



Wildland Fire Assessment Program Toolkit Overview

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What is the WFAP?

- Wildland Fire Assessment Program
- Free train the trainer program through National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and the U.S. Forest Service
- Easy training to conduct home assessments in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)
- Targeted to volunteers to evaluate a home and provide residents with SUGGESTIONS to protect their property



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Overview

- Introduction
- Module 1: Understand the Problem
- Module 2: Identify the Zones
- Module 3: Evaluate the Home
- Examples: Home Assessments
- Module 4: Available Resources

Wildland Fire Assessment Program

✓ You are registered!

Overview Speaker(s) Handouts Contents (7)

Key: Complete Next Failed Available [Click to view/collapse more](#)

- Module 1**
Open to view video.
- Module 2**
Open to view video.
- Module 3**
Open to view video.
- Module 4**
Open to view video.
- Quiz**
15 Questions | Unlimited attempts | 11/15 points to pass
- Virtual Classroom Evaluation**
2 Questions
- Certificate**
No credits available | Certificate available

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Introduction

- Online / In-person training (**Fellows upcoming in-person training**)
- Home Assessment Checklist
- WFAP toolkit
- Quizzes
- Certificate (Upon Completion)

A screenshot of the "Toolkit Overview" page from the WFAP curriculum. The page has a light blue background with an orange header. At the top right of the header are three small icons: a person, a flame, and a leaf. The main content is organized into several sections with colored icons: "Toolkit Components" (orange), "Introduction" (blue), "Modules One through Four Session Curricula that each include:" (blue), "Resources" (blue), and "Supplemental Documents Flash Drive" (blue). Each section contains a list of items with corresponding colored icons. The "Instructor Elements" section is on the right side of the page, featuring a red header and several sub-sections with icons: "Talking Points" (blue person icon), "Recommended Discussion Questions" (orange speech bubble icon), "Instructor Notes" (green notepad icon), "Resource Reference" (orange book icon), and "Quiz Question" (red question mark icon).

Toolkit Overview

This toolkit provides information and resources that can be used to teach the fundamentals of performing home assessments with and for residents living in communities that are susceptible to wildfires.

Toolkit Components

Introduction

- Getting Started
- Training Considerations
- Instructor Suggestions
- Course Evaluation

Modules One through Four Session Curricula that each include:

- Instructor Guide
- Participant Manual (included on your flash drive)
- Quiz
- Quiz Key

Resources

- Marketing Your Program
- Liability
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Certificate Template
- Checklist

Supplemental Documents Flash Drive contains all WFAP resources customizable for your audience.

NCR Checklist is a no carbon required checklist that assessors can use on-site that will allow them to have one copy of the assessment for their department and another copy to leave with the homeowner.

Instructor Elements

Throughout the curriculum, you will notice several elements to help you instruct this course.

These include:

- Talking Points:** information that should be communicated to the audience.
- Recommended Discussion Questions:** optional, learner-centered questions you can use to engage your audience.
- Instructor Notes:** ideas for communicating key concepts, getting your audience engaged, or instructor-only information pertaining to the curriculum delivery.
- Resource Reference:** highlights resources or cites sources of information.
- Quiz Question:** pinpoints quiz questions and answers.



What the WFAP Toolkit Includes

These include:



Talking Points: information that should be communicated to the audience.



Recommended Discussion Questions: optional, learner-centered questions you can use to engage your audience.



Instructor Notes: ideas for communicating key concepts, getting your audience engaged, or instructor-only information pertaining to the curriculum delivery.



Resource Reference: highlights resources or cites sources of information.



Quiz Question: pinpoints quiz questions and answers.



[Link to WFAP Toolkit Download](#)



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Firefighter Program](#)

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[Share The Load](#)

[Wildland Fire
Assessment Program](#)

WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the



[Wildland Fire Assessment Program - National Volunteer Fire Council \(nvfc.org\)](https://www.nvfc.org)

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In-Person Training:

- The classroom session consists of a four-hour (1/2 day) course that covers understanding the WUI problem, identifying the zones, evaluating the home, and available resources.
- Classroom session plus hands-on component consists of a two-day training that includes the classroom session and an additional on-site, mock evaluation where students evaluate a home in the community to put classroom knowledge into action.

 [Click here](#) for the upcoming course schedule.

