

ADDITIONAL SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Listed below are additional safety recommendations from the California Department of Forestry Publication "How to Make Your Home Fire Safe." For the safety of your family and preservation of your property, follow these recommendations for additional protection.

1 ROOF

- Remove dead branches overhanging your roof.
- Remove any branches within 10 feet of your chimney.
- Clean all dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters.
- **Install a Class A Roof – Don't Use Wood Shakes.**
- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh.

2 CONSTRUCTION

- Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge.
- Build your home at least 30 feet from your property line.
- Use fire resistant building materials.
- Enclose the underside of balconies and above-ground decks with fire resistant materials.
- Limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation.
- Install only dual-paned or triple-paned windows.
- Consider sprinkler systems within the house. They may protect your home while you're away or prevent a house fire from spreading into the wildlands.

3 LANDSCAPE

- See "Creating An Effective Defensible Space" (page 8) and "Firescape - Fire Safe Landscape Design" (page 14).

4 YARD

- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.
- Locate LPG tanks (butane and propane) at least 30 feet from any structure and surround them with 10 feet of clearance.
- **Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard.**

5 EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

- Maintain an emergency water supply that meets local fire department standards if there are no street fire hydrants.
- Clearly mark all emergency water sources with yellow paint and notify your local fire department of their location.
- Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source.
- If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during a power failure.

6 OUTSIDE

- Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home.
- Practice emergency exit drills regularly.
- Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code.
- Contact qualified individuals to perform electrical maintenance and repairs.

7 ACCESS

- **Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood.**
- Construct roads that allow two way traffic.
- Design road width, grade and curves to allow access for large emergency vehicles.
- Construct driveways to allow large emergency equipment to reach your house.
- Design bridges to carry heavy emergency vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks.
- Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations.
- Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas wide enough for emergency vehicles. Construct turnouts along one-way roads.
- Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways.
- Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads.
- Make sure that your street is named or numbered, and a sign is visibly posted at each street intersection.
- **Post your house address at the beginning of your driveway, or on your house if it is easily visible from the road. Use at least 4"-high numbers for easy identification.**

See Safety Recommendations
illustration on Page 17



If you would like to take a free tour of the California Department of Forestry Firescape Demonstration Garden located in Morgan Hill, please call (408) 779-2121 or go to www.cdfscu.org or www.fire.ca.gov to learn more.