

HOME FIRE PREVENTION CHECK LIST

ONE TIME

- Replace wood shake or shingle roof with fire rated Class A roof covering.
- Use noncombustible siding, especially where structure is within 15' of another structure.
- Replace windows with dual pane tempered glass windows.
- Replace wood fences with metal, masonry or with large timbered posts and wire. Or make sure first five feet of fence close to structure are fire resistant.
- Box off under all eaves so heat from fire does not get trapped under them.
- Make sure all vents under and in eaves, in roof and in foundation are screened with 1/8" corrosion resistant wire mesh. Consider WUI compliant screens.
- Make sure bird stops on tile roofs are properly installed.
- Make sure you have a spark arrestor on chimney with 1/8" or less wire mesh.
- Remove all fire prone plants within 100' or to property line and replace with fire resistant plants well-spaced with proper irrigation. <http://www.firesafemarin.org/plants>
- Move your wood pile 30' or more from the house or in garage or cover w/ fire resistant cover.
- Make sure your street number is highly visible and 4" minimum on contrasting background.
- Keep an ABC fire extinguisher available in the kitchen, the garage, near BBQ and in your car.
- Install smoke detectors and replace batteries each time you switch to/from daylight savings.
- Use composted or heavy bark mulch as ground cover. Use rock mulch within 2' of house.
- Use no more than 2" deep wood mulch.
- Screen undersides of decks with solid siding or 1/8" or smaller wire mesh.
- Caulk all gaps in siding, eaves, rafters or exterior if they are greater than 1/8"

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ANNUAL

- Cut back all vegetation 6' from over roof to lessen build up of debris in gutters and on roof. Remove all dead and dying vegetation adjacent to or overhanging structure.
- Cut back all vegetation along sides of the structure, near windows and near decks.
- Cut back all vegetation within 10' of chimney or stove pipe
- Create vertical and horizontal spacing between all trees, shrubs and plants and eliminate fire ladders. Check with your local fire department for recommended distances.
- Clear flammable materials from under decks, in crawl spaces.
- Limb up all trees from ground and/or wooden fences and maintain a clean and clear area under all trees, especially the more flammable ones like eucalyptus, conifers, acacia and unirrigated redwoods and bay trees.
- Create separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.
- Check to see that screens are in place and in good condition on all vents on eaves, roof, and foundation.
- Make sure spark arrestor is in place on chimney
- Keep the first ten feet from the curb and driveway clear or planted with fire resistant plants.
- Remove all broom each spring, after it blooms and before it goes to seed.
- Weed whack ivy on ground and house to clear out all dead material
- Call P.G.&E. or local fire department if there is vegetation near electrical lines or poles.
- Replace smoke detector batteries with daylight savings time.
- Check fire extinguisher expiration dates.
- Make sure grass is cut to 3" or less 30' to 100' from all structures.
- Irrigate your redwoods and oaks by putting a soaker hose in spiral out around drip line and watering for 2-3 hours every 2-3 weeks when they show signs of drought stress.