



Preparing for a Wildfire



Kings Mountain Fire Dept.
September 2020

Today's Presentation



- 1. Defensible Space for Your Home**
- 2. Preparing for a Wildfire**
- 3. What to do in a Wildfire**

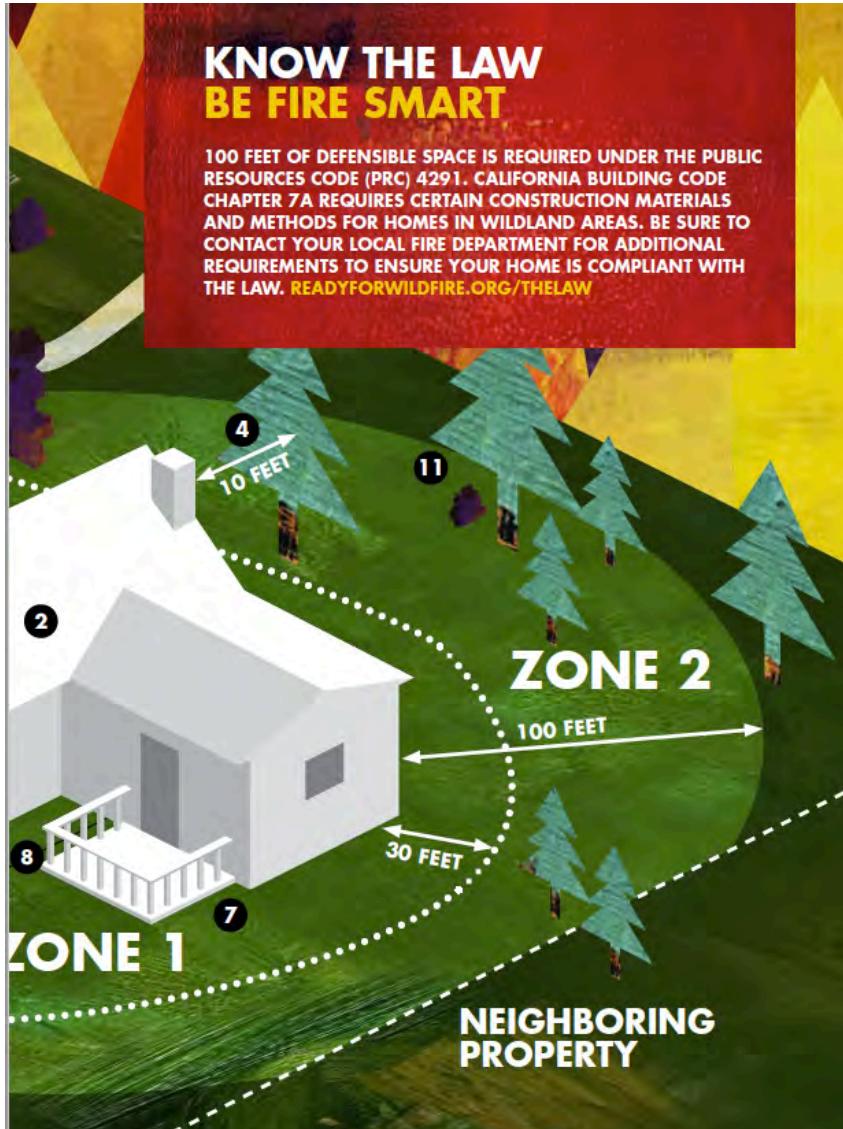


Defensible Space



Removal	This technique involves the elimination of entire plants, particularly trees and shrubs, from the site. Examples of removal would be the cutting down of a dead tree or the cutting out of a flammable shrub.
Reduction	The removal of plant parts, such as branches or leaves, constitute reduction. Examples of reduction are pruning dead wood from a shrub, removing low tree branches, and mowing dried grass.
Replacement	Replacement is the substitution of less flammable plants for more hazardous vegetation. For example, removal of a dense stand of flammable shrubs and planting an irrigated, well maintained flower bed would be a type of replacement.

