



# City of Malibu News

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April, 20 2021

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### City of Malibu Promotes Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 1

(Malibu CA) – With Southern California’s wildfire season already bringing small fires to the region, the City of Malibu invites all community members to participate in Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 1. This is national campaign that encourages people and organizations everywhere to come together on a single day to take action to raise awareness and reduce wildfire risks. Given that in-person gatherings are limited or on-hold in many places, this year’s Prep Day is focused on what residents can do on and around their home to help protect against the threat of wildfires.

“As extreme fire conditions and mega-fires have become the new normal in California, it is more important than ever for the entire community of Malibu to be prepared for the next catastrophic wildfire,” said Mayor Mikke Pierson. “Ever since Woolsey, Malibu has been significantly ramping up its wildfire preparedness efforts. The pandemic has not slowed down fire season, or our preparations, and the City has a variety of resources to help you get your family and your neighborhood ready for the next big fire. Now is the time to make your emergency plans, harden your home and build up your emergency supplies.”

Projects that reduce wildfire risk and increase preparedness can be accomplished by people of all ages with a variety of time commitments. Recommended actions include the following:

#### Check

- See if your home’s address number is visible from the street. If not, trim overgrown vegetation covering or blocking the numbers on your homes in case firefighters need to find you.
- If your property has a drafting Hydrant make sure it visible from the street, painted Red and properly signed.
- Check your possessions. Take video and photos of your possessions so you will have documentation to replace belongings.

#### Clear

- Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves to a minimum of 5 feet from a home’s foundation. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles.
- Sweep porches and decks, clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Rake under decks, porches, sheds, and play structures.
- On mature trees, use hand pruners and loppers to remove low-hanging tree branches up to a height of 4 feet from the ground (specific height depends on the type and size of tree). Collect downed tree limbs and broken branches and take them to a disposal site.
- Remove items stored under decks and porches and relocate them to a storage area. Gasoline cans and portable propane tanks should never be stored indoors or near the home.

## Communicate

- Plan multiple escape routes from your home and other parts of Malibu that you frequent. Los Angeles County Fire Department's ready! Set! Go! [Ready-Set-Go-Documnt \(malibucity.org\)](https://malibucity.org/ready-set-go) Program can help you plan for evacuations in advance.
- Create a family communication plan and build or update a 72-hour evacuation kit for you, your family, and your pets.
- Create an evacuation plan for your family.
- Sign up for emergency alerts at [malibucity.org/alerts](https://malibucity.org/alerts) and [malibucity.org/disasternotifications](https://malibucity.org/disasternotifications).
- Visit the City of Malibu web page for more evacuation information [Evacuations | Malibu, CA - Official Website \(malibucity.org\)](https://malibucity.org/evacuations)
- For additional planning advice, visit the Cal Fire website at [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](https://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

## HOME IGNITION ZONE ASSESSMENTS

During a wildfire, thousands of embers can rain down on your home and property like hail during a storm. If these embers land in receptive fuels or become lodged in something easily ignited on or near your house, the home may be in jeopardy of burning. This area is commonly referred to as the Home Ignition Zone.

Embers coming into contact with flammable material is a major reason why homes are destroyed during a wildfire. Common materials that become embers during wildfire include palm fronds, branches, tree bark, and native vegetation. 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. Consequently, even homes located blocks away from the actual flame front are vulnerable to ignition and complete destruction. By being ember aware and taking action ahead of time, a homeowner can substantially reduce the ember threat.

The City's Fire Safety Liaison provides recommendations for hardening homes against flying embers as part of a no-obligation Home Ignition Zone Assessment. Visit the online scheduling system to set an appointment for your home assessment: [Online Booking Software and Appointment Scheduling System - Veribook](https://malibucity.org/online-booking)

More information about wildfire safety and how to protect your home can be found on the City's Wildfire Safety website, [malibucity.org/firesafety](https://malibucity.org/firesafety) or contact Fire Safety Liaison, Chris Brossard, at 310-456-2489 x387. Other helpful links include:

<https://defensiblespace.org/>

[Your Home Can Survive a Wildfire - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[Fire Department – Los Angeles County \(lacounty.gov\)](https://lacounty.gov/)

[Welcome to CAL FIRE](https://www.calfire.ca.gov/)

[NFPA - Firewise USA®](https://www.nfpa.org/)

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