Wildfire Safety Tips

Minimize the risk of wildfire around your home by:

1. Creating an emergency plan so you can be prepared if an evacuation order is issued. If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
2. Clearing leaves and other vegetative debris from roofs, gutters, porches, and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.
3. Removing dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.
4. Screening in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
5. Removing flammable materials such as wood piles, propane tanks within 30 feet of your home’s foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don’t let it touch your house, deck or porch.
6. Pruning trees so the lowest branches are at least 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
7. Keeping your yard and lawn maintained. If it is brown, cut it down and dispose of the clippings to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
8. Inspecting shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair the shingles that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
9. Covering exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.

Protect yourself from wildfire smoke by:

1. Limiting time and activity outdoors as much as possible. Do not rely on dust masks for protection. They do not block the small particles in wildfire smoke.
2. Shutting windows and doors.
3. Keeping pets indoors and limiting walks for dogs until the air quality improves.
4. Reducing indoor pollution by not using candles, fireplaces, gas stoves, or vacuums.
5. Turning air conditioning units to recirculate mode in your home and car or using ceiling or portable fans.
6. Avoiding use of whole house fans that suck outdoor air into your home.
7. Contacting your doctor if you are experiencing health symptoms. If your symptoms require immediate attention, dial 911 for emergency assistance.
8. Paying attention to local air quality reports.

Sign up for Emergency Notifications at Yolo-Alert.org. Stay up to date on City news and events using our online resources at CityofDavis.org.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention