

Don't Let This Happen To You!



Create "Defensible Space"

This means implementing a combination of steps that will help the Fire District buy time to deploy personnel and fire equipment during an ensuing wild fire.

The Marin County countryside with its large expanse of grass and oak woodland provides an ideal environment for a devastating wildland fire. With the onset of the summer months comes the drying and curing of our open space lands. As temperatures peak, humidity drops and the summer winds blow, the potential for wildland fires increase. Despite the efforts of the Novato Fire District and the California Fire Service in general, many homes are lost each year due to wildland fires. You don't need to live in a forest to lose your home to a wildland fire.

HAZARD ASSESSMENT MATRIX

| Hazard Type | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Points |
|--------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| Roof | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| Deck | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| Tree | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| Chimney | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| Combustibles | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| Address | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| Plant | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| Total | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |

Total Hazard Points:

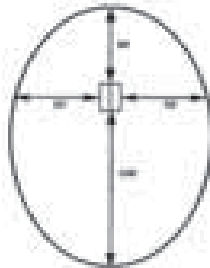
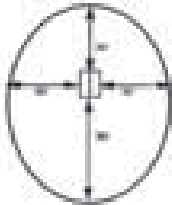
Minimum Horizontal Clearance Requirement in feet:

Hazard Points:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Minimum 30' x 30' x 30'

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 Minimum 30' x 30' x 30' x 50'

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 > Minimum 50' x 50' x 50' x 100'



Level
0-10%

Moderate Slope
11-30%

Steep Slope
Greater than 30%

At a Minimum...

You can help firefighters help you by:

Removing all flammable fire fuels for a minimum of 30 feet. (see next page for examples of fire fuels)

Houses on slopes need more clearance; up to 150 feet on some slopes. (see slope clearance matrix at left)

Remove trees that are flammable types away from roof, eaves, and decks.

Limb trees 8 to 10 feet from ground.

Install and maintain a spark arrestor on your chimney.

Remove needles, leaves, and combustible debris from roof and gutters.

Store combustibles, including wood stacks, at least 30 feet from the house.

Post address so numbers are clearly visible from street.

Replace flammable fire fuels with fire resistant plants. (see next page for examples)

Create Defensible Space

Slope Affects Fire Travel

Several factors affect fire intensity and path of travel. Key factors are fuel, weather, and topography. While we cannot affect weather or topography (slope), we can change the fuel type and patterns depending on the steepness of the slope on which your home is situated.

Steeper slopes require greater "fuel bed" plant separation. Removing fire fuels such as Scotch/French broom, Manzanita, Madrone, Hay, Chaparral, Pine trees and Eucalyptus will greatly reduce fire intensity. Removing these fuels from under tree canopies prevents laddering of a ground fire from becoming a crown fire. Limbing tree branches so that there is 8-10 feet between the ground and the tree limb also prevents laddering of a fire.

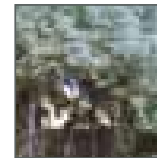


Replacing fire fuels with fire resistant gardens and greenbelts (irrigated high water content ground covers) will significantly slow fire travel, reduce heat and intensity and will help prevent burning brands and radiant heat from directly impinging your home. Use the plant (bush/brush) separation model above based on the slope below your home to provide adequate separation and to minimize a contiguous fuel bed.

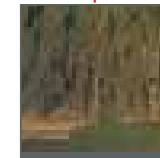
Crown and Plant to Plant Separation



Examples of Flammable Fire Fuels



Bailey's Acacia



Red Gum

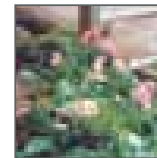


Hollywood Juniper

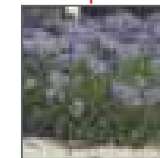


Fountain Grass

Examples of Fire Resistant Plants



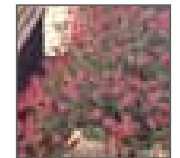
Winter Blooming Bergenia



Lily of the Nile



Moss Verbena



Verbena Hybrida

Sudden Oak Death Syndrome

Signs and Symptoms

The Novato Fire Protection District is concerned with the amount and the rate of the oak tree die-off in the community. This die-off is seriously increasing the fire risk and potential intensity throughout the county. We are working aggressively with local and state agencies to determine the cause, identify symptoms, and determine solutions to this multi-faceted problem.

