Wildfire Awareness Week

Will your home survive a wildfire? Choices you make can help!

What kind of roofing material is on your house? Are the gutters clean? Install metal, tile, concrete, or Class A fire-resistant rated asphalt roofing. Keep gutters and downspouts clear of pine needles and leaves.

Are the eaves, fascias, and soffits enclosed? Does a balcony or deck hang over a slope? Cover vents with non-combustible 1/8" mesh screening to block burning embers from entering the attic and interior of your home. Remove debris, firewood, and other items from under decking. Enclose decking with 1/8" screen mesh to keep out burning embers. Stack firewood away from structures.

What kind of siding is on your house? Use fire-resistant materials such as river rock, brick, metal, concrete, or stucco.

Does your chimney have a spark arrestor? Install spark arrestors in all chimneys. Remove tree branches within 10 feet of a chimney.

Are the windows single pane? Which direction does the sliding glass door face? Use tempered or multi-layered glass in windows, doors, and skylights. Install shutters made of fire-resistant materials to cover windows in the event of a wildfire.

Is there a porch, garage, or wood fence attached directly to your home? Store flammables such as gasoline, propane, and other flammable liquids away from your house in a metal storage shed.

Are plants close to your home? Remove dry vegetation within 30 feet of your home. Replace flammable plants with fire-resistant landscaping. Plant shrubs and trees at least 10 feet apart.

Photo courtesy of Dick Harris.
Adapted from information provided by the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Office of State Fire Marshal, the Wildfire Structural Committee, the Institute for Business & Home Safety, and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes.