



## **Town of Bernalillo Fire and Rescue Department**

---

### **Fire Chief: Mike Carroll**

As the “wild-land” fire season approaches the work you do today can make a difference to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property from becoming a fuel for a wildfire. The “home zone ignition” is defined as the home and its immediate surroundings up to 100 feet which includes fences, decks, porches and other attachments. Wildfires don’t have to destroy everything in their path. Homeowners can and must take primary responsibility for wildfire safety actions around the home. There are some simple and easy steps to do now and throughout the year to help reduce a home’s wildfire risk by preparing ahead of a wildfire which include:

- Clear needles, leaves and other debris from the roof, gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This reduces the chances of embers igniting your home.
- To reduce ember penetration, replace or repair loose or missing roof shingles or tiles and caulk any gaps or openings on roof edges.
- Cover exterior attic vents and enclose under-eave and soft lit vents with metal wire no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent embers from entering the home.
- Remove items stored under decks or porches: replace vegetation in these areas with rock or gravel.
- Replace mulch with hardscaping, including rock, gravel or stone. If it can catch fire don’t let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Remove flammable items within 30 feet of all structures including firewood piles, portable propane tanks and dry and dead vegetation.
- Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire so keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, trim it to reduce fire intensity, and don’t let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- If you have tall trees on your property prune low hanging branches 6-10 feet from the ground and for smaller trees prune low hanging branches no more than a third of the tree’s height. Remove tall grass, vines and shrubs from under trees.
- Talk to your neighbor and create a plan for how to address your wildfire safety challenges together.

**To learn more go to [firewise.org](http://firewise.org)**