



A Red Flag Warning is issued to signal the need for heightened awareness and increased fire safety.



Knowing how to respond when Red Flag Warnings are issued is your responsibility if you live, work, or even spend time in or near areas prone to wildfires.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG

Conditions needed to issue a Red Flag Warning, include:

- Sustained winds 15 MPH or greater
- Relative humidity of 25% or less
- Temperatures greater than 75° F

If these conditions are present or likely to happen within 24 hours, red flags are displayed at fire stations and participating county facilities, public libraries, and city halls. Red flags are also put up at chosen locations along highways, streets, and toll roads.

Safety guidelines recommended during Red Flag Warnings include the following:

- Do all yard work that requires a gas or electric motor before 10 a.m. and never when the wind is blowing
- Remove rocks from the area before you begin using any equipment
- Keep flammable materials away from gas-powered equipment
- Never drive or park vehicles on dry grass or brush
- Use lawnmowers on lawns only
- Grease trailer wheels, check tires, and make sure safety chains are not touching the ground
- Use caution with gas lanterns, barbecues, gas stoves, and anything else that can cause a wildfire
- Follow park, trail, camping, campfire restrictions and closure signs
- Throw away cigarettes or other smoking supplies properly in non-combustible containers



For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **714-573-6774** to schedule a wildfire home assessment.



A Wildfire Home Assessment is a meeting at your home with a Fire Department representative, who will give you tips on how to better protect your home from a wildfire.



*Don't wait.
Set up a
FREE Home
Assessment to
protect your
home today.*



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG

Experts can't tell you when the next wildfire will happen, but they do know that wildfires can happen at any time in Southern California. Many residents have not taken the most basic steps to protect their families, homes and neighborhoods from Orange County's #1 fire risk.

During your FREE Wildfire Home Assessment, the outside of your home and property, along with other risk factors, will be evaluated. Then, you'll be given specific steps you can take to reduce your home's vulnerability to wildfire.

Many proven tips to help your home survive a wildfire are available 24/7 at ocfa.org, including:

Landscaping	Construction	Safety
Plant Selection Spacing Separation Dead & Dying Plants Fuel Modification Creating Defensible Space Vegetation Management	Balconies & Decks Chimneys Fences Garages Patio Covers Rain Gutters Roofs, Eaves, & Vents Walls and Siding Windows	Ember Awareness As Wildfire Approaches Wildfire Evacuation If You Get Trapped Disaster Kits & Go! Bags Red Flag Warnings

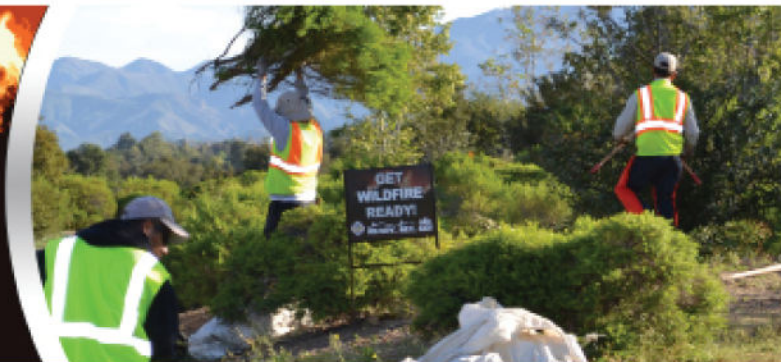
Homes survive wildfires because of what you do to prepare for them ahead of time, not by fate or luck. No matter where you live, or how much money you can spend, there are things that you can do right now to help protect your home.

For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **(714) 573-6774** to schedule a wildfire home assessment.





READY, SET, GO! VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



Vegetation Management is controlling plant material to prevent wildfire spread. It requires a constant commitment to follow the 4 R's of Vegetation Management to reduce the threat of a wildfire.



Vegetation Management isn't a one-time fix. It's an ongoing commitment.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG

Removal:

- Remove all dead and dying plants within 100 feet of your home
- Identify and remove plants found on OCFA's Undesirable Plant List

Reduction:

- Prune and thin plants within 100 feet of your home, including your plants within 100 feet of your neighbor's home
- Provide 4 feet vertical separation between shrub tops and lower tree branches to reduce "ladder fuels"
- Use Horizontal Separation Guidelines for plants over 2 feet in height (15 feet minimum or 3 times the tallest plant)
- Keep all shrubs within 10 feet of your home trimmed to 2 feet or lower
- Prune or remove plants near windows
- Remove all tree branches or plants within 10 feet of chimney outlets
- Move wood piles at least 30 feet from your home, or to the property line
- Keep annual grasses and weeds cut to 4 inches or less

Replacement:

- Replace fire-prone plants with fire-resistant and drought tolerant plants. See the OCFA Planting Guide for recommendations
- When putting in new plants, leave enough space for them to grow to mature size

Resistant:

- Use fire-resistant plants whenever possible
- Keep in mind that even plants listed on the Planting Guide must be maintained using Spacing Guidelines for both vertical and horizontal separation. Plant separation is an important part reducing wildfire threat

For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call
(714) 573-6774 to schedule a wildfire home assessment.



