



HOME IGNITION ZONE SELF-ASSESSMENT FORM

You as the legal homeowner will perform a self-assessment of the property. You will focus on the resiliency against wildfires, evacuations, defensible space. Will embers enter open spaces and ignite combustible construction. If you marked anything other than PASS, then there maybe mitigation that can be completed. Resources are available for you to harden your homes. Create and maintain proper defensible space around homes and along fire department access roads.

1. OVERVIEW OF SURROUNDINGS:

Possible considerations: Structure position to relation to severe fire behavior and type of construction and access routes.

ITEMS ASSESSED	MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS:	PASS	FAIL	N/A
The single-family dwelling is in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (SRA). This is an item that cannot be reduced.	Alpine Fire Protection District is designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. All wildfire building standards shall apply and defensible space.			
Does the home have two ways to egress?	Is there 2 separate points for evacuation. Taking main road to another. Does it take you to safety?			
Does the home have slopes or topography of concern?	Slopes greater than 20% carry fire very quickly up hill. Possible action items are more extensive fuels reduction. Break apart pockets of fuel 10' diameters			
How many access points are there to access the home?	Is there a circular driveway? Are there multiple driveways? If not please mark N/A			
Is the structure(s) fire rated?	Rated construction came into effect after 2010. If you home was built before 2010 it will not have all rated construction features.			
At the entrance to the driveway is the address numbers visible and of contrasting backgrounds. 4" x ½" stroke	The law requires there to be addresses posted. It is highly recommended to install reflective address markers. Green background or blue background.			

2. CHIMNEY TO EAVES:

Possible considerations: roof, gutters

ITEMS ASSESSED	MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS	PASS	FAIL	N/A
Does the home have fireplace(s)?	Wood burning fireplaces produce CO gas. Be sure to have Carbon Monoxide alarms installed. Is there a protective screen above on the chimney?			
Are there branches overhanging the roofline?	Tree branches that overhang the roof can break and crash into the roof opening holes. This will allow embers to enter the combustible attic space.			
Are there rain gutters present? If so are they non-combustible materials?	Rain gutters are required to have a guard to prevent the accumulation of leaf materials. This will act as a wick and will carry fire. Guards reduce this impact.			

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3. TOP OF THE EXTERIOR WALL TO FOUNDATION:

Possible considerations: Attic, eaves, soffit vents, crawl spaces, windows, decks, patios, flammable and combustible materials stored on or under or near structure, nooks or other small spaces.

ITEMS ASSESSED	MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS	PASS	FAIL	N/A
Are there soffit vents, gable vents or dormer vents installed? Are they installed with ember resistive vents?	Old attic vents made prior to 2010 are ¼" open mesh type. Embers will enter into combustible attic. Retro fit these will increase structure survivability.			
Are ALL exterior doors fire rated? 20 min, solid core 1 3/8" thick?	Solid wood doors at a min of 1 3/8" are rated exterior doors. Old doors will not take sustained heat and will fail. Replacing these doors maintains exterior ratings.			
Are ALL windows dual pane single glass tempered?	Dual pane single glass tempered windows with welded corners hold firmly in place when exposed to heat. Older windows fail due to heat failing out.			

4. IMMEDIATE ZONE 0'-5' FEET FROM STRUCTURE:

Possible considerations: landscaped vegetation, hardscape materials, plant selection, propane tanks, vehicles, tool sheds, outbuildings.

ITEMS ASSESSED	MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS	PASS	FAIL	N/A
Are there wood fences attached to the first 5' feet of the home?	The first 5' surrounding the exterior of structure shall be ignition resistive. Wood fences will carry flame against the exterior wall of the home. Replace fence.			
Surrounding the exterior perimeter of the home is the Immediate Zone. NO combustible materials shall be located in this zone.	Any and all combustible materials shall be removed in this immediate zone. Doing so reduces ignition potential. Planter boxes, patio furniture REMOVE			
Is there mulch, bark or ground cover that is defined as combustible material present?	Planter beds traditionally would have this. Remove ALL mulch/bark. This is fuel and will carry to the weep screed of homes and introduce heat and flame into exterior wall.			
Are there potted plants present in this area?	Potter plants are moveable. Limit plant height and pot not to exceed 18" in height. NOT ALLOWED INFRONT OF WINDOWS!!!			
Is there present any piles of firewood or combustible materials? Ex. lumber, building materials	Stacking of firewood on porches is a great spot where burning embers will land. Large fuel source. Remove all firewood and any construction materials from 5'.			

