**BFN FIREWISE COMMUNITY**

**REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK FROM FLYING EMBERS**

**STARTING WITH EASY, INEXPENSIVE THINGS**

**YARD WORK (FUEL REDUCTION)**

**Easy to Do:**

* + Remove all combustible materials from under decks, porches and wooden stairs
	+ Clear debris and leaf litter on or near wood decking, wood stairs, fencing, roofing and gutters, and other structures, and from beneath large stands of trees next to your house, especially during Red Flag Warning Days
	+ Place gas and charcoal grills away from combustible materials; store propane tanks away from the house and other structures
	+ Maintain and thin bushes and decorative plants immediately adjacent to your house. Trim their lower portions to limit the amount of decaying woody material near vents and under eaves; create a 6 to 12 inch air gap between plants and the ground to facilitate removal of dead leaves and decaying material under the plants
	+ During Red Flag Warning Days, move combustible materials, such as yard furniture, away from the house and other structures

**More Time or Cost:**

* + Remove or thin combustible landscaping such as bamboo, juniper, rosemary and other plants high in flammable resins, oils, and waxes
	+ Remove limbs from all trees a minimum of six feet from the ground or from understory vegetation
	+ Remove limbs from all trees a minimum of five feet vertically above rooflines and ten feet from chimneys and stovepipes
	+ Create a five-foot wide ember-resistant area next to your house and other structures using non-combustible materials, such as soil, crushed rock, stones, brick, or concrete
	+ Replace wood fencing and trellises within 5 feet of combustible house materials with a non-combustible material. During a Red Flag Warning Day, a wood gate next to your house can be propped open to provide an important fire-break between a wood fence and your house.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS (HOME HARDENING)**

**Easy to Do:**

* Inspect vents in eaves to ensure they're 1/8-inch metal mesh screen; replace or repair if necessary
	+ Install weather stripping around the perimeter of garage doors to help keep flying embers out
	+ Replace or repair loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration

**More Time or Cost:**

* + Replace missing deck boards and reduce deck-board gap to less than 1⁄4 inch to keep embers out of area under decks
* Install metal leaf guards on gutters
	+ Replace vinyl gutters with metal gutters that have leaf guards
	+ Replace non-Class A fire-rated roofing products, such as cedar shakes or shingles, with a Class A fire-rated roofing product

**HOME REMODELS**

* + Use fire-resistant siding materials such as stucco, fiber-cement board, brick, stone, or plaster
	+ Box in eaves, while maintaining sufficient ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew
	+ Use dual-pane low-E tempered glass windows