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Winter Prep for a Safer Fire Season

HOME HARDENING

WILDFIRE-RESISTANCE: Make the “Right” Choices

- ① **ROOF**
Wood shingle
- ② **EAVES**
Open | Exposed
- ③ **SIDING**
Wood Siding
- ④ **WINDOWS**
Single pane
No screens
- ⑤ **MULCH**
Bark | Wood Chips
- ⑥ **OPENINGS**
Non-Protected
Vents | Openings
- ⑦ **DECK**
Standard spacing
Combustible material



- ① **ROOF**
Class A
Fire resistive
- ② **EAVES**
Closed | Boxed
- ③ **SIDING**
Fire resistive material
- ④ **WINDOWS**
Dual-Pane Tempered
Screens
- ⑤ **MULCH**
Rock | Pebbles
- ⑥ **OPENINGS**
Metal screened
Vents | Openings
- ⑦ **DECK**
Increased joist space
Foil-faced bitumen tape
on top of joists
Non-combustible | Fire resistive

Low-Cost Home Hardening You Can Do This Winter

Wildfire season may feel far away, but winter is the perfect time to prepare your home. Small, affordable upgrades can make a big difference in protecting your property.

Here are some budget-friendly options:

- **Seal Gaps and Cracks:** Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/8 inch around exposed rafters, siding, and garage doors to prevent ember intrusion.
- **Install Ember-Resistant Vents:** Replace standard vents with ember and flame-resistant ones to block embers from entering your home. Consult a licensed contractor for proper installation.
- **Cover Your Chimney:** Add a noncombustible, corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen (spark arrestor) with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch openings to your chimney or stovepipe outlet.

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- **Inspect and Repair Siding:** Check for dry rot, cracks, or warping in your siding. Caulk gaps and replace damaged boards to reduce fire risk.

These simple steps, based on [CAL FIRE's recommendations](#), can help harden your home against wildfires. Start now to make sure your home is ready for the next fire season!

It's always a good time to [stay alert](#), [prepare your home](#), and know your [evacuation zone](#).

Upcoming Events: Save the Dates



Here's What's Happening at SCFSC

- **Wednesday, December 31st:** New/Pending Firewise Sites Applications Due

We hope you have a safe, wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Want to keep up-to-date with all our events?

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SUBSCRIBE TO OUR CALENDAR

December 2nd is Giving Tuesday

THIS GIVING TUESDAY

Support a fire-resilient Shasta County

Your donation helps the Shasta County Fire Safe Council provide critical resources, programs, and education to safeguard our homes, families, and communities from wildfire risks.

JOIN US IN MAKING A LASTING IMPACT — BECAUSE STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY STARTS WITH **ALL OF US.**

GIVE TODAY

What Does a Hardened Home Look Like?

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See How Your Home Stacks Up

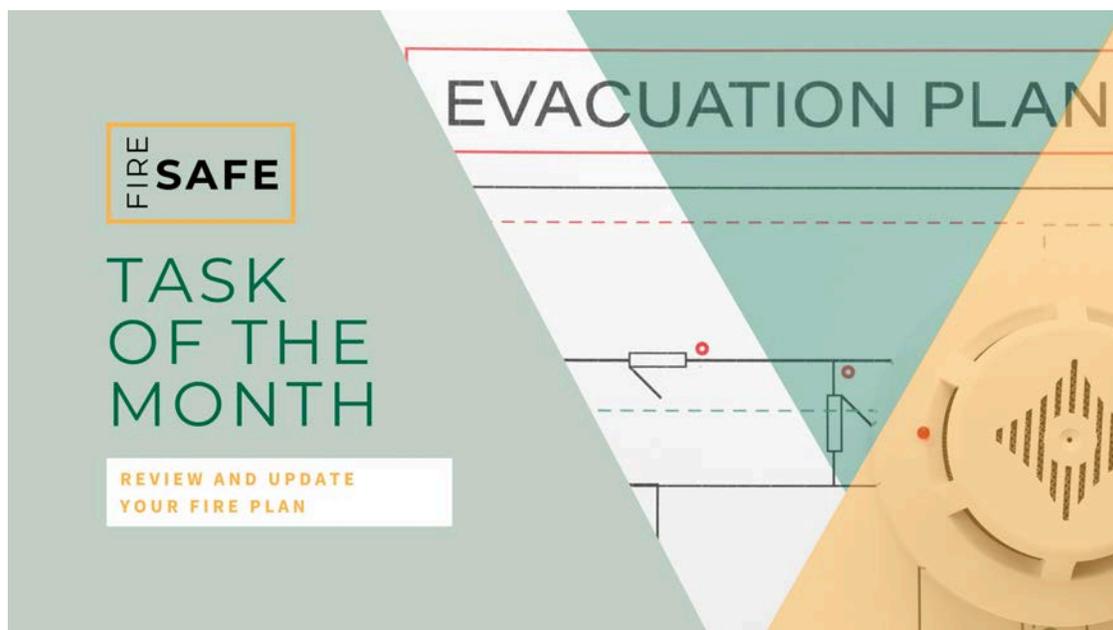
To get a better idea of what a hardened home looks like and areas where you can improve, use CAL FIRE’s [Home Hardening Self-Assessment](#). In under 10 minutes, you’ll receive a detailed report with tailored recommendations to strengthen your home today and plan for future improvements.

TAKE THE ASSESSMENT

The California Wildfire Mitigation Program in Shasta County is helping harden homes in high-risk fire zones. See an example of a hardened home below!



Fire Safe Task of the Month



Review and Update Your Fire Plan

End the year on a proactive note by ensuring your fire safety plan is up to date. Taking a few simple steps now can make all the difference in protecting your family and home during an emergency.

Steps To Follow:

- **Review Your Evacuation Plan:** Go over your family's evacuation plan to ensure everyone knows the routes and meeting points. Update contact information and share it with all household members.
- **Replenish Emergency Supplies:** Check your evacuation kit for expired items or missing essentials. Restock food, water, medications, and other critical supplies to ensure you're ready to go at a moment's notice.
- **Check Smoke Alarms:** Test all smoke alarms in your home and replace batteries if needed. Ensure alarms are installed in key areas, such as bedrooms and hallways, for maximum safety.

By reviewing and updating your fire plan now, you're taking an important step toward a safer, more prepared home. Let's end the year ready to face any challenge with confidence!

State and Local News



Fire Updates & Prevention News: What You Need To Know

Here's what's happening in California and Shasta County regarding fire prevention, wildfire management, and insurance updates:

Prescribed Fire: Bear Trap Piles in Shasta County

On November 10, 2025, a prescribed burn project named Bear Trap Piles was initiated in Shasta County. This effort aims to reduce wildfire risks by managing overgrown vegetation.

[Read more here](#)

Shasta-Trinity National Forest Begins Prescribed Fires

Prescribed fire operations began in Shasta-Trinity National Forest on November 10, 2025. These controlled burns are part of ongoing efforts to manage forest health and reduce wildfire hazards.

[Learn more here](#)

California's 2025 Fire Season: A Look Back

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ongoing fire prevention and mitigation efforts statewide.

[Get the details here](#)

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Newsletter 2025 December**

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Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investments Program, through the California Fire Safe Council.



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