Affected trees can be identified by weeping syrup-like sap, which is usually located at the base of the trunk, or near the crotch of the tree. This is symptomatic of the Phytophthora algae. Trees may also have a brown tumor-like growth on the trunk base of the tree. This is symptomatic of the Hypoxylon fungi. These algae and fungi appear to be attacking the Tan Oak, Coastal Live Oak, Black Oak, Madrone and Manzanita.

Another sign that trees may be affected are the brown leaves that appear on what is believed to be a healthy tree. The browning of leaves is a late indicator of an infected tree because the algae and fungi work from within.

A serious safety concern with affected trees is the dropping of large limbs without notice. This has been documented on several occasions this summer throughout the Novato area.

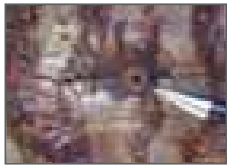
For more information on the Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, creating a defensible space around your home, or the matching grant program, please contact the Novato Fire Protection District at (415) 878-2690 or www.novatofire.org or www.marin.cc.ca.us/cnps.



Sudden Oak Death Syndrome



Phytophthora (algae)



Bark Beetle Hole



Hypoxylon (fungi)

Novato Fire Protection District
95 Rowland Way
Novato, CA 94945

Novato Fire Protection District

Message From The Fire Chief

Dear Novato Resident:

Your and your family's safety during a wildland fire is a significant concern to the members of the Novato Fire District. We need your help to prevent a tragedy from occurring. Enclosed in this brochure are some measures that you can implement to prevent a tragic wildland fire from destroying your home. This year's danger will be heightened by sudden oak death and our dry winter. Please let us help you by providing you with the information necessary to create a defensible space around your property.

Marc A. Revere
Fire Chief

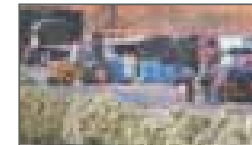
Who We Are and What We Do

The Novato Fire Protection District is an independent special district established by the Marin County Board of Supervisors in July of 1926. On average there are 20 firefighters on duty each day protecting the 75 square mile district with a population of some 60,000 citizens. An elected five member Board of Directors governs the Novato Fire District. The Board of Directors meets in open forum on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the main fire station located at 7025 Redwood Boulevard.

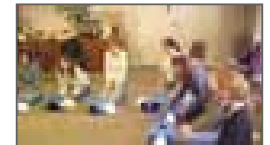
The Novato Fire District provides all risk emergency and non-emergency services including fire suppression, hazardous materials response, emergency medical service, water rescue, fire prevention code enforcement, public education and community programs. Today the District maintains four fire stations and a training facility. Novato Fire District personnel and equipment respond to over 4,300 emergency calls per year.



Wildland Fire Response



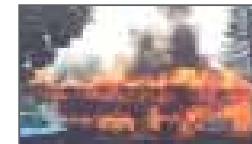
Hazardous Materials Response



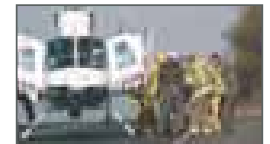
Public Education



Water Rescue



Fire Suppression



Emergency Medical Service

Wildland fires continue to pose one of the greatest threats to life and property in the Novato Fire District. As the community continues to grow, more homes are being built intermixed with or bordering large areas of open space lands. These areas are commonly referred to as "wildland interface zones." Protecting homes in these areas from wildland fires is a dangerous and difficult task for our firefighters. Information in this brochure will help us help you protect your home in a wildland fire.

For Emergencies, Dial 9•1•1