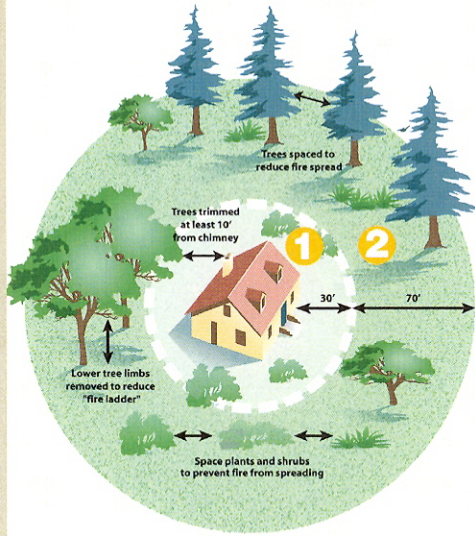


GOT DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Defensible Space is an area either natural or man-made, where material capable of allowing a fire to spread unchecked has been treated, cleared or modified to slow the rate and intensity of an advancing wildfire and to create an area for the fire suppression operations to occur. Minimum distances for modification are generally 30 to 100ft from structures. Clearance distances, type of vegetation and topographic features influence factors in determining adequate green belts and fire fuel breaks around structures.

Determining Risk: We want to help you identify the items that may be posing an unnecessary risk to your family and your property. The some risk factors can be influenced by: *Aspect*-This is the direction in which the face of the slope is situated; *Slope*- This is the most predominant angle of the hillside measured in % of slope, on the site that the structure is located on; and *Vegetation* or easily ignitable *fuel types*- within 0 to 100 feet of a structure.



Plant Spacing and Separation: Regardless of plant selection, shrubs should be spaced so that no continuity exists between the ground fuels and tree crowns. Tree crowns should be separated by at least 10 feet. Separate individual shrub crowns by at least two times the height or clump shrubs into islands. Separate the islands by a distance of no less than two times the canopy height.

Good Plants - Bad Plants Lists: Use only fire safe plants within the defensible space area. Select from the University of California Cooperative Extension *Pyrophytic vs. Fire Resistant Plants* brochure, select use of native, domestic or combination thereof that best suits the architectural and planning design of the proposed project. Slope, soil type, deer resistance, and drought resistance should be considered when selecting plant types. Native grasses should be removed from defensible space areas. The UC plant list is available online at www.novatofire.org

Call the Novato Fire District today for a free site assessment of your property.
415.878.2690

PLANTS TO AVOID —

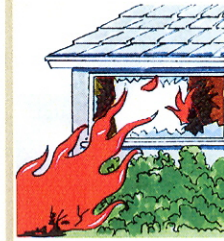
IMPORTANT NOTE: REMOVE THESE PYROPHYTIC PLANTS FROM YOUR PROPERTY!

Partial list only—Native Grasses, Junipers, Firs, Bamboo, Fountain Grass, Rosemary, Broom, Pampas Grass, Coyote Brush, Manzanita, Pines, Acacia, Eucalyptus, California Bay, Japanese Honeysuckle, Dry Palm Fronds, Cedars, and False Cypress

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION IS REQUIRED FOR NEW BUILDINGS, REMODELS, AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE WUI

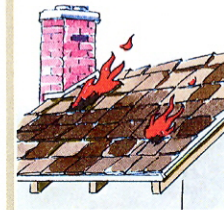
Permits are required by the city of Novato and/or the County of Marin building divisions for remodels, alterations, and repairs to buildings that are located in the WUI. Please refer Novato Fire Protection Standard #222 online at www.novatofire.org, and contact your local building division for details.

Here's **WHY...**



NEW WINDOWS or WINDOW REPLACEMENTS

- Large, annealed glass, single paned picture windows can allow radiant energy from burning vegetation or an adjacent burning structure to ignite flammable materials inside a structure – even if the window remains intact.
- Typically, the glass in large windows is heated unevenly causing it to shatter, allowing firebrands into the building.
- Tempered glass and double or triple pane glazing also provides increased resistance to shattering.



ROOFING AND ROOF GUTTERS

- Use fire resistive roofing materials such as steel, aluminum, concrete, tile, or Class "A" composition which resist ignition.
- Install concrete, clay or manmade roofing tiles so that sparks and embers cannot get under them by falling or being blown into cracks or spaces between them.
- Solid sheathing (minimum of 5/8" thick plywood or particle board) under the roofing material dramatically increases a roof's resistance to ignition, in addition to providing a barrier to burning embers that can penetrate between roof tiles.
- Gutters should always be metal; plastic gutters may ignite at low temperatures, or melt.
- Gutter screens, or non-clog gutters should be used to prevent accumulation of leaves and other combustibles. Gutters can accumulate leaves and needles that can easily be ignited by firebrands.



EAVE PROTECTION AND ATTIC VENTILATION

- Eaves can interrupt the flow of wind, creating eddies that can trap leaves and other debris; or where burning embers can accumulate.
- Eave and cornice vents are not allowed unless they resist intrusion of flames and burning embers to the attic.
- Eaves should be "boxed in" with rafter tails enclosed with smooth, fire resistant materials.



DECKS or REPLACEMENT OF DECK SURFACES

- Build decks of ignition resistant materials, heavy timber, using steel posts, girders and joists.
- Remove flammable vegetation to the downhill side of decking.
- Decks should be skirted with metal or other ignition resistant materials to keep heat from under them.
- Avoid storage of combustible materials under decks.



EXTERIOR WALL REPAIRS & REPLACEMENTS

- Metal siding and stucco will not burn or melt in typical wildfire temperatures
- Fire resistant exterior coverings such as steel, aluminum, stone, brick, stucco, or manmade siding materials should always be underlain with solid sheathing, just like roofing materials.
- Wood shingles and other flammable siding add to the odds that may already favor fire.
- Vinyl siding is not recommended, as it melts at very low temperatures, exposing what is underneath to the possibility of ignition.

In an effort to provide homeowners, industries, designers, local fire and building officials a list of "compliant WUI products", the State Fire Marshal is publishing a "WUI Products Handbook". To review the most recent copy go to: <http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/bml/wuiproducs.pdf>