DEFENSIBLE SPACE



Defensible Space is an area between your house and an oncoming wildfire, where the vegetation has been controlled, trimmed, or removed to reduce wildfire threat from embers, flames, and intense heat.



Creating Defensible Space is the duty of every resident living in an area at risk for wildfires.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG

In order to offer wildfire protection, Defensible Space should reach at least 100 feet from the house, garage, and other buildings on the property, or to the property line. In many cases, Defensible Space is simply the front, side, and back yards of your home.

Guidelines for Vegetation Management within 100 feet of your home include:

- Remove all dead and dying plants
- Remove vegetation found on the Undesirable Plant List and replant using drought-tolerant, fire-resistive plants
- Trim or remove plants to create the recommended vertical and horizontal separation between them
- Remove dry leaves, twigs, pine needles, etc. from the yard, roof, and rain gutters

It's not necessary to remove all vegetation around your home, but creating Defensible Space will give firefighters a better chance of keeping wildfire from spreading to your home. Mowing, weeding, pruning, thinning, spacing, and careful plant selection can make the difference between survival and losing your home during a wildfire. Consult a geologist prior to beginning maintenance if you have slope stability issues.



For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **(714) 573-6774** to schedule a Wildfire Home Assessment.

READY, SET, GO!

BE EMBER AWARE

Embers are burning pieces of vegetation or other flammable material and are the leading cause of structural damage and home loss from a wildfire.



In order to successfully protect your home, you need to understand the real threat during a wildfire.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG

Once they're picked up by strong winds, embers can travel as much as five miles in front of the active front of a wildfire. Before flames get anywhere near your home, embers can land in dry or flammable vegetation or small open spaces on your roof or walls, and ignite, threatening your home.

If embers fall on and ignite nearby plants, the radiant heat created by the fire can burn combustible siding, doors, or window frames. Radiant heat can also cause windows to break, creating openings that allow flames and embers to enter your home. Once the home is on fire, it will create more embers that can be picked up by winds, travel to other homes and neighborhoods, and increase fire damage for the entire community.

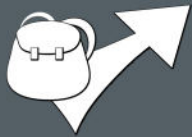
Embers create a huge threat during a wildfire. It's the steps you take now to make your home and landscaping more ember-resistant that will protect your family, your home, and your community during the next wildfire. Take responsibility!



For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **(714) 573-6774** to schedule a Wildfire Home Assessment.



A Disaster Supply Kit and a GO! Bag contain a collection of basic items your family may need during or after a wildfire.



Creating a Disaster Supply Kit in advance will prepare your family, not only for an evacuation, but for a long stay at home if escape routes are blocked during or after a wildfire.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG

The American Red Cross, FEMA, and the California Emergency Management Agency recommend putting together a Disaster Supply kit with supplies for at least 72 hours, including food, water, and supplies for pets.

After a disaster, basic services, such as electricity, gas, water, and phone may be out of service for days or even weeks. This may affect some people more than others, especially if they have special needs. It's important to consider the needs of every member of your household when creating your kit so your family is prepared to survive until additional resources are available.

A GO! Bag should contain some of the 6 P's like prescription medication, copies of important documents (papers), and personal supplies (credit cards, toothbrush/toothpaste, phone list, maps, etc.). If you're forced to evacuate and can grab only your GO! Bag, the items inside will make it easier for you to during and after a wildfire, earthquake, or other disaster.

Keeping extra supply kits in your car and at work is also a great idea in case a wildfire or other disaster stops you from going home.



For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **(714) 573-6774** to schedule a wildfire home assessment.

SMOKE ALARMS



Working smoke alarms reduce your risk of dying in a home fire by 50 percent.



Orange County Fire Authority

714-573-6200

ocfa.org



Almost two-thirds of all home fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarm. Protect your family by installing smoke alarms, inspecting them regularly, and practicing home fire drills.

