



# Wildfire Home Risk Assessment

Are You **READY?**

# READY! SET! GO!

**Directions:** Answer each question using assigned point values as it applies to the home. If the question does not apply, score it as a zero. Total the points to determine the risk level for the home.

Home			
Condition found	Recommendation	Points	Total
The <b>home</b> has all non-combustible siding (brick, stucco, metal)		0	
The home has some vinyl siding	Replace siding with non-combustible material	5	
The home has some wood siding		10	
The <b>roof material</b> is non-combustible (metal, composition, tile) with no areas for fire embers to intrude (i.e. has bird stops, flashing at valleys, and blocking)		0	
The roof has wood shakes or areas for fire embers to intrude	Replace wood shake with Class A roof assembly with approved "blocking" material. Eliminate intrusion areas	20	
All <b>chimneys</b> have spark arresters		0	
Some chimneys do not have spark arresters	Install spark arresters with 1/2" non-combustible mesh <sup>1</sup>	5	
All <b>gutters</b> and roof are clear of combustible debris		0	
Some gutters and/or roof have combustible debris present	Clear all combustible debris from roof and gutters. Install screens on gutters to reduce the accumulation of combustible debris <sup>1</sup>	5	
All <b>eaves</b> are boxed to prevent ember collection underneath		0	
Some eaves are not boxed	Plug openings in open-eave areas with durable caulk. Install a non-combustible covering over blocking to eliminate openings	5	
All <b>windows</b> are dual pane with durable frame (one pane is tempered).		0	
Some windows are single pane or have wood frames or do not have any tempered glass	Replace with dual pane windows with a durable frame. One pane should be tempered	5	
All eave and cornice <b>vents</b> are baffled. All other vents are protected with 1/8" non-combustible mesh		0	
Some eave vents and cornice vents are present and are not baffled or some vents are not protected by 1/8" non-combustible mesh	Replace eave and cornice vents with approved baffled vents. Protect all other vents with 1/8" non-combustible mesh. Keep the areas around the vents clear of vegetation	10	
<b>Patio cover</b> is constructed or covered with non-combustible material (brick, stucco, metal) or is not within 10' of home		0	
Patio cover is constructed with uncovered combustible material and is within 10' of home	Replace with non-combustible material or cover with non-combustible material (brick, stucco, metal)	5	
All <b>balconies</b> are constructed or covered with non-combustible material (brick, stucco, metal, tile, etc.). Undersides are protected to prevent ember accumulation		0	
Some balconies are constructed with combustible material or combustible material is exposed or undersides are unprotected	Replace with non-combustible material or cover with non-combustible material. Protect undersides	5	
All <b>decks</b> are constructed with non-combustible material (composite, tile, brick, etc.)		0	
Some decking is constructed with combustible material (un-approved vinyl, wood, etc.)	Replace with non-combustible material or cover with non-combustible material	10	
The undersides of all <b>raised decks</b> are constructed or covered with non-combustible material (brick, stucco, metal, tile, etc.)		0	
The undersides of some raised decks are constructed with combustible material and not covered with non-combustible material (brick, stucco, metal, tile, etc.)	Replace with non-combustible deck or cover with non-combustible material (brick, stucco, metal, tile, etc.)	10	
All <b>fences, gazebos, and trellis's</b> are 10' or more from the home or are constructed with non-combustible material		0	
Some fencing, gazebos or trellis's are less than 10' from the home and constructed with combustible material	Replace fencing, gazebo or trellis with non-combustible material within 10' from the house	5	

Landscape			
Condition found	Recommendation	Points	
All <b>vegetation</b> is green and well watered (not annual grasses) and/or drought resistant		0	
Some vegetation is dead or not drought or fire resistant	Remove ALL dead vegetation and replace with fire resistant planting material. Visit <a href="http://www.ocfa.org">www.ocfa.org</a> for recommendations	10	
All <b>shrubs</b> are at least 5' from structures		0	
Some shrubs are within 5' of structures	Replace shrubs with low lying vegetation or thin shrubs to 50% density	10	
All overhanging <b>limbs</b> are at least 10' above roofs and at least 10' away from structures		0	
Some overhanging limbs are less than 10' from roofs and structures	Remove all limbs within 10' from structures <sup>1</sup>	5	
All <b>taller vegetation</b> is pruned and separated from underbrush and separated from trees. Separation between shrubs and trees is at least 3 times height of shrubs. Separation between low lying vegetation and shrubs is at least 3 times height of low lying vegetation. Spacing between shrubs is at least three times width of shrubs		0	
Some taller vegetation hangs over underbrush creating a "fuel ladder" that can carry fire up and toward the home	Provide separation between low lying vegetation and shrubs. Provide separation between shrubs and trees.	10	
All <b>outbuildings</b> and secondary structures are at least 20' from the home or constructed with non-combustible material		0	
Some outbuildings and secondary structures are within 20' of the home and constructed with combustible material	Replace with non-combustible material or cover with non-combustible material	5	
Perimeter			
Condition found	Recommendation	Points	
Home has at least 100' of <b>brush clearance</b> around it or is protected by a formal and compliant "fuel modification" program		0	
Home has 30' - 100' of defensible space	Remove dead or dying vegetation within 100' of homes.	5	
Home has less than 30' of defensible space	Remove native vegetation within 30' of home. Thin native vegetation 50% density within 30' to 100' of home <sup>1</sup>	10	
All firewood and other <b>combustible materials</b> are stored at least 30' from the home		0	
Some firewood or other combustible materials are stored against or within 30' of home	Move firewood and other combustible storage at least 30' away from home <sup>1</sup>	10	

**TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

For follow up questions regarding this risk assessment, please contact:

Consultation Performed by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCORING:**  
**During a wildfire, firefighters are better able to protect homes that have low scores. Firefighters may not be able to protect homes that have higher scores.**

**0:** Your home has the **greatest potential for survivability** during a hostile wildfire.

**5-20:** Your home has been identified as a **low risk**. Recommendations indicated on this checklist should be addressed to increase the survivability of your home during a hostile wildfire.

**25-40:** Your home has been identified as a **moderate risk**. Survivability of your home will be an issue during a hostile wildfire. Recommendations indicated on this checklist should be completed.

**45 and above:** Your home has been identified as a **high risk**. The survivability of your home is low. Your home may be in extreme danger during a hostile wildfire. Recommendations indicated on this checklist are strongly encouraged to be completed.

**For additional information** on how to increase the chance your home will survive a wildfire, please visit the Orange County Fire Authority's Safety and Education page at [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org) and the State Fire Marshal's wildland urban interface products page at [http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselistings\\_bml\\_searchcotest](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselistings_bml_searchcotest).

If you walk your property without an OCFA inspector and have questions afterwards feel free to contact us at 714-573-6774 or [rsgoc@ocfa.org](mailto:rsgoc@ocfa.org)

<sup>1</sup> For some homeowners, these recommendations may be requirements of the fire code. If the property is near a wildland area and is subject to a Defensible Space inspection, this is not just a recommendation, but a requirement and subject to a Wildland Inspection Notice.