

**Safety tips provided by PMCPOA's Emergency Preparedness Committee on how to protect your home:**

Along with "defensible space" around your home, there are other things you can do to protect your home. There are measures you can take to safeguard your home from wild-land fire, aka making it a "hardened" house.

**ROOFS:** Roofs are the most vulnerable surface where embers land because they can lodge and start a fire. Roof valleys and rain gutters are points of entry. Make sure your roofing is of a fire-resistant material.

**EAVES:** Embers can gather under eaves and ignite exposed wood or other combustible material.

**VENTS:** Embers can enter the attic or other concealed spaces. Vents in eave cornices are particularly vulnerable. All vents should be covered with 1/8-inch or smaller metal mesh.

**WALLS:** Combustible siding or other combustible or overlapping materials provide surfaces for embers to nestle and ignite. There are fire-resistant siding materials.

**WINDOWS AND DOORS:** Embers can enter gaps in windows and doors, including garage doors. Heat from wild-land fire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable. Install dual-paned windows with the exterior pane of tempered glass to reduce chance of breakage.

**BALCONIES AND DECKS:** Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces or the undersides of decks and balconies. Use heavy timber or non-flammable material for decks. Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials.

**CHIMNEY:** Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a non-flammable screen of ¼-inch wire mesh.

**SPRINKLERS:** Consider an exterior sprinkler system. Have multiple garden hoses that are hooked up to exterior faucets.