

## Let's get prepared

In the event of a wildfire you may need to evacuate your home.

Here are some key things to remember:

## Wildfire evacuation check list:

- Pack a bag** - include essentials, medication, insurance details, mobile phone and charger.
- Gather your family** - don't forget your pets and any essentials for them, including medication.
- Secure the property** - turn off the gas and close the windows.
- Evacuate** if asked to do so or at risk.



## About Firewise

Firewise Communities is an international programme based on research by the world's leading fire experts on ignition of homes from wildfire.

The programme encourages communities to work together to reduce the risk to homes from wildfire by taking practical steps in the area around the home and garden.

Wildfires across the globe are increasing as the planet heats up, and here in the UK we are seeing more and more. No longer is it something which only happens abroad.

**We need to be prepared.**

### More information

 [firewise@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:firewise@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

 [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)



## Preparing your home for wildfire

Some easy steps for homeowners to help you protect your homes



Photo: DWFRS

## What you can do



This leaflet provides guidance which outlines the steps you can consider, to prepare your home and community.

### Protecting your home

- Prevent embers from entering your roof space by repairing or replacing loose or broken tiles.
- Identify and regularly clear ember traps around your home - places where dead leaves collect e.g. gutters.
- Move any flammable material away from external walls e.g. log piles and leaves.
- Ensure your house name or number is clearly visible from the road.
- Avoid parking on or too close to fire hydrants.



### Protecting your garden

- Trim back trees and shrubs that are too close to or touching your house and dispose of cuttings responsibly. Don't put cuttings over the fence as this adds to the fire risk.
- Screen areas below patios and decks with wire mesh, to prevent debris building up.
- Create separation between trees, bushes and any items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture and wood piles.
- During hot, dry spells use 'grey' water to keep it hydrated.
- Consider the position of sheds and consider fireproofing fence panels and wooden structures.
- Use caution when having BBQS, bonfires and using fireworks.

## Beyond your garden

If your property backs onto or is close to a greenspace, the land manager holds the responsibility to manage the risk to that land.

Heathland and forestry land managers and owners, with advice from Natural England, manage the habitat to maintain it for key species.

These internationally important habitats are subject to legal constraints. Land managers will assess fire risk and work with the fire service.