- Interested in hosting a course? Email Lori Shirley at lori@nvfc.org for additional details

 **Online Training:** This four module course is available in the NVFC Virtual Classroom.

 **WFAP Toolkit:** The toolkit provides information and resources in a train-the-trainer format that can be used to teach the fundamental skills of performing home assessments with and for residents living in communities that are susceptible to wildfire. (Having trouble downloading the file? Right click and choose save to open.)

Assessment Tools: These consist of the [WFAP online checklist](#) and online data-tracking system for a fire/EMS department to record how many assessments have been performed and recommendations made to residents. Assessment Tools instructions and additional information are covered in the training and Toolkit.

Supplemental Resources: Customizable documents are available to help implement and market the WFAP program in your community. Instructions for each of the resources below can be found in the [WFAP Toolkit](#).

- [Checklist \(PDF\)](#)
- [Certificate Template \(DOC\)](#)
- [Class Evaluation Form \(PDF\)](#)
- [Liability Waiver \(DOC\)](#)
- [Press Release \(DOC\)](#)
- [Flyer \(PDF\)](#)





Register

Visit: <https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/wildfire> to register for free

Wildland Fire Assessment Program

Contains 7 Component(s)

The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the NVFC to provide departments with training on how to properly conduct assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). This is the first program targeted to volunteers that specifically prepares them to evaluate a home and provide residents with recommendations to protect their property from wildfires in order to make their community more fire-adapted.



Register

More Information

Your cart

Product	Actions	Original price	Final price
Wildland Fire Assessment Program	Remove	\$0	\$0
Total:		\$0	\$0

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Module 1: Understand the Problem



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Module 1: Understand the Problem

- Combination of drought, warmer temperature, high winds, and large amounts of dried vegetation in forests and grasslands
- Wildfires can start from: vehicle exhaust, camping, arson, smoking, lightning, and sparks from trains and heavy equipment
- Living in the WUI, wildfires are a problem, but also a natural occurrence
- What are some of the main causes of wildfire in your community?





Module 1: Understand the Problem

- Over the years, an increasing number of people have moved to the WUI
- Limited firefighting resources
- Individual efforts to reduce ignitability of their home reduces the chance of exposure of the wildfire
- Learn to identify fuel hazards, assessing and reducing ignition risks, and develop realistic evacuation options





Module 1: Understand the Problem

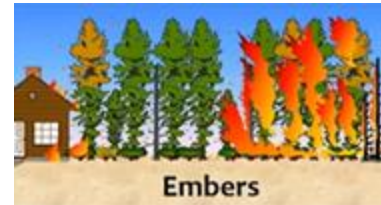
- Three elements required for fire to burn
 - Fuel
 - Oxygen
 - Heat
- Removing any of the element will diminish the fire





Module 1: Understand the Problem

- Three threats or exposures a building could experience during a wildfire, grassfire, or bushfire:
 - Radiant heat
 - Windborne embers
 - Direct flame contact





Module 1: Understand the Problem

- Cycle of fire:
 - Topography/terrain, weather, and fuel create extreme fire conditions
 - Wildland fire moves into the WUI and changes its fuel from wildland fuel to urban fuel (homes and property)
 - Fire protection resources can be limited in large-scale disasters, thus fire protection is reduced and minimally effective





Module 1: Understand the Problem

- Best ways for residents in the WUI understand the problem is to mitigate and prepare
 - Ready, Set, Go!
 - Firewise
 - Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
 - Public education programs
 - Thinning projects and prescribed burning
 - Community fuel breaks
 - Prescribed burning associations



Module 2: Identify the Zones





Module 2: Identify the Zones

- Defensible Space
- Structural Ignition Zones (HIZ)
 - 0-5 ft
 - 5-30 ft
 - 30-100 ft and beyond
- Prevention
- Refocusing our Efforts



