance: Routinely remove leaves, needles, and other vegetative debris from roof, gutters, and downspouts.	
	PLUS <small>(in addition to Base requirements)</small>	Gutter Covers: Install noncombustible gutter guards to prevent debris accumulation.	
		Enclosed Eaves: Enclose exposed eave overhangs with noncombustible soffit and fascia materials (e.g., fiber-cement, stucco, or metal).	
		Skylights: Replace plastic dome skylights with flat, multipaned tempered glass. Operable units must include 1/8-inch metal mesh screens.	
BUILDING FEATURES	BASE	6-Inch Vertical Noncombustible Siding Clearance: Maintain 6 inches of noncombustible siding or exposed concrete foundation at the base of exterior walls and above attached decks or patios (also applies to deck post bases).	
		Decks, Patios, & Overhead Structures: Remove debris regularly, replace combustible furniture with noncombustible options, maintain the 0-5 Foot Noncombustible Zone, remove underdeck storage, enclose low-elevation decks, and retrofit pergolas as needed.	
		Vents: Install flame- and ember-resistant vents, or cover existing vents with 1/8-inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh (roof, attic, eaves, foundation). Dryer vents must have functional louver/flap and no mesh.	
	PLUS <small>(in addition to Base requirements)</small>	*Dryer Vent Material: Use noncombustible dryer vents (e.g., metal) with functional louver/flap.	
		Siding Material: Replace combustible siding and shutters (e.g., vinyl, wood, engineered wood) with noncombustible materials (e.g., brick, fiber-cement, masonry veneer, metal, stucco).	
		Decks: Upgrade to a noncombustible deck system (e.g., steel joists, concrete, tile, stone, pavers, brick, aluminum).	
		Windows: Install dual-pane windows with tempered glass in both panes (with visible corner etching).	
		Exterior Doors: Use noncombustible doors with a metal threshold.	
	DEFENSIBLE SPACE	BASE	0-5 FT. Noncombustible Zone: Maintain a continuous zone free of vegetation, mulch, overhanging branches, and combustible items. Replace wood or vinyl fencing within 5 feet of the home with noncombustible fencing (e.g. metal).
			5-30 FT. Defensible Space - Vegetation: Space trees and shrubs properly, keep grass trimmed, remove dead vegetation, and store firewood at least 30 feet from the home.
10-30 FT. Defensible Space - Detached Structures & Other Large Items: Ensure hot tubs, propane tanks, and outdoor kitchens are properly placed, constructed, and surrounded by noncombustible materials. Limit to a maximum of 3 detached structures within 30 feet of the home. Maintain proper requirements and spacing from the home, decks, and other structures.			
PLUS <small>(in addition to Base requirements)</small>		*0-30 FT. Defensible Space - No Detached Structures Within 30 Feet: Remove or relocate all detached structures so they are at least 30 feet from the home.	
		5-30 FT. No Back-To-Back Fencing: If two parallel combustible fences are less than 5 feet apart, remove or replace one with a noncombustible option.	

* Items where Plus requirements are more stringent than corresponding Base-level requirements.

Ready to get started?

Download the [How-To Prepare My Home Checklist](https://wildfireprepared.org) at wildfireprepared.org to see the full set of requirements and start protecting your home.