

Consider an evacuation plan. Make a list of essentials each family member would need. Include

- Valuables
- Medication
- Money
- Clothing
- Food
- Don't forget pets!

Photograph important documents and passports (including policy numbers) and note important phone numbers. Keep the list handy and make sure everyone knows where it is.

Ensure your car is facing the right way to evacuate safely without reversing

WHEN ACTION IS NEEDED IN THE EVENT OF A WILDFIRE **KEEP SAFE**

Phone 999 and ask for the Fire Service, giving location and nearest access

Pack your essentials into a bag or box

Do not tackle the fire yourself

Do not expose yourself to smoke as it is dangerous to your health

Follow advice and guidance from the emergency services or local authority.

If in doubt - GET OUT

Follow your evacuation plan



Please speak to your children/teenagers about not playing with matches or lighting fires. For more information please visit -



www.dwfire.org.uk/education/firesetters

What is Firewise?

The Firewise Communities programme started in the USA and is an international programme which empowers neighbours and communities encouraging community spirit, resolve and willingness to take responsibility and work together to reduce their risk from wildfire.

If you think your community would benefit from being part of this international programme please contact The Urban Heaths Partnership on:



01202 642787
urbanheaths@dorsetcc.gov.uk



HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES



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The definition of a wildfire is an uncontrolled vegetation fire which involves heath, grassland, forest or agricultural land. It can have a devastating impact on nearby homes and therefore it is very important that people living close to these areas are prepared.

This leaflet provides guidance which outlines the steps that you can consider to prepare your home and community

Create your own wildfire action plan

- How to prepare
- What to do
- When to act
- Ensure all members of your household are aware of it and know what to do
- Consider any vulnerable neighbours who may need assistance and reassurance

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

Identify possible wildfire risks around your -

- Home
- Garden
- Beyond your garden

PROTECTING YOUR HOME

- Prevent embers from entering your roof space by repairing/replacing loose or broken tiles.
- Identify ember traps around your home - places where dead leaves collect naturally e.g. gutters, roof valleys etc. Clear them regularly.
- Identify any gaps in soffits/cladding around the roof area and screen using wire mesh to retain ventilation and prevent embers getting in. Advice must be sought if you suspect bats are present.
- Move any flammable material away from external house walls. Leaves, compost heaps, log piles etc.
- Ensure your house name/number is clearly visible from the road.
- Avoid parking on or near any fire hydrants.



BEYOND YOUR GARDEN

If your property backs onto or is close to a greenspace, the land manager holds the responsibility to manage the risk to that land.

Heathland and forestry land owners/managers, with advice from Natural England, manage the habitat to maintain it for key species.

We need to balance the needs of wildlife protection, habitat management and homes. Everyone has a part to play - balance is key.

These internationally important habitats are subject to legal constraints. Land managers will assess fire risk and work with the Fire Service.



PROTECTING YOUR GARDEN

- Trim back shrubs or trees that are close to or touching your house and dispose of cuttings responsibly. Do not put cuttings over your fence as it adds to the fire risk close to your home.
- Screen areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris collecting.
- Consider removing any plants that contain oils and resins etc. especially if they are close to your house or alternatively plant them in moveable pots.
- Create separation between trees, bushes and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets etc.
- During hot, dry spells ensure that your garden is maintained regularly and consider using 'grey' (waste) water for watering plants and lawns.
- Consider the position of garden sheds, consider fireproofing fence panels and wooden sheds.
- Use caution when having BBQs, bonfires and using fireworks.