WILDFIRE PREPARED
A PROGRAM OF IBHS

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—**Essential and Enhanced**—each with specific requirements that must be completed in full to earn a designation certificate.

Wildfire Prepared Home: Essential vs. Enhanced Requirements

Compare essential ember protection with enhanced protection against flames, & radiant heat.

ROOF	ESSENTIAL	**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.
	ENHANCED *(+ Essential requirements)*	**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, dial-pane glass skylights with an a tempered outer pane and laminated inner pane. Operable units must include 1/8-inch metal mesh screens.
BUILDING FEATURES	ESSENTIAL	**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-no mesh.
	ENHANCED *(+ Essential requirements)*	***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 doors with a metal threshold that are noncombustible, 20-minute fire-rated, or solid-core wood at least 1¾ inches thick.
DEFENSIBLE SPACE	ESSENTIAL	**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, sheds, and outdoor kitchens are properly placed, constructed, and surrounded by noncombustibe 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.
	ENHANCED *(+ Essential requirements)*	***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 Enhanced requirements are more stringent than corresponding Essential requirements.*

Ready to get started?

Download the How-To Prepare My Home Checklist at ***wildfireprepared.org*** *to see the full set of requirements and start protecting your home.*