

## IN CASE OF FIRE MAINTAIN A 'DEFENSIBLE SPACE' OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

Each year, thousands of acres of California wildland and hundreds of homes are destroyed by fire, during a fire season that lasts from May through October. Living along bluff areas or in the hills, although very beautiful, present serious fire safety risks to you and your property. These risks are caused by the combustible construction of your property combined with steep terrain and dense dry vegetation. Fire protection is everyone's responsibility. The Redlands Fire Department would like to offer you a checklist that will assist you in making your home and surrounding area more fire safe.

### Roof

- Remove dead branches overhanging your roof.
- Remove all branches within 10 feet of your chimney.
- Clean all dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters.
- Install a roof that meets the fire resistance classification of 'Class C' or better.
- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of ½ inch or smaller mesh.



### Landscape

- Create a 'Defensible Space' by removing all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures and replacing it with fire resistive plants.
- Space native trees and shrubs at least 10 feet apart.
- For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within six feet of the ground.
- Choose ornamental landscaping plants that are fire resistive.
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches, leaves, and needles.

### Yard

- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.
- Locate LPG tanks at least 30 feet from any structure and surround them with 10 feet of clearance.
- Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard.
- Contact your local fire department to see if open burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit.

### For Safety's Sake

- Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home.
- Practice emergency exit drills regularly.
- Make sure all children know how to dial 9-1-1 and know their address and phone number.
- Install smoke detectors in every bedroom, check them monthly, and change the battery at least once a year.

For more information feel free to contact the Redlands Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau at 909.798.7601.