

How to protect your home from runaway brushfires

1. Use fire resistant building material.
2. Clean your roof of accumulated leaves, twigs, pine needles, and other flammable material.
3. Clear all branches overhanging your roof.
4. Keep your chimney clean and store firewood away from your home.
5. Control the vegetation around your home. Create a 30-foot-wide cleared area around your home. Trees and shrubs should be at least 15 feet away from your home and 15 feet apart. Plant varieties that retain water and resist fire.
6. Have fire tools handy, such as a ladder, a 100-foot hose connected to a tap, a shovel and a bucket.
7. If you use water catchment for your domestic water supply, always maintain at least 8000 gal of available water.
8. Widen your driveway to 16 feet so fire trucks can have easy access.
9. Post emergency phone numbers and plan an evacuation route.

How to prevent brushfires from starting

1. Keep matches and lighters away from children.
2. If you want to burn trash, do so in a metal container, after you have cleared the surrounding area. Make sure you aren't near overhanging branches, and never leave a fire unattended.
3. Never throw cigarette butts out your vehicle window.
4. Install spark arresters on small engines and equipment.
5. Weld only in a shop building or a cleared area.
6. If your car has a catalytic converter, keep it off dry grass and away from brush.
7. Be alert for suspicious vehicles and immediately report if you think someone might be maliciously starting fires.