INSTALL A ROOF THAT IS RATED CLASS A, BASED ON TESTING TO ASTM E108 OR UL 790
Low- and steep-sloped roofs are rated from Class A to Class C, with Class A providing the most fire protection. Some are unrated, (e.g., wood shake roof). If you are considering replacing your roof, re-roof with a Class A-rated roofing material.

- Flat/low-sloped roofs with stone-ballasted single-ply membranes or loose gravel surfaced built-up typically meet Class A. Many other flat roof systems are Class A, but documentation is needed to confirm it or discuss with a licensed roofing contractor.
- Steep-sloped roofs with asphalt shingles, clay, slate, and concrete tile roofs are Class A fire-rated. Metal is another good option.
- Any openings between the roof covering and roof deck at the roof edge and/or ridge should be plugged using a noncombustible material (i.e., bird-stopped).

CLEAR DEBRIS FROM GUTTERS AND ROOF
- Incorporate this into a routine maintenance plan for the building(s).
- Recommended at every season change and after any storm or high-wind event.

CREATE A BUFFER AROUND YOUR BUILDING (0-5 FOOT BUILDING IGNITION ZONE)
Pay special attention to the 5 feet immediately surrounding your building. This area should be designed and maintained to keep fire or embers from igniting materials and spreading fire to your building.

- Install hard surfaces around the building, such as a concrete walkway, or use noncombustible mulch products such as rocks.
- While best practice is to have no vegetation, choosing limited use of CalFire-approved vegetation will keep your risk low.
- Remove dead vegetation and implement a maintenance strategy to keep the area clear of all debris.
- Remove branches that may overhang your roof or gutters.
- Do not store combustible items—such as wooden pallets, propane tanks, and flammable liquids—in this zone.

REMOVE ITEMS UNDER A RAISED DECK, BALCONY, OR ATTACHED WOOD WALKWAYS
To prevent ignition and fire spread to your building, do not use this area as long-term storage.

- Do not store combustible items under your attachment(s).
- It is best practice to store items long-term either indoors or at least 30 feet from the building if possible.
- If you have a multifamily business (condos, apartments, hotels or affordable housing), ask tenants/staff to move ALL items from their balconies and patios indoors on very high fire danger days.
Once you’ve addressed the critical actions, keep going with these low-cost steps that further reduce your risk.

**GO BEYOND THE 0-5’ BUILDING IGNITION ZONE**
Embers can easily start fires in and around your building and can collect in these areas.

- Make sure vents have a metal screen 1/8 inch or finer to block embers from entering and igniting your building. Be sure to check screens periodically and remove accumulated debris, birds' nests, etc.
- Install spark arrestors with 1/2-inch mesh screening at the outlet of all chimneys.

**KEEP GOING!**
Once you’ve addressed the critical actions, keep going with these low-cost steps that further reduce your risk.

**PROVIDE PROPER BUILDING IDENTIFICATION**
Building identification should be provided at each vehicle access entrance and should be visible from both directions of travel.

- Signage should be made from a noncombustible material.
- Street numbers should be at least 4 inches high, reflective, and applied on a contrasting background.

**IF YOU HAVE A LOW ELEVATION COMBUSTIBLE WALKWAY OR DECK (ATTACHMENT), ENCLOSE THIS AREA**
If your combustible attachment sits less than 4 feet above the ground, enclose it with a noncombustible siding product or use 1/8 inch or finer mesh around the combustible walkway or deck perimeter. This will help keep debris out and keep embers from collecting underneath.

- Be sure the enclosed space is adequately ventilated to minimize the chance of water-related damage (i.e., fungal decay, fastener corrosion, etc.).
When time and budget allow, these next steps will address additional vulnerable areas of your property.

**MOVE SMALL STRUCTURES & COMBUSTIBLES AWAY FROM YOUR BUILDING**
- Make sure small structures like sheds, garbage containment and other outbuildings are located at least 30 feet away from your main building. If they can't be moved, consider retrofitting or enclose them with noncombustible materials. Structures within 30 feet of your main building should be maintained just like the 0-5 foot building ignition zone.
- High-piled storage of combustible material should not exceed 10 feet in height and should be located a minimum of 50 feet from the building.
- Outdoor storage of large quantities of combustible and flammable liquids should be located more than 50 feet away from the building or stored in detached noncombustible buildings.
- LP tanks should be located at least 50 feet from the building and other structures on the property.

**REPLACE COMBUSTIBLE WALKWAY, BALCONY, DECKS OR STAIRS WITH A NONCOMBUSTIBLE/FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIAL**
When constructing a new attachment, use metal joists and a noncombustible walking surface like metal or lightweight concrete. If you cannot find those in your area, use plastic composite or hardwood (Ipe) instead of medium/low-density wood such as redwood and cedar.

**ENCLOSE EAVES**
If your building has open eaves, box them in, enclose them or install noncombustible soffit. If fire reaches the area below an open eave, heat can build up and ignite exposed materials. Embers can also circulate here, increasing the chance they will enter your building if vents don’t have screens.

**UPGRADE TO TEMPURED INSULATING GLASS**
Replace single-pane windows with tempered insulating-glass windows, especially first-floor windows on a multi-story business.

**REPLACE YOUR BUILDING’S EXTERIOR WALL CLADDING & EXTERIOR DOORS**
If you have combustible siding like un-treated wood or vinyl, the best practice is to replace it with a noncombustible material like concrete and brick.

**IMPROVE SITE ACCESS & FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES**
Entrances and driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with at least 13.5 feet of vertical clearance between roadway and vegetation. The angle of approach and departure should be designed to allow for emergency vehicle access without damaging the equipment when entering or leaving the driveway.

**MAKE YOUR BUSINESS WILDFIRE READY**
Feel free to share this guide.
Together, we can reduce our risk from wildfire!

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