OUTSIDE

1 Design/Construction

- ☐ Use fire resistant materials
- ☐ Build your home at least 30-100 feet from your property line
- ☐ Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge
- ☐ Consider installing residential sprinklers
- ☐ Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and above ground decks with fire resistant materials
- ☐ Try to limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation
- ☐ Install only dual-paned or triple-paned windows
- ☐ Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code
- ☐ Contact qualified individuals to perform electrical maintenance and repairs

2 Access

- ☐ Make sure that your street name sign is visibly posted at each street intersection
- ☐ Post your house address so it is easily visible from the street, especially at night
- ☐ Address numbers should be at least 3 inches tall and on a contrasting background
- ☐ Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood
- ☐ Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways
- ☐ Cut back overhanging tree branches above access roads
- ☐ Construct roads that allow two-way traffic
- ☐ Make sure dead-end roads, and long drive ways have turn-around areas wide enough for emergency vehicles
- ☐ Design bridges to carry heavy emergency vehicles
- ☐ Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations

3 Roof

- ☐ Install a fire resistant roof. Contact your local fire department for current roofing requirements
- ☐ Remove dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters
- ☐ Remove dead branches overhanging your roof and keep branches 10 feet from your chimney
- ☐ Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh

4 Landscape

- ☐ Create a **Defensible Space** of 100 feet around your home. It is required by law.
- ☐ Create a "LEAN, CLEAN and GREEN ZONE" by removing all flammable vegetation within 30 feet immediately surrounding your home
- ☐ Then create a "REDUCED FUEL ZONE" in the remaining 70 feet or to your property line.

  You have two options in this area:

  A. **Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants. The amount of space will depend on how steep your property is and the size of your plants.**

  B. **Large trees do not have to be removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed.**
- ☐ Remove lower tree branches at least six feet from the ground
- ☐ Landscape with fire resistant plants
- ☐ Maintain all plants with regular water and keep dead branches, leaves and needles removed.
- ☐ When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer.

5 Yard

- ☐ Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and remove vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles
- ☐ Locate LPG tanks (butane and propane) at least 30 feet from any structure and maintain 10 feet of clearance
- ☐ Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard
- ☐ Contact your local fire department to see if debris burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit and follow all local air quality restrictions

6 Emergency Water Supply

- ☐ Maintain an emergency water supply that meets fire department standards through one of the following:
  - a community water/hydrant system
  - a cooperative emergency storage tank with neighbors
  - a minimum storage supply of 2,500 gallons on your property (like a pond or pool)
- ☐ Clearly mark all emergency water sources
- ☐ Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source
- ☐ If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during a power failure

