



# Guidance for Wildfire-Resistant Building in Okanogan County

**Wildfire is a fact of life in Okanogan County. Losing homes to wildfire doesn't have to be.**

All homes in Okanogan County, including those within city limits, can be exposed to embers, radiant heat, or direct flame contact because of wildfire. According to Dr. Steven Quarles, Chief Scientist for Wildfire and Durability at the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, there are two crucial things people should know about home construction in wildfire-prone areas:

1. **Exposure to wind-blown embers** is the most important risk your home will have to resist, because of what they can do directly and indirectly, including entry through vents into attics and crawlspaces.
2. Your home will have its best chance of surviving a wildfire if you address **both** materials and design features used on your home **and** vegetation and other combustibles on your property.

The following links provide detailed information that, when followed and maintained, can significantly reduce the risk of losing a home to wildfire. Many of these practices can be applied as retrofits to existing construction, but are easiest and most cost-effective during new construction.

## The Journal of Light Construction: Living with Wildfire

[http://www.jlconline.com/projects/disaster-resistant-building/living-with-wildfire\\_o](http://www.jlconline.com/projects/disaster-resistant-building/living-with-wildfire_o)

## Home Hardening to Reduce Home Ignition Risk

<http://www.cowildfire.org/home-hardening/>

## Vulnerability of Vents to Wind-Blown Embers

[http://disastersafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Vulnerability-of-Vents-to-Wind-Blown-Embers\\_IBHS.pdf](http://disastersafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Vulnerability-of-Vents-to-Wind-Blown-Embers_IBHS.pdf)

## Home Survival in Wildfire-Prone Areas: Building Materials and Design Considerations

<http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8393.pdf>

## Builders' Wildfire Mitigation Guide

<http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/bwmg/>

## IBHS and NFPA Wildfire Research Fact Sheets

<https://disastersafety.org/ibhs/ibhs-nfpa-wildfire-research-fact-sheets/>

**Okanogan Conservation District** provides free wildfire risk assessments, both pre-and post-construction, to landowners within District boundaries. Please visit [www.okanogancd.org](http://www.okanogancd.org) for more information, call us at 509-422-0855, or stop by our office between 8:30-4:30, Monday-Friday at 1251 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S., Room 102, Okanogan, WA.