

WILDFIRE **PREPARED**

— A PROGRAM OF IBHS —

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

WILDFIRE
PREPARED
— HOME —

WILDFIRE
PREPARED
— HOME PLUS —



Summary of Changes

TECHNICAL UPDATES

August 2023 Changes

Wildfire Prepared Home™ Designation Requirements

- Clarified vegetation requirements within 30 feet of the structure.

Landscaping in the Remainder of the Parcel

The remainder of the property beyond the 5-foot HIZ must maintain defensible space. Defensible space separates fuels to reduce flame intensity near a home. The following maintenance criteria must be met within 30 ft of the structure or to the property line:

- Routinely remove fallen pine needles, leaves, and other debris from trees and bushes accumulated in the yard.
- Vegetation, including plants with canopies within 30 feet of the home:
 - Trees with a trunk of 4 inches in diameter or greater when measured at a height of 4.5 feet above the ground¹:
 - Must have limbs and branches pruned to a minimum height of 6 feet off the ground.
 - Must have a minimum of 10 horizontal feet of spacing between the tree canopy and the next closest tree, shrub, or bush canopy.
 - May be clustered in small groupings with a combined canopy not larger than 10 feet in horizontal diameter.
 - Must have a minimum of 5 horizontal feet between a tree canopy and the home.
 - Shrubs, bushes, and small trees with a trunk less than 4 inches in diameter when measured at a height of 4.5 feet above the ground or less than 4.5 feet tall:
 - Must not be placed under larger trees.
 - Must not have a canopy larger than 10 feet in horizontal diameter.
 - May be clustered in small groupings with a combined canopy not larger than 10 feet in horizontal diameter.
 - Must have a minimum horizontal space between canopies of at least 10 feet.
- Routinely remove any dead vegetation, including piles from pruning and firewood.

Note: Large propane tanks must be located outside of 30 feet

January 2023 Changes

Wildfire Prepared Home Plus™ Designation Requirements

Exterior Glass (Windows, Skylights & Glass within Doors)

- Changed one of the options to two tempered panes of glass based on continuous research from IBHS.

All exterior windows, skylights, and glazed openings within doors must comply with one of the following requirements:

- Multipaned glass with at least two tempered panes
- Glass with a minimum of 20-minutes fire-resistance rating when tested in accordance with NFPA 257
- Glass blocks (windows only)

Exterior Doors

- Added an additional option to help homeowners reach the Plus designation. Exterior doors must be constructed with noncombustible or ignition-resistant material, be solid, and have a metal threshold.

All exterior doors must comply with one of the following requirements:

- Exterior surface or cladding of the exterior doors must be solid, have a metal threshold, and be constructed with noncombustible or ignition-resistant material, such as:
 - Metal
 - Solid hardwood
 - Fiberglass
- Exterior door assembly shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 252.
- Doors made of combustible material are permissible provided a noncombustible exterior storm door is installed as the outermost door.

Fences

- Changed back-to-back fencing requirement to 5 feet apart based on newly released (in December 2022) NIST research.

In addition to the requirements listed above, back-to-back fencing (meaning separate fences that are closer than 5 feet apart) is not permitted. Meeting this requirement may necessitate coordination with neighboring parcels to eliminate duplicative fences that can trap debris between them creating a fire conduit.

Decks

- Added an additional retrofit option.

In addition to the requirements listed above, decks must comply with one of the following requirements:

- All deck components including posts, joists, railings, stairs, and walking surfaces are constructed with noncombustible materials.

- Deck walking surfaces constructed with a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material* such as metal or light-weight concrete; railings within 5 feet of the home constructed of a noncombustible material, including where railings attach to the home; and deck posts with a minimum of 6 vertical inches of noncombustible material at grade. As noted in the defensible space section, all decks including attached staircases must include the noncombustible 5-foot Home Ignition Zone around them.
 - For staircases 4 feet in width or less that attach to a deck and are open underneath should have one of the following requirements:
 - Open risers (no solid risers)
 - Must have a minimum of 6 vertical inches of the bottom of stairs made from noncombustible material.
 - Stair treads should be a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material, such as metal or light-weight concrete.
 - Closed risers
 - Must have a minimum of 6 vertical inches of the bottom of stairs made from noncombustible material.
 - Stair treads and risers should be a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material, such as metal or light-weight concrete.
 - For staircases wider than 4 feet that attach to a deck, the staircase should be cleared underneath and enclosed with noncombustible material with openings not to exceed 1/8-inch, such as 1/8-inch or finer metal mesh and include the following requirements:
 - Closed risers
 - Must have a minimum of 6 vertical inches of the bottom of stairs made from noncombustible material.
 - Stair treads and risers should be a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material, such as metal or light-weight concrete.

* Note that these decks are engineered to have a solid walking surface and thermal expansions and weathering do not deform them. Do not install common deck boards with no gaps.