

The Al Tahoe Firewiseusa Community would like to remind residents that there are simple things you can do in an afternoon or over the weekend that research shows will help your home survive a wildfire.

- * Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves to a minimum of 3-5 feet from the home's foundation, and over time, up to a 30 foot distance around the home.
- * Sweep porches and decks, clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Rake under decks, porches, sheds, and play structures.
- * On mature trees, remove low-hanging tree branches (ladder fuels) up to a height of 4 to 10 feet from the ground (heights depends on the type and size of tree).
- * Move wood piles at least 30 feet away from structures.
- * Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire screening, no larger than 1/8-inch mesh, to help keep embers out during a wildfire.
- * Dispose of all collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles or take them to a disposal site.

Remember, "you are only as safe as your next-door neighbors," so encourage your community members to do their part "Put Safety First" in the Al Tahoe.

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