Install

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, in hallways outside bedrooms or sleeping areas, and on every level of the home.
- Install smoke alarms on the ceiling or high on a wall. Make sure they're at least 10 feet from the stove and three feet from doors leading to the kitchen to reduce false alarms.
- Keep smoke alarms away from bathrooms with tubs or showers, heating or cooling ducts or vents, and ceiling or whole-house fans.
- Check the back for the manufacture date. Replace all alarms when they're 10 years old.
- Use interconnected smoke alarms. When one sounds, they all sound.
- It's safest to use both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms. Ionization alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires.
- Special alarms with strobe lights and bed shakers are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Inspect

- Test all smoke alarms once a month.
- Follow the manufacture's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working well.

Protect

- Draw a home escape plan that shows two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do if they hear it.
- Practice home fire drills at least twice a year.



CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms should be installed in all homes, apartments and workplaces. They should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. It is best to use interconnected CO alarms so when one sounds, all sound.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly odorless, poisonous gas that can make a person feel sick. In the home, fuel-burning devices for heating and cooking can be sources of carbon monoxide.



Orange County
Fire Authority

714-573-6200

www.ocfa.org



Test CO alarms at least once a month.

When a CO alarm sounds, assume that a real danger is present. You must get fresh air, so move all people and pets out of the structure immediately. Once outside, call the fire department. Do not re-enter until the fire department has declared the area safe and instructed you to do so.

PREVENT CO POISONING

- Have a professional inspect your chimneys and heating equipment each year.
- Don't keep your car running inside your garage, even if your garage doors are open.
- Gas and charcoal grills and generators can produce CO. Use them outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Clear all debris from dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents.
- Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.
- Do not cover the bottom of natural gas or propane ovens with aluminum foil. Doing so blocks the combustion air flow through the appliance and can produce carbon monoxide.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



Since fire grows and spreads rapidly, the number one priority is to get out safely.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

714-573-6200

ocfa.org



Fire extinguishers can save lives and property, but should only be used if the fire is small and smoke and heat have not filled the room. If you're unsure, evacuate immediately and call 9-1-1.

Types of Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are classified as A, B, or C to indicate which type of fire they will extinguish. Multipurpose (ABC) fire extinguishers are recommended for home use.

- **A** For use with ordinary materials like cloth, wood, and paper.
- **B** For use with flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil, and oil-based paints.
- **C** For use with electrical equipment that is connected to an outlet.

Using a Fire Extinguisher

- Alert others that there is a fire.
- Have someone call 9-1-1.
- Make sure you have a clear escape route.

The P.A.S.S. Method

When operating a fire extinguisher, remember P.A.S.S.

- Pull the pin.
- Aim low. Stand six to eight feet away and point the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- Sweep the nozzle from side to side until the fire is completely out. If the fire does not extinguish, evacuate immediately.

Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

Inspect your extinguisher regularly to ensure that it will operate safely and effectively.

- Keep your extinguisher in plain view and out of reach of children.
- If your extinguisher has a pressure indicator, make sure the needle is in the green zone.
- Check for dents, scratches, corrosion, or other damage. Make sure the lock pin is firmly in place and that the discharge nozzle is clean.
- Read and follow all instructions on the label and in the owner's manual. Some extinguishers may need to be shaken or tested monthly for adequate pressure.
- Non-rechargeable fire extinguishers should generally be replaced every five to seven years. Check with the manufacturer for exact dates.



DRYER SAFETY



The leading cause of home dryer fires is failure to clean them. (NFPA, 2016)



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

714-573-6200

ocfa.org



Fires can happen if there is a build-up of lint in the dryer or the exhaust duct. Lint can block the flow of air, which can cause excessive heat build-up that may result in a fire.

Safety Tips:

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that your dryer is connected properly.
- Make sure your dryer's air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and that the outdoor vent flap opens when the dryer is operating.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions for your dryer.
- Keep the dryer area clear of all combustibles.
- Keep your dryer in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connections are intact and free of leaks.
- Replace coiled-wire foil or plastic venting with a rigid, non-ribbed metal duct which provides maximum air flow and reduces fire risk.

Things to Remember:

- Do not use a dryer that doesn't have a lint filter.
- Clean the lint filter before or after drying each load of clothes.
- If clothing is still damp at the end of a typical drying cycle or if drying your clothes requires a longer time than normal, this may be a sign that the lint filter or exhaust duct is blocked.
- Be sure to clean behind the dryer, where lint can build up.
- Don't dry items that have come into contact with anything flammable such as alcohol, cooking oils, or gasoline. Dry these items outdoors or in a well-ventilated area away from heat.
- Never overload your dryer.
- Turn your dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.
- If you plan to be away from home for a long period of time, unplug or disconnect your dryer.