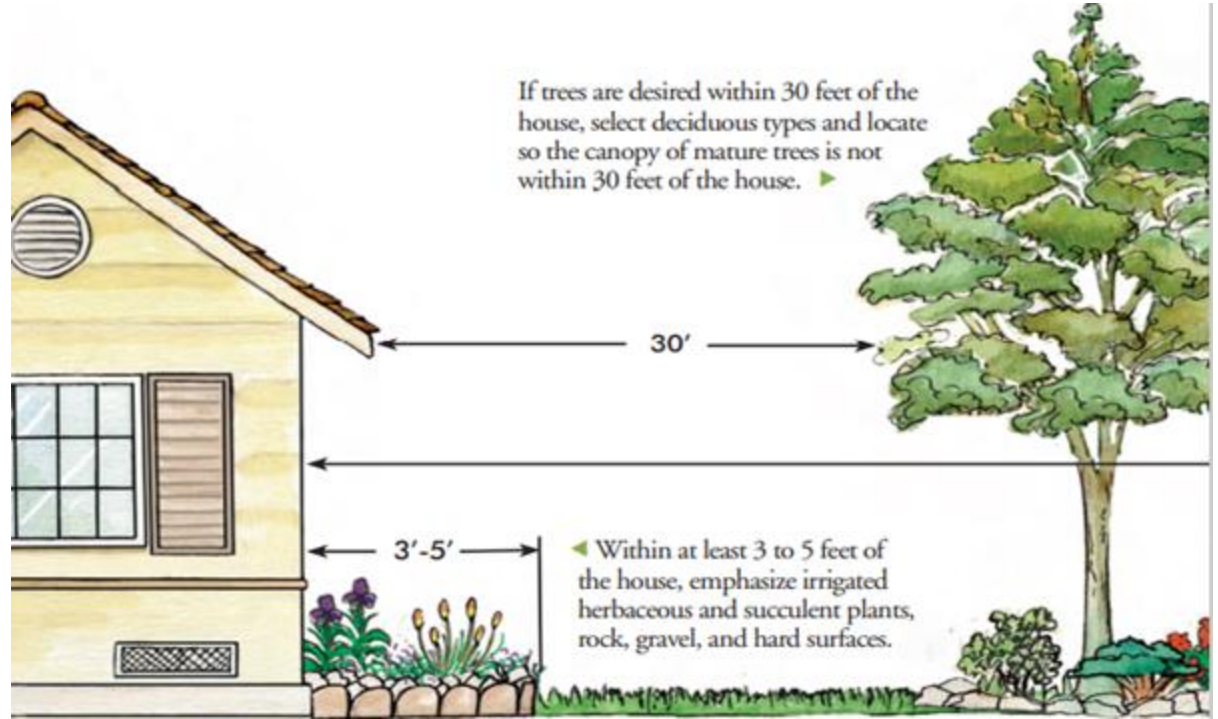
Module 2: Structural Ignition Zone





Module 2: Six Steps to Defensible Space

Step 1: Measure and mark out defensible space





Module 2: Six Steps to Defensible Space

Step 2: Remove Dead Vegetation



3 R's of Defensible Space

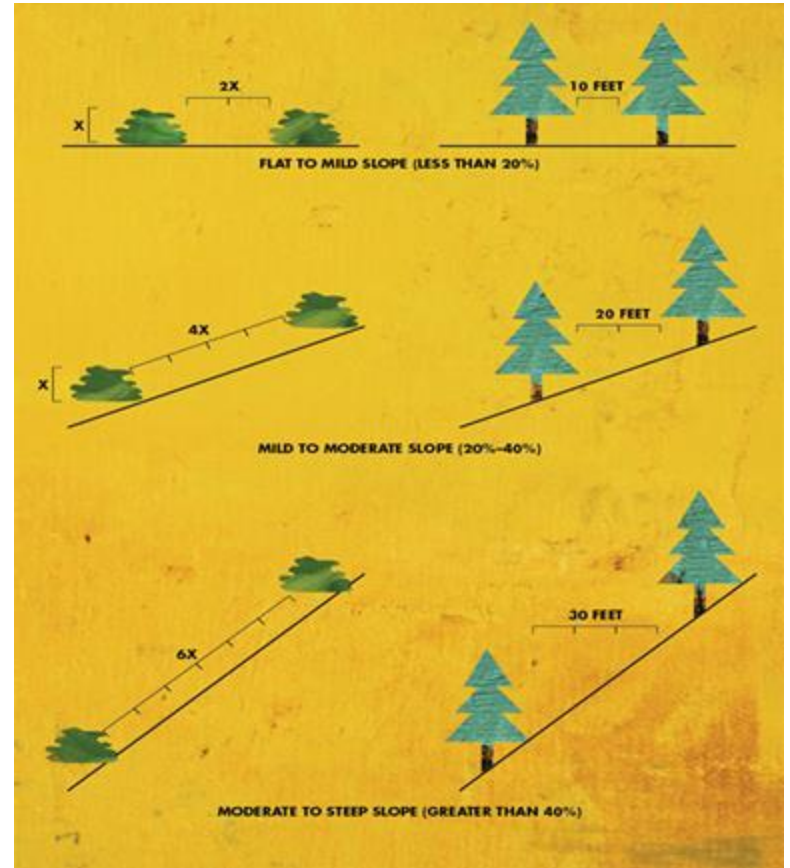
- **REMOVE** dead and dying grass, shrubs and trees
- **REDUCE** the density of vegetation: prune, mow, and thin
- **REPLACE** hazardous vegetation with less flammable plants or irrigated landscape



