

Wildfires



Tips for Keeping Your House Safe From Wildfires

Wildfires know no season. They may start of their own accord, or be set by an arsonist or careless smoker. Once started, they can move incredibly fast, threatening lives, property and the environment.

Whether you live in an area especially prone to wildfires, or one where they are fairly rare, the potential for near total devastation emphasizes the importance of taking as many precautions as possible. You may not be able to prevent a wildfire, but there are many things you can do to reduce potential damage.



- **Freeze-proof water.** Install freeze-proof exterior water outlets on at least two sides of your house and near other structures on your property with one or more additional outlets at least 50 feet from the house.
- **Store flammable materials safely.** Store any combustible or flammable materials – such as gasoline – in approved safety containers, well away from the house.
- **Gutters.** Regularly clear leaves and other debris from the gutters.
- **Remove combustible items.** Move potentially combustible items away from the house, like lawn furniture, umbrellas, tarp coverings and flags. Be sure to stack firewood at least 30 feet away from any structure.
- **Dampers.** Ensure that the dampers in your chimney and stovepipes are working and cleaned annually. Consider equipping your chimney and stovepipes with a spark arrester approved by the National Fire Protection Association.
- **Prevent debris and sparks.** Install quarter-inch mesh screens on vents, louvers, entrances to attics, crawl spaces and beneath decks, porches and the house itself (if not on a solid foundation).
- **No smoking.** Do not smoke near dry leaves or grass. Never leave a burning cigarette unattended and be sure that it is completely extinguished when you are finished.
- **Building fires.** Do not build a fire near trees or bushes. Never leave a fire unattended and make sure it is completely out before walking away. To ensure a fire is extinguished, soak the ashes with water and bury them.
- **Spark arrester for your car.** Sparks from the exhaust system of your car can start a fire. If you travel over fire-prone ground frequently, you may want to consider a spark arrester.

For more information about preparing for a wildfire, please visit www.libertymutual.com/prepare.