Defensible Space Zones



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Wildfire Safety

Defensible Space Zone 1 Preparation

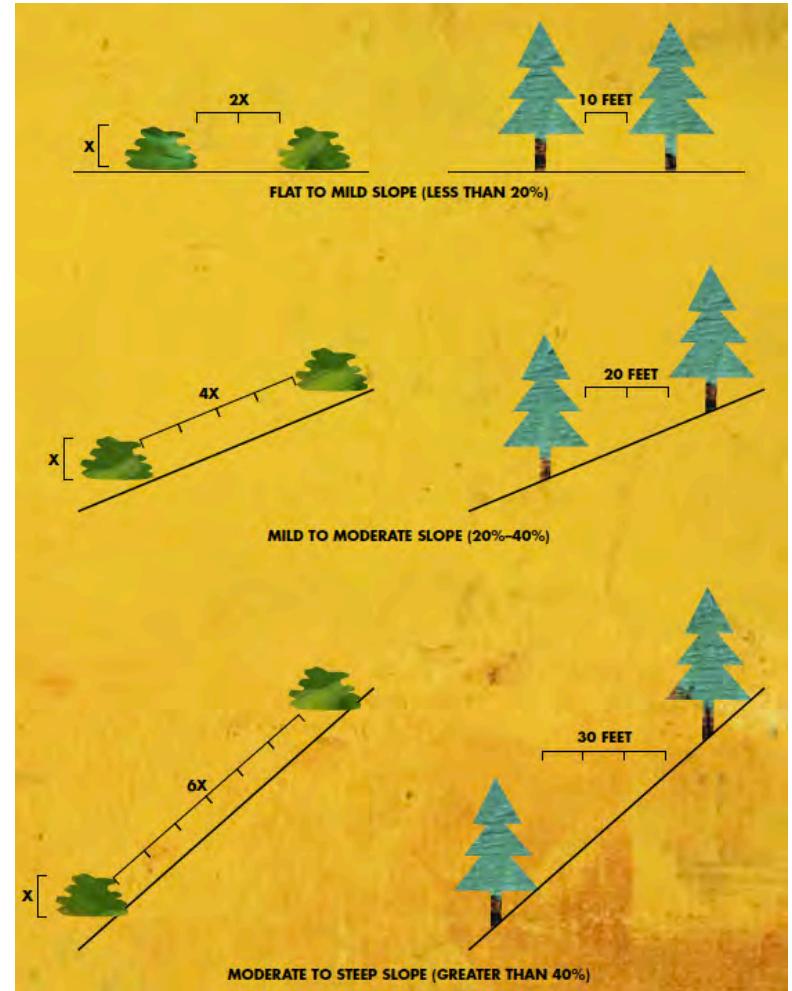


1. Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
2. Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
3. Trim trees regularly to keep branches min. 10 feet from other trees. Remove dead branches that hang over roof & chimney.
4. Relocate exposed woodpiles outside of Zone 1.
5. Remove or prune flammable plants & shrubs near windows.
6. Remove vegetation & items that could catch fire around & under decks.
7. Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire (patio furniture, swing sets, etc.) – Laddering.

Defensible Space Zone 2 Preparation



1. Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
2. Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
3. Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.
4. Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 4 inches if erosion control is an issue.

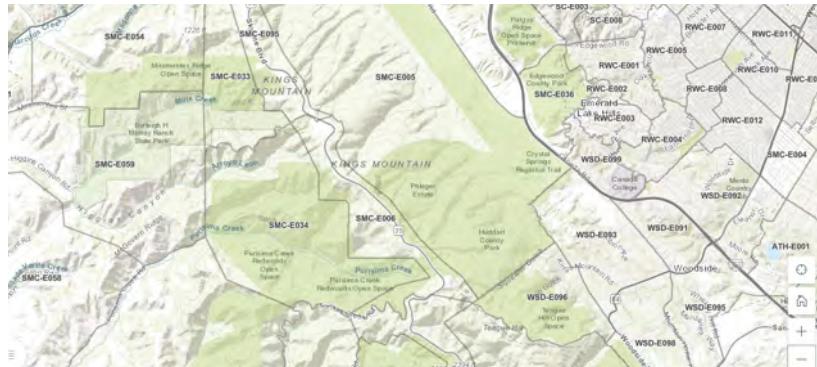




Family Preparedness



1. Identify safety zones & escape routes for your family ahead of time.
2. Sign up for **SMC Alert**: www.smcalert.info
3. Know how to access **evacuation zone maps**: www.smco.community.zonehaven.com
4. Sign up for **CalFire general notifications and App**:
<https://plan.readyforwildfire.org/>
5. Sign up for **Kings Mountain Community Forum**:
KingsMountainCommunity+subscribe@groups.io
6. Download **FEMA** App
7. Follow Cal Fire on Twitter at: **@CALFIRECZU**
8. Follow the KMFD on Twitter at: **@KingsMtnFire**





