

SPRING CLEANING

Need ideas for your 2022 home improvement projects?

- ✓ Read through this newsletter, watch the 7 minute video below, and look through the linked documents.
- ✓ Make sure to take “before and after” photos and keep track of time/money spent on your project. Ruby Ranch is renewing our Firewise USA Certification this fall. Lisa Lewis will need this information from you to demonstrate a high level of community engagement on this application.

This is a great 7minute video on how to start.
(Click anywhere on the house to start)



Be Firewise: Ember-Proof your home!

Please consider the following list of references that may help you plan your 2022 home projects! (Click the underlined text for link to reference.)

- ✿ Texas A&M did an extensive list of things to do around the house. This website include photos of 'how to' projects.: [Texas A&M Forest Service Protect Your Home](#)
- ✿ Here is a shorter checklist from Nevada: [Be Ember Aware Univ of Nevada](#)
- ✿ After the Waldo Canyon Fire, The Colorado Springs Fire Department published a very detailed report with recommendations to avoid home destruction. The authors of this manual emphasize that you can save your home, but you must do everything in the manual, not just a few things: [Colorado Springs 2020 Ignition Resistant Design Manual](#)



Ember Awareness Checklist



Wood Roof

Replace wood shake and shingle roofs with fire-resistant types such as composition, metal and tile.



Roof Openings

Plug openings in roof coverings, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, with non-combustible materials.



Roof Debris

Routinely remove plant debris, such as pine needles, leaves, branches and bark, from the roof.



Skylights

Replace plastic skylights with types constructed of double-pane glass. One of the panes should be tempered glass. Close skylights if wildfire is threatening.



Spark Arrester

Install an approved spark arrester on chimneys.



Windows

Replace single-pane, non-tempered glass windows with multiple-pane, tempered-glass types. Close all windows if wildfire is threatening.



Vents

Cover attic, eave and foundation vents with 1/8-inch wire mesh or install new vent types designed to prevent ember entry. If wildfire is threatening, consider covering vent openings with pre-cut plywood or aluminum foil folded several layers thick and stapled.



Rain Gutters

Keep rain gutters free of plant debris during fire season. Consider using rain gutter covers to reduce maintenance.



Siding

Fill gaps in siding and trim materials with a good quality caulk and replace poor condition building materials.



Woodpiles

Move firewood stacks and scrap lumber piles at least 30 feet from the house or other buildings.



Patio Furniture

Place combustible patio furniture, such as lounges, tables and hammocks, inside the house or garage if wildfire is threatening.



Under the Deck

Remove plant debris, wood piles and other easily ignited materials from under decks. Consider enclosing the open sides of the deck with siding materials that are properly vented or 1/8-inch wire mesh to reduce maintenance and deter ember entry. Do not use wooden lattice to enclose decks.



Flowerboxes

Remove wooden flowerboxes from beneath windows if wildfire is threatening.



Eaves

Cover open eaves with sheathing, such as plywood or fiber-cement board. Use tongue and groove joints or other intricate joint types and don't use butt joints.



Flowerbeds

Replace wood mulches with noncombustible types and remove plant debris, including dried grass and flowers, dead leaves and dead branches from flowerbeds next to the house, other buildings and next to wooden fences. Replace ornamental junipers with low-growing deciduous shrubs or flowers under irrigation.



Vehicles

Close vehicle windows. Back into the garage and close the garage door or park away from the house.



Garage Door

Adjust garage doors to achieve as tight a fit as possible with the door frame. Consider using trim around the garage door opening to reduce the size of gap openings. Close the garage door if wildfire is threatening.



Garbage Cans and Recycling Bins

Use garbage cans covered with tight fitting lids near the house or other buildings. Move newspaper recycling bins indoors.



Wooden Fences

Maintain wooden fences in good condition and create a noncombustible fence section or gate next to the house for at least five feet.



Photo courtesy USFS-LIBMU

This house was ignited by burning embers landing on vulnerable spots. Notice the adjacent forest is not burning.



Deck Boards

Replace deck boards that are less than one inch thick or that are in poor condition with thicker, good condition boards. Use metal flashing between the deck and the house.



Deck Debris

Remove plant debris from the gaps between deck boards, the gap between the deck and house, and lying on top of the deck.



Porch and Deck Accessories

If wildfire is threatening, remove combustible materials from the porch and deck including newspapers, wicker baskets, door mats, pine cones and dried flower arrangements, and place BBQ propane tanks indoors.



A wooden house, a small pile of pine needles and glowing embers ...



Embers can carry as far as a mile in the wind, and when they get into an attic, they can start a fire.