Choose only fire resistant plants, and remove or avoid fire prone (xerophytic) plants. Remember that all plants can burn if they aren’t properly irrigated or are poorly maintained.

Ground Covers
- Carpet Bugle
- Common Thrift
- Snow-in-Summer
- Creeping Copsoma
- White Trailing Ice-plant
- Rosea Iceplant
- Winter Creeper
- Beach Aster
- Scabiosa Cotula
- Ice Plant
- Evergreen Cushion Plant
- Surf Jewels
- Creeping Thyme
- English Laurel
- Privet, Glossy Privet
- Bird of Paradise
- Creeping Mahonia
- Angels Trumpet
- Bush Anemone
- Breath of Heaven
- Bush Morning Glory
- Coreopsis
- Escallonia
- Lantana
- Lavender
- Malva Rose (Tree Mallow)
- Catalina Cherry
- Pomegranate
- India Hawthorn
- Creeping Thyme
- Perennial Verbena
- Creeping Red Fescue Bluegrass
- Russian Sage
- Lavender Cotton
- +20 More online!

Trees
- Maple
- Strawberry Tree
- Carob
- Western Redbud
- Italian Stone Pine
- Fire Oak
- Beech
- Pineapple Guava
- Ash
- Macadamia Nut
- New Zealand Xmas Tree
- Chinese Pistache
- Citrus
- Creeping Mahonia
- Bird of Paradise
- Privet, Glossy Privet
- English Laurel
- Shrub & Hedges

Mulches
- Use only gravel mulch within 5’ of structures. From 5’ to 30’, use compost or heavy bark or wood chip mulches greater than 1/2” diameter. Avoid fine or shredded bark—it’s highly combustible and ignites easily from embers.

WILDFIRE & EMERGENCY “GO KIT”
- Full coverage goggles, N95 respirator, leather gloves, cotton bandana
- Water bottle(s) and food
- Map marked with two or more evacuation routes to valley floor (if possible)
- Prescriptions medications
- Change of clothing
- First aid kit
- Flashlight and headlamp with spare batteries
- Battery-powered AM/FM radio and spare batteries
- Copies of important docs (birth certificates, pass ports, insurance policies)
- Family Communication Plan with phone numbers
- Pet food, water, leashes, pet supplies & medications
- Spare chargers for cell phones & electronics
- Sanitation supplies
- Items to take only if time allows:
  - Easily carried valuables
  - Family photos and other irreplaceable items
  - Personal computer and digital backups on hard drives and/or disks

WILDFIRE PARTNERSHIPS
- PLANNING
- PREVENTION
- PREPAREDNESS
- PROTECTION

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TODAY!
- www.firesafemarin.org/donate

1. PREPARE IN ADVANCE
Prepare yourself, your family, your pets, and your home in advance. Register for Alert Marin and Nixle. Pack a “Go Kit” for everyone (including pets), create defensible space, and harden your home. Complete a Family Communications Plan and practice regularly.

2. LEAVE EARLY
Leave immediately if ordered. If a fire is burning nearby (especially during a Red Flag Warning), dress appropriately and prepare to evacuate. Allow firefighters time and access to respond to your home. If conditions change, or you feel unsafe or unsure.

3. STAY CALM
Take the fastest & most protected route to a valley floor. Use Campool Stay in your car, or a refuge area if trapped. Don’t panic in traffic! A wide road on the valley floor is one of the safest places you can be. Monitor AM/FM radio.

4. STAY INformed
Monitor weather and local fire conditions to understand when risk is highest. During “Red Flag Warnings,” take steps to prepare: review your evacuation checklist, double-check your Go Kit, change your phones, monitor TV & radio.

www.AlertMarin.org

Sign up to receive emergency alerts!
Alert Marin is Marin’s primary emergency notification system. You must register your cell phones, VoIP phones, and landlines to receive emergency alerts. Register contact information for all family members so they’ll receive a warning when emergencies threaten your home address. Practice evacuation drills regularly!

WILDFIRE & EMERGENCY “GO KIT”
- Items to take only if time allows:
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WILDFIRE PARTNERSHIPS

MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TODAY!
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Tax ID #68-0375763

FIRESafe MARIN is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the risk and hazard of wildfires and improving fire safety awareness in Marin County, CA. We encourage community involvement by building strong partnerships and providing resources to mitigate fire danger.

FIRESafe MARIN is Marin’s most valuable resource for preventing and preparing for wildfires. They foster community involvement in wildfire safety by building partnerships and encouraging cooperation among public and private stakeholders.

