**DID YOU KNOW?**

During a wildfire, most house fires are caused be embers landing on something flammable near the home and starting the house fire.

**HOW TO REDUCE THE CHANCE OF EMBERS**

**STARTING A FIRE ON YOUR PROPERTY.**

During a wildfire, thousands of embers can rain down on your roof and pelt your property like hail during a storm. If these embers land on something easily ignited, your home will be in jeopardy of burning. Depending on fire intensity, wind speed, and the size of air-borne burning material, embers can be carried more than a mile ahead of the fire. By *Being Ember Prepared* and taking action ahead of time, a homeowner can substantially reduce the threat from embers.

Your home CAN survive when the embers arrive.

***Reduce the potential impact of a wildfire by Being Firewise!***

**Being Ember Prepared Checklist**

* **Roof Debris**: Routinely remove plant debris, such as pine needles, leaves, branches and bark, from the roof.
* **Gutters**: Keep rain gutters free of plant debris. Consider using rain gutter covers to reduce maintenance.
* **Roof Openings & Attic Vents**: Cover openings with 1/8-inch (or 1/16) wire mesh. Consider replacing plastic skylights with types constructed of double-pane glass.
* **Soffits & Eaves**: Cover open soffits or eaves with 1/8-inch (or 1/16) wire mesh or sheathing such as fiber-cement board. Use tongue and groove joints and don’t use butt joints.
* **Decks**: Remove plant debris, wood piles and other easily ignited materials from under, arounds or near decks and patios. Consider screening to prevent debris from accumulating under decks.
* **Within 5 feet of structures:** Use noncombustible materials (like gravel, rock, concrete, pavers, or an irrigated lawn) or high moisture content, ignition-resistant plants (low resin content in leaves; typically not junipers or other evergreens).
* **Within your yard**: Remove plant debris, including leaves, pine needles, dried grass/flowers, and branches. Consider replacing flowerbed wood mulches with noncombustible types such as rock.
* **Woodpiles**: Move firewood stacks and scrap lumber piles at least 30 feet from the house or any structures.
* **Propane Tanks**: If possible, move them more than 30 feet away from the home or any structures.
* **Garbage Cans & Recycling Bins**: Use garbage cans covered with tight fitting lids near the house or other buildings. Move newspaper recycling bins inside the garage.
* **Garage Doors**: Adjust garage doors to achieve a tight-fit with the door frame. Consider using trim around the garage door opening to reduce the size of gap openings.
* **Chimneys:** Consider installing “Spark Arrestors”
* **Flammable Materials**: Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Keep those safety cans in a fire-resistant metal or brick building or your garage.
* **House window**: Consider replacing single-pane, non-tempered glass windows with multiple-pane, tempered-glass types. Close all windows if wildfire is threatening.
* **House Shutters & Curtains**: Radiant heat from a wildfire can actually ignite sheer curtains inside of homes through large windows. Consider closeable non-flammable shutters for large windows.
* **Recreational Fires**: Before lighting any outdoor fire, check for local restrictions and permit requirements (Yavapai County often has bans on outdoor fires). Avoid lighting fires when high winds.
* **Fire Fighting Tools:** Ensure that fire-fighting tools are readily available. These may include a ladder, fire extinguisher, rakes, shovels, and a water hose that reaches all the way around the house is readily available (a 100-foot garden hose is recommended).
* **House Numbers**: Verify that your address in readable from the street. It is recommended that house number be at least 4 inches in height and located between the garage and front door.

*An important and effective part of Being Ember Prepared is cleaning your yard.*

*Please cleanup pine needles, leaves, and downed branches from your yard, roof-gutters, near desks, and anywhere embers could collect. Each spring & fall, for 5 days, a community dumpster for large branches is available at StoneRidge Community Center parking lot.*