



## Protect Your Home and Community From Wildfire

**Wildfire is a serious threat to lives and property. Drought, high winds, and dry plants and trees can increase the chance of a fire.**

**Promote and practice wildfire safety in your community. Homeowners should be aware of these simple steps to prepare for the wildfire season:**

- Remove pine needles and dry leaves from within 5 feet of your home.
- Sweep porches and decks to clear pine needles and leaves.
- Keep wood piles 30 feet from your home.
- Develop and practice a home evacuation plan, and create a family communication plan. This will help everyone know what to do if there is a fire.

*Wildfires  
burned over  
4.3 million  
acres in  
2013.*



**FEMA**



**For more information  
and resources:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**



[www.metrofire.ca.gov](http://www.metrofire.ca.gov)



## EXTERIOR FUELS MITIGATION (Weed Abatement & Defensible Space)

*“California drought likely to play major role in future wildfire activity”... NFPA*

### EXTERIOR FUELS MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS:

The law requires that all weeds, brush, vines or other growth that is capable of being ignited and endangering public safety shall be cleared and maintained for an area of not less than thirty (30) feet from all structures, combustible fences, vehicles and combustible storage. Properties identified by the Fire Department needing weed abatement shall follow the below requirements:

**Parcels one acre or less** - total abatement of the parcel is required.

**Parcels greater than one acre and property zoned for agricultural use** – a firebreak (30) feet in width shall be maintained around the perimeter of the property. Intersecting firebreaks sixty (60) feet in width shall divide each parcel into four approximately equal sections.

**Methods of Abatement** – Discing, Scraping and Mowing



WEED COMPLAINT  
OPEN PERIOD BEGINS  
IN MAY.

FOR PROPERTIES WITH DRY WEEDS  
IN METRO FIRE COMMUNITIES  
CALL: 916-859-4327.

### HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

*“Homeowners who take proactive steps to reduce their homes’ vulnerability have a far greater chance of having their homes withstand a wildfire”... Firewise Communities*

Learn how to protect your home and property from wildfire by using these helpful hints:

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screen with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn.
- Remove anything stored underneath decks and porches.

Visit Metro Fire’s website, [www.metrofire.ca.gov](http://www.metrofire.ca.gov), to learn more about fire and life safety, including but not limited to:

- Weed Abatement Requirements and Inspection Process
- Creating a Defensible Space (new requirements in 2015)
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- How to safely evacuate your home, READY, SET, GO!

DEFENSIBLE SPACE shown below