Katie Rice
FIRESafe MARIN Chairperson
Supervisor, 2nd District

www.firesafemarin.org

www.firesafemarin.org/plants

Working to Reduce Wildfire Risk Since 1991

FIRESafe MARIN, working to reduce wildfire risk since 1991, is Marin’s most valuable resource for preventing and preparing for wildfires. They foster community involvement in wildfire safety by building partnerships and encouraging cooperation among public and private stakeholders.

Katie Rice
FIRESafe MARIN Chairperson
Supervisor, 2nd District

www.firesafemarin.org

The number of homes destroyed by wildfire has soared in the US in the last decade. In 2018, more than 30,000 structures were destroyed in California alone. Nearly 100 lives were lost.

Marin is at risk.

To reverse this trend, homeowners must understand how homes ignite during wildfires and take action to protect their own property. There are easy and often inexpensive ways to make homes safer, many of which are required by law.

By following the simple strategies outlined in this guide, Marin residents can reduce their wildfire risk and minimize the danger to their homes, families, and communities.

Review our detailed online resources and tools for more comprehensive information about wildfire preparedness at:

www.firesafemarin.org
Zone Zero: 0’-5’
Zone 0 extends 5 feet from structures. There should be “zero” combustibles in "Zone Zero."

Remove all combustible materials and protect vents and openings where wind-blown embers can enter.

“Hardening” your home is critical
Embers are the most significant cause of home ignitions during wildfires. Protecting your home from embers is critically important, and can be as simple as retrofitting vents, covering openings, sealing doors and windows, and caulking gaps and cracks.

Install “Class A” roofing and keep your roof and gutters clean at all times, focusing on areas like dormers where vertical surfaces meet the roof.

Other measures, such as retrofitting ember and flame resistant vents, installing tempered, dual-pane windows, and installing fire resistant siding can make a home significantly more fire resistant.

Attachments & Fences
Wood fences, gates, and other combustible structures should not be attached directly to the house. Use fire resistant materials instead, such as steel, aluminum, or masonry. Protect fences by removing vegetation and other fuels within 5 feet.

Zone 1: 5’-30’
Zone 1 extends from 5 to 30 feet from buildings, decks, and other structures.

Keep this area “Lean, Clean, and Green,” and be sure to maintain regularly throughout fire season!

These zones make up the 100’ of Defensible Space required by law

1. Remove all dead grasses, weeds, plants, & foliage.
2. Trim trees to remove limbs 6’ to 10’ from the ground.
3. Remove branches that overhang your roof or within 10’ of chimneys.
4. Move firewood & lumber out of Zone 1, or cover in a fire resistant enclosure.
5. Remove all piled dead vegetation.

Zone 2: 30’-100’
Zone 2 is the space extending 30 to 100 feet from buildings, decks, and other structures.

Reduce fuel for fire, and separate trees and shrubs in this area. Remove dead vegetation regularly.

1. Cut annual grasses and weeds to a maximum height of 4”.
2. Provide horizontal spacing between shrubs & trees.
3. Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and lower tree limbs.
4. Allow no more than 3” of loose surface litter (consisting of fallen leaves, needles, twigs, cones, and small branches) if needed to protect from erosion.
5. Remove all piles of dead vegetation.

Public Right of Way: Your Responsibility
Property owners are responsible for vegetation adjacent to roads and driveways, even in the public “right of way.” Ensure that vegetation is maintained near roads on all sides of your property, especially if your lot extends between two streets.

1. Clear vegetation 14” over head and 10’ from sides of roads and driveways in the same manner as Defensible Space Zone 1.
3. Choose only fire resistant plants and ensure that they do not extend into the roadway.
4. Address numbers must be clearly visible from the road. Use 4” reflective or lighted numbers on a contrasting background.
5. Create vertical spacing between shrubs and lower tree limbs.

Plant and Tree Spacing
Many homes don’t have 100’ of space between structures and parcel lines. Property owners are required to maintain defensible space only to their property line. You may, however, be required to maintain vegetation on your property that threatens neighboring homes, even if it’s more than 100’ from your structures. Check with your local fire department for details.

1. Mature trees don’t usually need to be removed. In all zones, clear shrubs and grasses beneath trees. Remove limbs at least 6’ to 10’ above the ground (or 1/3 the height of tree) to eliminate a “fire ladder.”
2. Create spacing between shrubs & trees; add space on steeper slopes.
3. Maintain a minimum clearance of 3’ - 5’.

Beyond 100’ & Open Spaces
Work with neighbors & land managers to reduce fuel on nearby properties and create fuel breaks to protect your community.

Contact FIRESafe MARIN and your local fire department for help organizing neighbors to create a Firewise USA® site.

Learn more: www.firesafemarin.org/home-hardening
www.firesafemarin.org/firewise