

# 24 Hours to Success

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During recent years, studies have shown that most homes lost to Wildfires have been caused by some very small problems with simple solutions. It has been determined that flying embers or creeping ground fires are contributors to the loss of the majority of homes and outbuildings.

We have listed below some things that you can do to greatly help your property survive a wildfire threat. These items can be accomplished in a relatively short period of time (24 hours or less) with very little if any cost to the homeowner.

1. Remove debris and leaves from your home's roof and rain gutters, these can cause fast fire starts and spread fire quickly to your home.
2. Mow, rake and remove flammable debris such as dead grass, from around your home and out buildings. (Dead grass, and debris, etc.) Pile this material at least 50-feet away from buildings.
3. Clean or remove flammable materials from around wooden decks or walkways, get between the cracks of your walkway. Fire has been known to slowly burn the length of a deck or porch to a home.
4. Remove all firewood near your home to at least 30 -feet away. Woodpiles can cause a very intense fire.
5. If you have a wooden fence attached to your house or outbuildings remove a section to reduce the risk of the fence acting as a wick and bringing fire to your structure.
6. Move flammable deck furniture a safe distance away from your house (30 feet).
7. Cover all vents, (roof or foundation) with a small diameter / fine screen to prevent sparks or embers from being blown in or under your home, this can be temporary with a staple gun.
8. Clean flammable materials from around any propane, oil or fuel tanks.

**In the event of an evacuation**, if you have completed the items listed above, you should also try to do the following:

1. Place a sprinkler on your roof if safe to do so, but do not turn it on until the fires' arrival is imminent. This will help conserve water for use by the fire department.
2. Connect hoses to all spigots; this will aid the firefighters when they arrive.

These small tasks can greatly increase the chance of your home surviving when a wildfire threatens. Please take the time, **YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.**

For more information, visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

