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OWNER ADDRESS

RESOURCES:

- “Living with Fire”: [www.fema.gov/pdf/library/woods/122\\_124.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/woods/122_124.pdf)
- US Fire Administration’s Wildfire....Are You Prepared?: [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)
- Know Your Role: [www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cr/cr\\_2014\\_12.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cr/cr_2014_12.pdf)
- Ready.gov: [www.ready.gov/wildfires](http://www.ready.gov/wildfires)
- Hillsborough Muni Code: [https://www.municode.com/library/ca/hillsborough/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://www.municode.com/library/ca/hillsborough/codes/code_of_ordinances)
- Burlingame Municipal Code: <http://gcode.us/codes/burlingame/>
- Millbrae Municipal Code: <http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Millbrae/>
- FireSafe San Mateo: Home Survival in Wildfire:  
[http://firesafesanteo.org/images/documents/home\\_survival\\_in\\_wildfire\\_prone\\_areas\\_8939.pdf](http://firesafesanteo.org/images/documents/home_survival_in_wildfire_prone_areas_8939.pdf)



TIPS TO REMEMBER IN ORDER TO GET  
THE BEST PLACARD POSSIBLE:

- DEFENSIBLE SPACE
- FIRE SAFE LANDSCAPING
- EMBER IGNITION RESISTANT HOME



Central County Fire Department

## Empowerment of your Community



*FIREFIGHTERS CAN'T ALWAYS PROTECT EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD FROM WILDFIRE,  
HELP YOUR FIREFIGHTERS BY DOING YOUR PART TO PREPARE*

NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION:

- \* Understanding how firefighters from outside cities will assess your home during a wildfire.
- \* Make your neighborhood safe.

# How Fire Fighters will assess your home during a wildfire

Fire fighters will use the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Placard

## What is the WUI Placard System and What is the Purpose? :

The WUI placard is a National Standard designed to document property information and conditions found during structure assessment, thus allowing firefighters to communicate basic conditions to other out of area responding units, whom are unfamiliar to the area. The placard informs the fire crew how to proceed in defending your home, whether it can be defended or not. We are informing you in order to help you increase the chances of making your neighborhood more defensible and to get the best placard possible.

### Procedure:

After a wildfire strikes, Fire fighters from other cities will place the placard in a location visible from the street. Additional placards may be placed over previous cards when significant changes have occurred.

## WUI Placard and Categories: What firefighters consider when placarding

The sign is approx. 8" x 11" on heavy water resistant card stock, with preprinted sections.

**ACCESS** – Can your home be accessed and allow for an escape route to a safety zone if necessary?

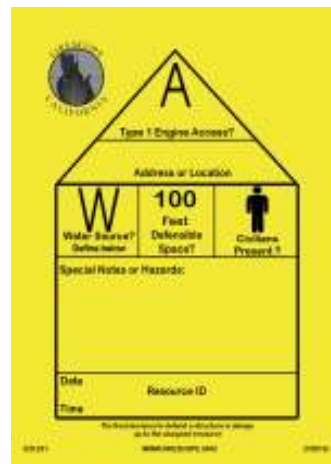
- Road surface adequate for speed – What kind of surface is the engine driving on?
- Adequate width (20'); Is there a safe place to spot apparatus?
- Turnaround/turnouts – Is there enough room for the engine to turnaround?
- Bridges within limits for fire apparatus – if there are bridges, can it support the weight of the engine?
- Steep Grades – Can the engine handle incline/declines?

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE

- Does the structure have adequate defensible space based on topography and fuels?
- Can defensible space problems be diminished quickly?
- Will building materials and yard clutter compromise safety? What's in the garage? Construction of roof?
- Are there vent openings, open eaves, large glass windows facing fire front, decks with vegetation below? If embers enter through the attic or foundation vents, will this be a problem?

## SPECIAL NOTES OR HAZARDS

- Additional measures needed?
- Location of water supply
- Are there hazardous materials present?



## Sections the Neighborhood Should Know:

- Access – Is there good access, turnarounds and exit for Fire Engines
- Defensible Space – Does the structure meet defensible space criteria?
- Can firefighters defend the house safely? – Determined by defensible space, hazardous materials stored properly, is there a safety zone nearby?
- Building Address – Is it legible and located where it can be observed from the street. – See requirements listed in Municipal Code.

## Why is it a Community/Neighborhood Effort?

- Firefighters must move quickly when assessing each neighbor, a home that is not kept up, is not defensible and the fire fighter must move on.



# Steps to Better Protect the Neighborhood Communities Doing Their Part Know Your Role

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE



Two zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space. Zone 1 is within 30 feet of the house and Zone 2 extends out at least 100 feet from the house or the property line.

**ZONE 1** Remove all dead plants, grass, weeds, and dry leaves from yard, roof & rain gutters

Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10' from other trees

Remove / Prune lower tree limbs at least 6' above ground

Remove branches that hang over your roof & dead branches 10' away from chimney

Relocate wood piles to Zone 2

Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows

Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks

**ZONE 2** Cut or mow annual grass down to a max height of 4"

Create spacing between shrubs and trees

## ROOF



Your roof must be able to resist the burning embers from the wildfire and flames from ignited debris. Roof coverings are rated as Class A, B, or C. A Class A fire-rated roof covering offers the best protection. See your city's municipal code for requirements.

- Build your roof or if it's time for a new roof, use materials such as composition, metal or tile
- Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent embers from catching.

## VENTS / WINDOWS

Vents on homes create openings for flying embers.

- Cover all vent opening with 1/8" to 1/4" metal mesh. (Fiber glass / plastic mesh can melt and burn)

Windows can break from the heat before the home ignites, which allows burning embers to enter and start fires inside.

- Install dual paned windows and consider limiting windows that face large areas of vegetation

## Home Assessment Checklist

### PROPERTY:

- Defensible Space

### HOME:

- Roof
  - Fire Rating of covering
- Vents & other openings
- Windows