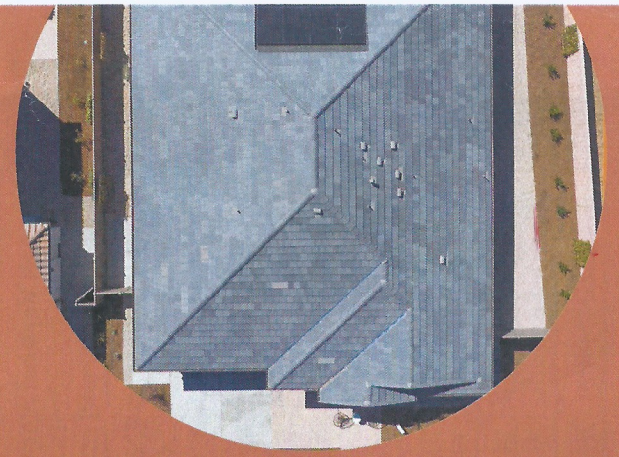


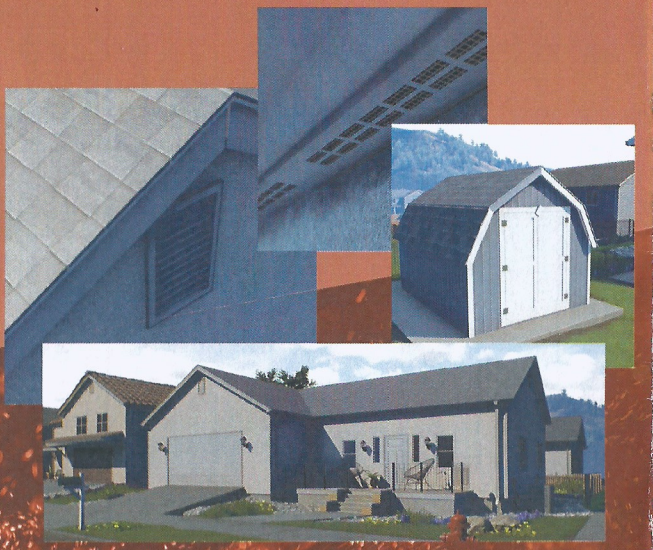
Developed by the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), the program follows a systems-based approach—addressing multiple vulnerabilities rather than a single action. It guides homeowners through a defined set of mitigation steps and offers a designation certificate for those who meet the requirements. There are two designation levels available —**Base** and **Plus**—each with specific criteria that must be met and maintained.

Wildfire Prepared Home Designation Levels

1. The Base-Level Designation establishes a set of fundamental wildfire mitigation measures to help protect homes from wind-driven embers—the leading cause of home ignitions—and limit fire spread to the structure. To earn a Base designation, a home must meet all Base-level requirements, including creating the 0-5 Foot Noncombustible Zone, upgrading vulnerable building features, and maintaining 30 feet of defensible space (or to the property line, if closer).

2. The Plus-Level Designation builds upon the Base designation and is often achieved through new construction or exterior renovations. It includes enhanced building features and stricter defensible space requirements within 30 feet to improve protection against radiant heat and direct flame contact. To earn a Plus designation, a home must meet all Base-level requirements, as well as additional Plus-level criteria.





Download the How-To Checklist at
WildfirePrepared.org
and take the first step.



WILDFIRE PREPARED

A PROGRAM OF IBHS

The Wildfire Prepared Home™ designation program empowers homeowners to take science-based, proven steps to meaningfully reduce wildfire risk to their home and property.

SCIENCE-BASED **PROTECTION** STARTS WITH YOU.



	Wildfire Prepared Home™ Requirements Science-Based Steps to Better Wildfire Protection	Base Level	Plus Level
ROOF	**Roof Covering:** Ensure the roof covering material is Class A fire-rated.	X	X
	Gutters: Choose noncombustible gutters and downspouts (e.g., metal).	X	X
	Roof/Gutter Maintenance: Routinely clear all vegetative debris from roof, gutters, and downspouts.	X	X
	Gutter Cover: Install noncombustible gutter guards to prevent accumulation of vegetative debris.		X
	Enclose Eaves: Enclose the exposed underside of eaves with noncombustible soffit or siding material (e.g., metal, fiber-cement, stucco).		X
	Skylights: Replace plastic dome skylights with flat, multipaned tempered glass; operable units must have 1/8-inch metal mesh screens.		X
BUILDING FEATURES	**Vents:** Install flame- and ember-resistant vents or cover existing ones with 1/8-inch metal mesh at the roof, attic, eaves, and foundation; ensure a functional louver or flap (no mesh) for dryer vents**.	X	X
	6-Inch Vertical Noncombustible Wall Covering Clearance: Maintain 6 vertical inches of noncombustible siding (or exposed concrete foundation) at the base of exterior walls and above attached decks/patios, includes bases of deck post.	X	X
	Decks, Patios, & Overhead Structures: Routinely clear debris, replace combustible furniture, maintain the 0-5 foot noncombustible zone, remove underdeck storage, enclose low-elevation decks, and retrofit pergolas.	X	X
	Dryer Vents: Ensure the vent has a functional louver or flap and is made of noncombustible material (e.g., metal).	**	X
	Siding Material: Replace combustible siding and shutters (e.g., vinyl, wood lap/shake/shingle, engineered wood) with noncombustible material (e.g., brick, fiber-cement, masonry veneer, metal, or stucco).		X
	Decks: Upgrade to a noncombustible deck (e.g., steel joists, lightweight concrete, tile, stone, pavers, brick, aluminum).		X
	Windows: Upgrade to dual-pane windows with tempered glass in both panes (each pane must have visible corner etching).		X
	Exterior Doors: Use noncombustible doors with a metal threshold.		X
DEFENSIBLE SPACE	**0-5 FT. Noncombustible Zone:** Keep this area clear of all vegetation, overhanging branches, mulch, and combustible items; replace wood or vinyl fencing within 5 feet of the home with noncombustible fencing (e.g. metal).	X	X
	5-30 FT. Defensible Space - Vegetation: Maintain by properly spacing trees and shrubs, keeping grass short, removing dead vegetation, and storing firewood at least 30 feet from the home.	X	X
	5-30 FT. Defensible Space - Other Large Items: Ensure propane tanks, hot tubs, and outdoor kitchens, are constructed, maintained, and properly placed, with appropriate surrounding noncombustibe materials and/or noncombustible zone.	X	X
	10-30 FT. Defensible Space - Detached Structures: Limit to 3 structures within 30 feet. Each must meet home requirements and be properly spaced from the home, decks, and one another.	X	**
	0-30 FT. Defensible Space - No Structures Within 30 Feet: Remove or relocate all detached structures at least 30 feet from the home.	**	X
	5-30 FT. Back-To-Back Fencing: If two parallel combustible fences are less than 5 feet apart, remove or replace one with a noncombustible option.		X

*This is an abbreviated list. Please review the How-To Prepare My Home Checklist for the full list of requirements and apply at wildfireprepared.org.
** Plus requirements are more restrictive than Base requirements.