

Mobile Home Wildfire Safety

Mobile homes are more properly called manufactured homes. Manufactured homes are produced according to the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) safety standards. These unified national safety standards help make sure that manufactured homes are as safe as site-built homes.

Embers from nearby fires are the most common cause of ignition for both site built and manufactured homes. When embers land on or near your house, they can ignite nearby vegetation, accumulated debris, or enter the home through openings or vents. Homes can also ignite from direct flame contact exposure or radiant heat exposure (the heat felt when standing next to a campfire or fireplace). In most mobile home parks the homes are sited relatively close together. This can make mobile homes more vulnerable if adjacent homes are ignited by wildfire.

Take action in four areas to reduce wildfire risk.

1. Prepare yourself and your family. Make a disaster plan, sign up for alerts and warnings, know your evacuation routes, pack a go bag, make a plan for your pets. <https://firesafemarin.org/prepare-yourself/>
2. Create defensible space around your home. The first five feet around the home should be clear of all combustibles. Clear dead vegetation and foliage from within 30 feet from your home. Limb up trees and create space between plants. <https://firesafemarin.org/create-a-fire-smart-yard/>
3. Improve the fire resistance of your home exterior by choosing the right exterior cladding. New fire-resistant siding can also increase energy efficiency, improve curb-appeal, and protect against the elements. Harden attached decks and fences to resist embers. firesafemarin.org/harden-your-home/mobile-home-wildfire-safety/
4. Become a firewise community. Mobile home parks tend to be community oriented. Neighbors helping neighbors is a great way to prepare. <https://firesafemarin.org/programs/firewise-usa/>

Additional Fire Safety Tips

- Fire Drills: It's important to hold household fire drills at least two times a year.
- Exits: Make sure at least one window in every bedroom can be used for easy and fast escape in case of fire.
- Fire Extinguishers: Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and another near the furnace. Install a fire extinguisher at each exit of the home, as the first action should be to ensure a clear and safe egress before attempting to extinguish a fire.
- Smoke Detectors: Place smoke detectors high on the wall or ceiling adjacent to bedroom areas. Place another in the kitchen. Check your smoke detectors once a month by pressing the test button.
- Be Careful Not to Overload Electrical Circuits.
- Don't Overextend an Electrical Outlet with Extension Cords.
- Store flammable liquids in approved containers outside the mobile home in an approved space.
- Never place combustible material under your mobile home.
- Make regular safety checks of your mobile home's major systems. Check for cleanliness, proper functioning and loose connections.
- Never block doors or windows with furniture or other large objects.
- Supplemental heating units like electrical space heaters, fireplaces, kerosene heaters and wood stoves can be dangerous. Be sure each device is approved for use in a home. Turn them off before you leave or go to sleep.
- Don't try to fight your own fire. Leave immediately and call for help from a neighbor's home.
- Carefully touch the bottom of all doors before opening them. If they're hot, don't open them. Find another exit via a window.
- If your clothes catch fire, don't run. Stop, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands to protect your face and lungs, and roll until you smother the flames. Remember: stop-drop-and-roll.
- Monitor your local news during all major storms for information specifically directed toward mobile home residents.