Module 2: Six Steps to Defensible Space

Step 3: Horizontal Separation

Create separation between shrubs and trees



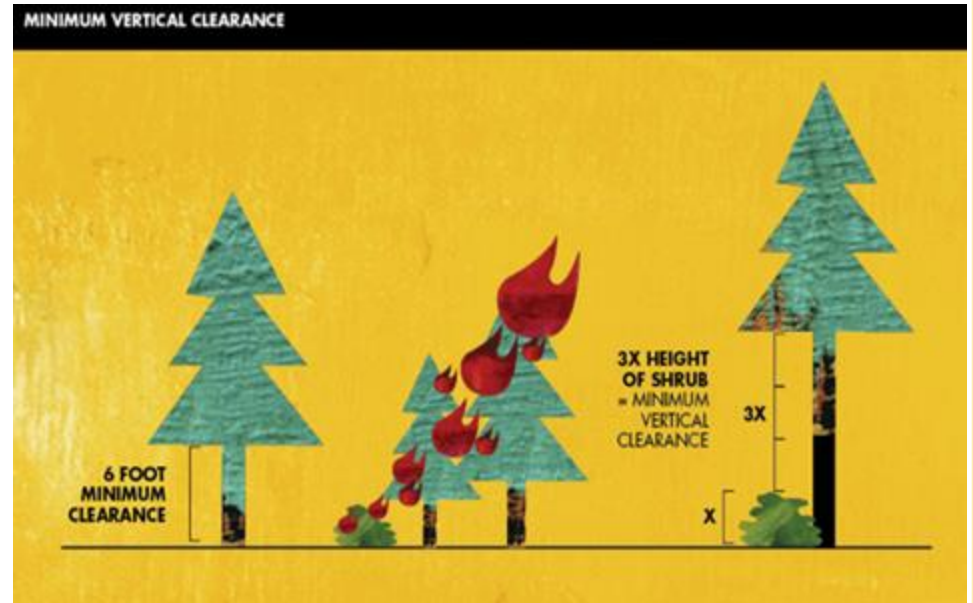
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Module 2: Six Steps to Defensible Space

Step 4: Vertical Separation

Create a separation between tree branches and lower growing plants





Module 2: Six Steps to Defensible Space

Step 5: Create a lean, clean, and green area in the first 50 feet of the total 100 feet



Goals:

1. To eliminate combustible materials and vegetation near the house that can ignite from flying embers
1. If a fire does ignite, fire intensity should remain low and likely unable to generate enough heat to ignite the home



Module 2: Six Steps to Defensible Space

Step 6: Maintain defensible space zone



Before each fire season, check the property using the previous five steps and continue maintenance throughout the year





Module 2: Zones of Defensible Space

Objectives

- Zone 1 (0-5 ft): reduce the chance of wind-blown embers from a fire landing near the home
- Zone 2 (5-30 ft): create and maintain a landscape that, if ignited, will not readily transmit fire to the home.
- Zone 3 (30-100 ft): is to reduce the energy and speed of the wildfire



Image from Cal Fire



Module 2: Building Construction

- Non-flammable exteriors-roof and sides
- Dual pane windows
- Ember resistant attic vents
- Non-combustible decks and attachments
- Emergency access



*Photo courtesy of California Department
of Forestry and Fire Protection*



Module 2: Street Signs/ Home Numbers



Street Sign/ Home Numbers

Do they exist?

Are they visible?

Are they non-combustible?



