August 2023 Changes
Wildfire Prepared Home™ Designation Requirements

• Clarified vegetation requirements within 30 feet of the structure.

Landscaping in the Remainder of the Parcel
The remainder of the property beyond the 5-foot HIZ must maintain defensible space. Defensible space separates fuels to reduce flame intensity near a home. The following maintenance criteria must be met within 30 ft of the structure or to the property line:

• Routinely remove fallen pine needles, leaves, and other debris from trees and bushes accumulated in the yard.

• Vegetation, including plants with canopies within 30 feet of the home:
  • Trees with a trunk of 4 inches in diameter or greater when measured at a height of 4.5 feet above the ground\(^1\):
    ▪ Must have limbs and branches pruned to a minimum height of 6 feet off the ground.
    ▪ Must have a minimum of 10 horizontal feet of spacing between the tree canopy and the next closest tree, shrub, or bush canopy.
      o May be clustered in small groupings with a combined canopy not larger than 10 feet in horizontal diameter.
    ▪ Must have a minimum of 5 horizontal feet between a tree canopy and the home.
  • Shrubs, bushes, and small trees with a trunk less than 4 inches in diameter when measured at a height of 4.5 feet above the ground or less than 4.5 feet tall:
    ▪ Must not be placed under larger trees.
    ▪ Must not have a canopy larger than 10 feet in horizontal diameter.
      o May be clustered in small groupings with a combined canopy not larger than 10 feet in horizontal diameter.
    ▪ Must have a minimum horizontal space between canopies of at least 10 feet.
  • Routinely remove any dead vegetation, including piles from pruning and firewood.

Note: Large propane tanks must be located outside of 30 feet
January 2023 Changes
Wildfire Prepared Home Plus™ Designation Requirements

Exterior Glass (Windows, Skylights & Glass within Doors)
- Changed one of the options to two tempered panes of glass based on continuous research from IBHS.

All exterior windows, skylights, and glazed openings within doors must comply with **one of the following** requirements:
  - Multipaned glass with at least two tempered panes
  - Glass with a minimum of 20-minutes fire-resistance rating when tested in accordance with NFPA 257
  - Glass blocks (windows only)

Exterior Doors
- Added an additional option to help homeowners reach the Plus designation. Exterior doors must be constructed with noncombustible or ignition-resistant material, be solid, and have a metal threshold.

All exterior doors must comply with **one of the following** requirements:
  - Exterior surface or cladding of the exterior doors must be solid, have a metal threshold, and be constructed with noncombustible or ignition-resistant material, such as:
    - Metal
    - Solid hardwood
    - Fiberglass
  - Exterior door assembly shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 252.
  - Doors made of combustible material are permissible provided a noncombustible exterior storm door is installed as the outermost door.

Fences
- Changed back-to-back fencing requirement to 5 feet apart based on newly released (in December 2022) NIST research.

In addition to the requirements listed above, back-to-back fencing (meaning separate fences that are closer than 5 feet apart) is not permitted. Meeting this requirement may necessitate coordination with neighboring parcels to eliminate duplicative fences that can trap debris between them creating a fire conduit.

Decks
- Added an additional retrofit option.

In addition to the requirements listed above, decks must comply with **one of the following** requirements:
  - All deck components including posts, joists, railings, stairs, and walking surfaces are constructed with noncombustible materials.

August 2023 Wildfire Prepared Home™ Summary of Changes
• Deck walking surfaces constructed with a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material* such as metal or light-weight concrete; railings within 5 feet of the home constructed of a noncombustible material, including where railings attach to the home; and deck posts with a minimum of 6 vertical inches of noncombustible material at grade. As noted in the defensible space section, all decks including attached staircases must include the noncombustible 5-foot Home Ignition Zone around them.

  o For staircases 4 feet in width or less that attach to a deck and are open underneath should have one of the following requirements:
    • **Open risers (no solid risers)**
      - Must have a minimum of 6 vertical inches of the bottom of stairs made from noncombustible material.
      - Stair treads should be a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material, such as metal or light-weight concrete.
    • **Closed risers**
      - Must have a minimum of 6 vertical inches of the bottom of stairs made from noncombustible material.
      - Stair treads and risers should be a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material, such as metal or light-weight concrete.

  o For staircases wider than 4 feet that attach to a deck, the staircase should be cleared underneath and enclosed with noncombustible material with openings not to exceeded 1/8-inch, such as 1/8-inch or finer metal mesh and include the following requirements:
    • **Closed risers**
      - Must have a minimum of 6 vertical inches of the bottom of stairs made from noncombustible material.
      - Stair treads and risers should be a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material, such as metal or light-weight concrete.

* Note that these decks are engineered to have a solid walking surface and thermal expansions and weathering do not deform them. Do not install common deck boards with no gaps.