5. INTERMEDIATE ZONE 5'- 50' FEET FROM STRUCTURE:

Possible considerations: Ladder fuels and crown separations, lawn mowed and watered.

ITEMS ASSESSED	MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS	PASS	FAIL	N/A
On high wind days or fire danger keep vehicles backed into driveway facing out	Keep all cars ready to leave. Pack Ready Set Go kits early. Maintain cars above half tank.			
Are plants in this zone shall be limited in height? At the edge of Zone 0 and beginning of Zone 1- 6" extending out to 18" in height.	Lowering the height of plants closer to the home lowers flame height and reduces direct flame impingement against exterior of buildings.			
Are there mature trees established in this zone? Are these trees limbed up off the ground by a minimum of 6'?	Removing low hanging branches from tree canopy reduces chance of surface fires climbing the "ladder" into tree canopy. Remove the low hanging branches.			
Are all tree limbs and branches at or more than 10' away from wall and roof line?	By maintaining tree canopy distance away from the home if tree canopy does become in gulfed in fire keeping 10' distance away from the building lowers risk of heat transfer.			

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6. EXTENDED ZONE: 50’ – 100’ FROM STRUCTURE

Possible considerations: ladder fuels and crown separations, accumulation of litter/debris and dead plant and tree material.

ITEMS ASSESSED	MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS	PASS	FAIL	N/A
Are all trees limbed up off the ground minimum of 6’ if over 18’ in height and if less than 18’ in height 1/3 the height?	Strategically removing lower hanging limbs will reduce surface fuels from igniting the ladder fuels and having canopy fire occur.			
What existing ground cover is present? Natural vegetation, landscaped, ornamental?	Natural ground cover is important to have. Maintain this growth by limiting pockets of growth to 10’ in diameter with 10’ spacing between pockets.			
Are all plants and growth along fire department access roads maintained and cleared back 20’ off the edge of access roads?	Overgrowth along the access roads will restrict access for first responders. Plants torching across roads prevents access. Clear brush along access roads.			
Are there presently dead trees or dead vegetation that requires to be removed?	Remove ALL dead branches, limbs, growth, trees in this zone. Dried vegetation is more prone to carry heat and small twigs, branches will ignite quickly.			
Is the property served by LPG propane? If so maintain 10’ of fuels reduction surrounding the tank at all times.	Bare mineral soil is required around propane tanks at all times. Remove growth as needed. 10’ in each direction.			
Is there ground mounted solar panels installed? If so maintain 10’ fuels reduction surrounding system.	Bare mineral soil is required around solar panels at all times. Remove growth as needed. 10’ in each direction.			

This completes the Home Ignition Zone assessment for your single-family dwelling. The items noted under the mitigation recommendations will increase the chances of surviving a wildfire. There are no guarantees against wildfires. Working with our neighbors and local stakeholders though we can increase survivability and strengthen home resilience. After completing this assessment do you feel more aware of the items required? Still have more questions? Please do not hesitate to visit our website for examples of before and after. Each item above will have a side by side to show items that are non-compliant and then after mitigation compliant.

The Community of Alpine is mapped as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHZ) as per Cal Fire. Due to location and conditions factored such as but not limited to: topography, climate, aspect, weather and exposure to structure threat our office is providing a detailed list of recommendations to strengthen structures against wildfire.

Below are the links to the resources noted above.

Sunrise Powerlink Fire Mitigation Grants: Structure hardening projects and defensible space grants

<https://www.sunrisepowerlinkgrants.com/2023>

Ready Set Go Program!

<https://www.alpinefire.org/files/a447ca455/Final+Ready+Set+Go+County+Wildfire+Guide+2017+AFPD.pdf>

www.ReadyForWildfire.org Low costs retro fit items for home ignition improvements.

As per 2016-01 Alpine Fire Protection District Defensible Space Ordinance compliance with Public Resource Code 4291 is required to be maintained for all structures. Copies of the weed abatement ordinance are available online www.alpinefire.org and clicking here will take you to the [PRC 4291](#) for reference.

Alpine Fire Protection District is proud to have a Class 2/2Y ISO rating. This may be of service to you for annual renewal of fire insurance. Please share with your insurance company. The community of Alpine is also a recognized Firewise USA adaptive community.

Examples of before and after photos for each item above are located on Alpine Fire Protection District website.

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