Module 2: Ember Vulnerability

Depending on fire intensity, wind speed, and the size of materials that are burning, embers can be carried **more than a mile ahead of the fire**





Module 2: Prevention

- The safest and cheapest fire is the one that we prevent
- Check for Red Flag Warnings before using power tools, or anything that could cause sparks
- Check power lines near property and see if trees on your property could affect them





Module 2: Refocusing our Efforts

- Focus on mitigation and preparation actions **before** a wildfire strikes
- Reduce potential fire intensity that vegetation will influence
- Reduce the structures ignitability
- Empower the community to work together to create a fire-resistant landscape



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Module 3: Evaluate the Home





Module 3: Evaluate the Home

- Conducting a home hazard assessment
- Identifying hazard reduction options
- List homeowner preparedness steps
- Identify evacuation options





Module 3: Three Things to Keep in Mind as Assessors

1. Remember to consider fire history, vegetation, fire regime, and weather conditions in the area
2. Well informed recommendations can reduce damage from fire
3. Home assessments are valuable to the community





Module 3: Getting Started

- Get written permission
- Gather your tools
- Utilize the checklist



Resources

WFAP
WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Home Assessment Checklist

This checklist serves as a guide that both the assessor and resident can use to determine problem areas around the home that can be retrofitted or reconstructed to mitigate damage when a wildfire strikes. Many of the items listed in the checklist are free or low cost modifications; however, some items may require more significant investment in order to increase a home's safety and survivability during a wildfire. A key for estimating costs is included for most items. Remember, if it's predictable, it's preventable!

Resident Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address of Home Being Assessed: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fire Department Name: _____

Phone: _____ Date of the Assessment: _____

Assessor(s): Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

KEY

\$	less than \$500
\$\$	\$500 - \$1,000

Information and resources were utilized from but not endorsed by the following agencies:

- Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety
- International Association of Fire Chiefs, Ready, Set, Go! Program
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Ready.gov



Module 3: Checklist Inside the Home

Inside the Home

Y / N / NA Residents have reviewed homeowner's insurance policy and prepared/updated a list of home's contents. **Free**

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA All residents know where the gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them. **Free**

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Heavy, fire-resistant drapes are installed throughout the home. **\$ – \$\$**

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Newspapers and rubbish are regularly disposed of at an approved site. Local burning regulations are followed. **Free**

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA A screen is installed in front of each fireplace or wood stove. **\$**

Suggested Action: _____

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Module 3: Utility Shut-Offs: Electrical, Water, Gas





Module 3: Garage and Flammable Materials

- Keep combustibles away from ignition sources such as a water heater
- Make sure flammable materials are in safety cans
- Check the door between the living space and garage is fire-rated and self-closing
- Check for gaps or holes in the garage if necessary





Module 3: Personal Preparedness

Step 1: Develop and practice a Family Disaster Plan (at home, at work, in your car)

Step 2: Store drinking water

Step 3: Store food and household goods

Step 4: Protect family assets

Step 5: Have protective clothing (work gloves, cotton or wool)

Step 6: Have first aid supplies





Module 3: Personal Preparedness Continued

- Step 7: Obtain alternate heating & lighting sources
- Step 8: Compile emergency preparedness “library”
- Step 9: Obtain alternative communications
- Step 10: Provide for waste disposal
- Step 11: Protect your family and property
- Step 12: Care for your pets





Module 3: Checklist Outside the Home

Outside the Home

Defensible space is comprised of three zones. The selection and maintenance of vegetation and other combustible items in these zones will determine the adequacy of the defensible space.

ZONE 1: 0-5 feet around the perimeter of the home (\$ – \$\$)

Y / N / NA Hard surfaces are installed in this zone, such as a concrete walkway.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Noncombustible mulch products are used, such as rock.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA The lawn is well irrigated and only has low-growing, herbaceous plants.

Suggested Action: _____

Y / N / NA Dead vegetation is removed and is continuously maintained.

Suggested Action: _____

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Module 3: Roof

Class A: effective against severe fire test exposures (2-4 Hours) Ex: Tile roofing, asphalt, concrete



Class B: effective against moderate fire test exposures (1 hour) Ex: Treated wood material



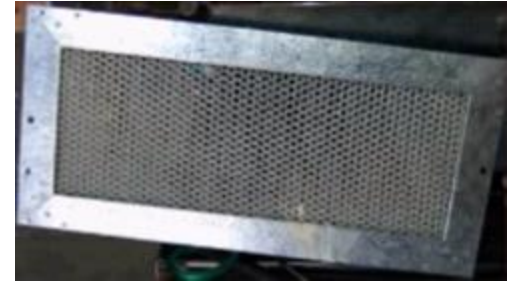
Class C: effective against light fire test exposures (20 minutes) Ex: Untreated wood material





Module 3: Ember-Resistant Vents

- Building codes and regulations vary by location.
- Be sure to check with your jurisdiction for approved specifications





Module 3: Windows

- One of the most **vulnerable** parts of any home is the **glass windows**.
- Radiant heat from the fire can also impact the glass when there is a fire near the home.
- Dual pane windows= stronger



Outer pane broke from fire.
Dual pane windows helped
save the house.



