



The Soffit Solution

Surprisingly, one of the most frequently searched fire safety topics is “soffits.” So what is a soffit and what does it have to do with wildfire risks?

Your roof will often extend over the walls of your house. This overhang is called the eaves or the rafters of your roof. The underside of this overhang, when given a finished appearance, is known as the soffit, which means “something fixed underneath”. A soffit is the finishing material that is installed to cover the underside of your roof overhang. Source: Allura.

The Key Issues

Trapped heat: If there is an ignition of something in Zone Zero, the first five feet next to the house, the heat and embers can rise up and become trapped in the area below the soffits. This area can ignite, spreading fire to the roof or into the attic.

Embers: Often homes have soffit vents to allow for ventilation to reduce mold or mildew. These vents are vulnerable to embers entering the home.

Fire-Smart Recommendations

Fire-resistant vents: Make sure the vents have openings that are 1/8 or 1/16 of an inch, small enough to reduce the size and number of embers entering.

Enclose soffits: Use non-combustible material like fiber-cement so that there is nowhere for heat to become trapped.

Clear Zone Zero: Remove all combustible materials and items from the first five feet next to your house .

**Follow these recommendations to make your home
more resilient to wildfire.**

Learn more at firesafemarin.org