Home Prep In Advance For An Evacuation

- Move flammable furniture, including outdoor furniture, into the center of the home away from windows and sliding glass doors. Remove flammable curtains and window treatments.
- Ladder the roof away from the approaching fire.
- Connect garden hoses. Fill garbage cans, or other large containers with water.
- Move gas/fuel oil supplies away from the house.
- Disconnect automatic garage door openers so doors can be opened by hand if you lose power.



Right Before You Leave For An Evacuation



- Monitor local communication (SMC Alert, KM email Dist List, Twitter accounts, local radio, neighbors, www.firedispatch.com)
- Turn on lights outside & in every room to make house more visible in heavy smoke.
- Contact a friend or relative outside of the area: advise of your plans
- Close all windows, vents, doors, & fireplace screens.
- Conserve water until fire approaches
- Shut off propane at tank.





What To Do In a WildFire



Protect Yourself During A Wildfire



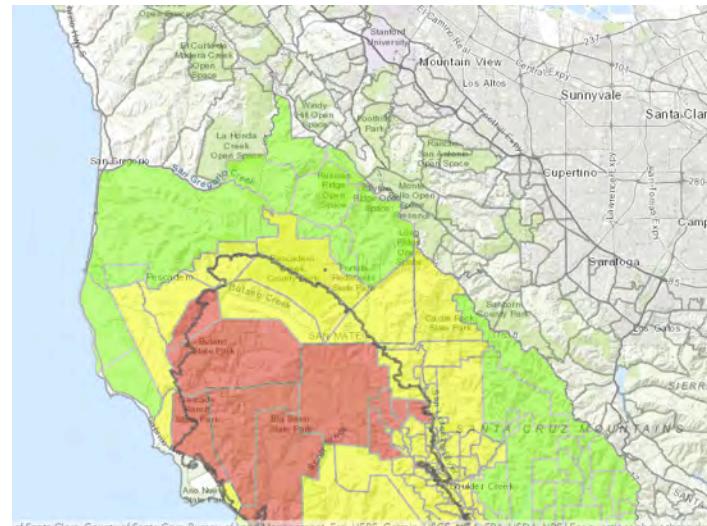
- If you see a fire nearby or approaching, call 911 to report. Do not assume that someone else has reported it.
- If fire is bigger than 10ft x 10ft – do not attempt to put it out.
- Keep vehicles fueled and facing out with the windows closed.
- Stay indoors - Do not drive to see the fire.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants made of cotton, leather gloves, helmet, lugged soul boots, and bandana over face.



Protect Yourself During an Evacuation



- If the danger is significant, local authorities may issue an evacuation notice to alert residents that a fire is nearby and it is important to leave the area.
- Evacuation orders may range from voluntary (Evacuation Warning) to mandatory (Evacuation Order).
- If asked to evacuate, evacuate all family members (and pets).
- Follow any additional guidance provided by local authorities.





When Driving Away From A Fire

- Roll up windows and close air vents because smoke from a fire can irritate your eyes and respiratory system.
- Do not block roads
- Watch for other vehicles, pedestrians, and fleeing animals.
- Drive slowly with your headlights on; smoke can reduce visibility.
- Avoid driving through heavy smoke, if possible.
- Fire retardant is very slippery, use caution
- Assume all power lines are energized





If You Are Trapped Inside Your House

- Call 911, provide your location, & explain your situation.
- Keep doors, windows, vents, & fire screens closed. Keep doors unlocked.
- Move flammable materials (curtains, furniture) away from windows & sliding glass doors.
- Turn on the lights to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.
- Stay inside, away from outside walls & windows.
- Fill sinks & tubs with water.



What Can I Do?



There are many volunteer opportunities in your community

- KMFD
- KMVFB
 - Board positions
 - Committees
 - Fundraising
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Kings Mtn Fire Dept. Apparatus



THANK YOU

Kings Mtn Fire Dept. Staff (and Friends)



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Wildfire Safety