Module 3: Deck and Fence

- Make sure vegetation does not touch the deck
- Remove patio furniture on red flag days
- Replace any combustible fencing that attaches directly to your home





Module 3: Detached Structures

- Create defensible space
- Carefully maintain vegetation
- Play sets should be relocated at least 30 ft. from your home
- Consider a non-combustible material for a trellis





Module 3: Homes Constructed with Fire-resistant materials

- No home is entirely fireproof
- But fire-resistant materials give the home a better chance.





Examples: Home Assessments



Picture from Cal Fire



Home Assessments: Zone 1: 0-5 Feet



Y N / NA

The lawn is well irrigated and only has low-growing, herbaceous plants.

Suggested Action: Remove flammable juniper shrub from side of house.

Y / N / NA

Hard surfaces are installed in this zone, such as a concrete walkway.

Suggested Action: _____



Home Assessments: Gutters



Make sure to clean out the gutters!

Y / ~~N~~ / NA

The gutters are clean of all debris.

Suggested Action: Clean debris and plants out from gutters



Home Assessments: Vents



Y / N / NA

Any vents in the eaves are covered with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch mesh, corrosion-resistant metal mesh screening.

Suggested Action: Consider getting 1/8th mesh and corrosion-resistant metal mesh.



Roof: Skylights



Y / N / NA

Accumulated debris is removed, vegetation is pruned, and overhanging limbs are trimmed near any skylight.

Suggested Action: Some debris and large clumps of moss growing



Module 4: Available Resources



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



**American
Red Cross**

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WFAP NVFC RESOURCES

- [WFAP Toolkit](#)
- The [online checklist](#) provided by NVFC is one resource they offer to keep track of forms and data.
- [Free web banners, flyers, and more](#)



WFAP Home Assessment Checklist

This checklist serves as a guide that both the assessor and resident can use to determine problem areas around the home that can be retrofitted or restructured to mitigate damage when a wildfire strikes. Many of the items listed in the checklist are free or low-cost modifications; however, some items may require more significant investment in order to increase a home's safety and survivability during a wildfire. A key for estimating costs is included for most items.

KEY
(S) less than \$500
(\$\$) \$500 – \$1,000
(\$\$\$) \$1,000 – \$5,000
(\$\$\$\$) more than \$5,000

1 Contact Information 2 Inside the Home 3 Outside the Home

Resident Name

First Last

Phone Number
 - -
####

Get your **free** wildland fire home assessment done today!



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OUR WEBSITE

- Feel free to visit [California Fire Safe Council](#) website to find the resources below.



[Evacuation Guide](#)



[Fire Safety](#)



[List of Fire Safe Councils](#)



[Starting a New Fire Council](#)



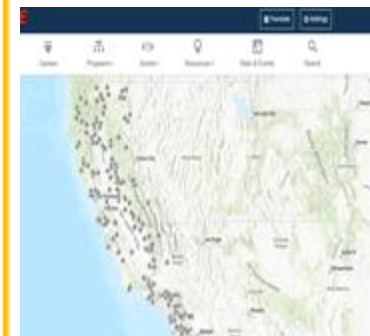
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Module 4: Available Resources



[CAL FIRE Incidents Map](#)



[Wildland Fire Information](#)

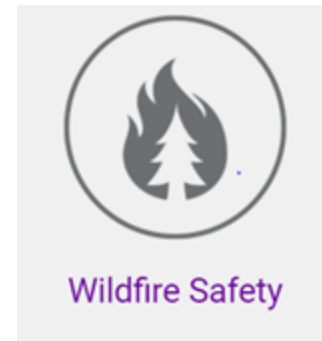


FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

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[“Be Red Cross Ready”](#)



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Questions?

Please fill out the survey

<https://bit.ly/WFAPSURVEY>



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