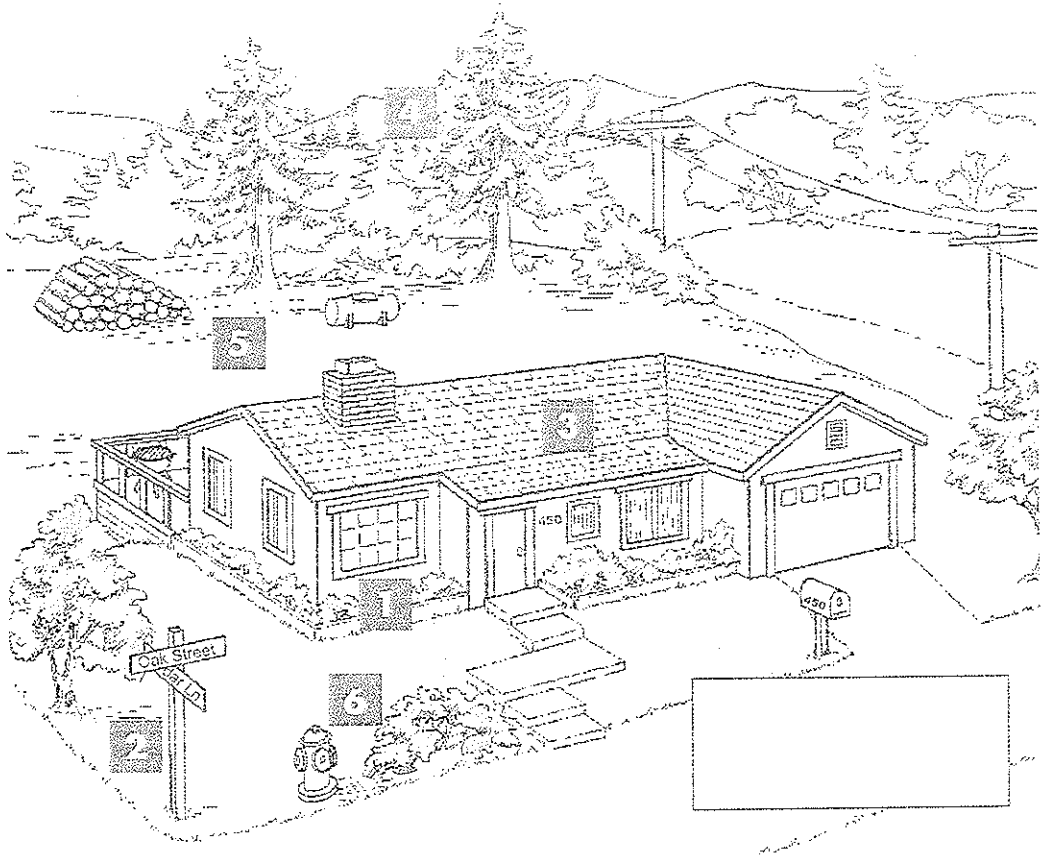
May 2008

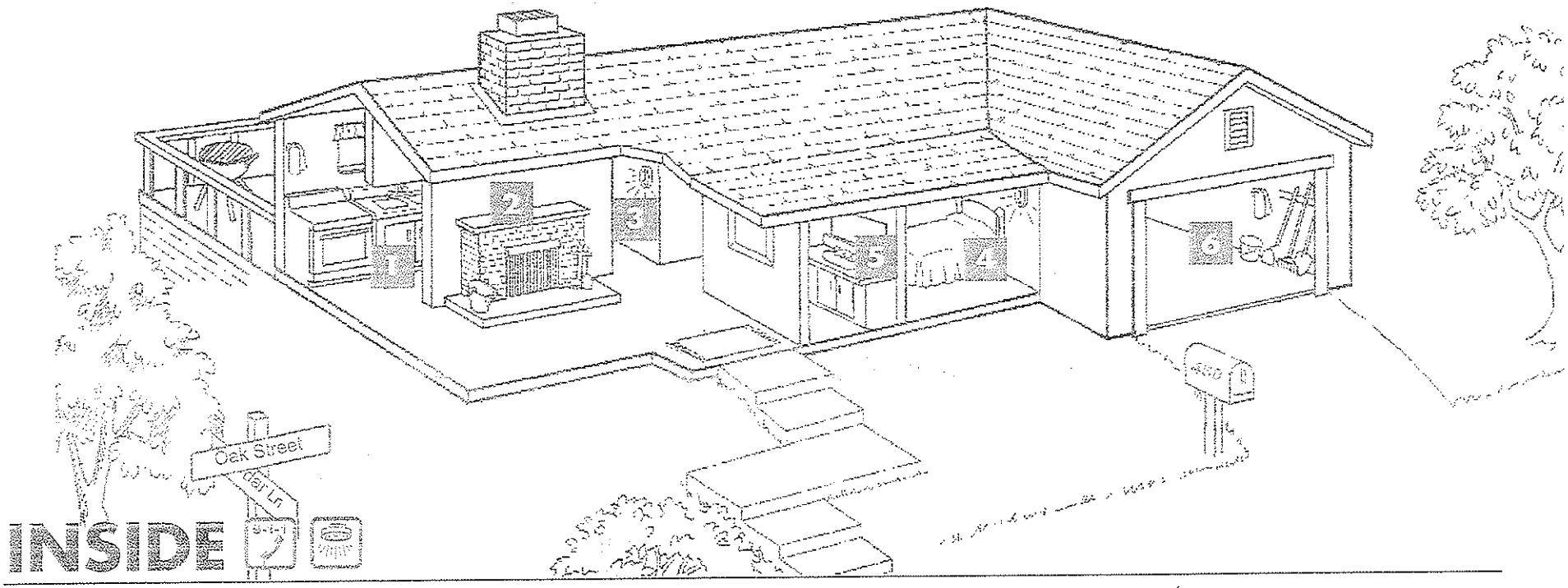
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Homeowners Checklist

How To Make Your Home Fire Safe

www.fire.ca.gov





INSIDE

1 Kitchen

- ❑ Keep a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen
- ❑ Maintain electric and gas stoves in good operating condition
- ❑ Keep baking soda on hand to extinguish stove-top grease fires
- ❑ Turn the handles of pots and pans away from the front of the stove
- ❑ Install curtains and towel holders away from stoveburners
- ❑ Store matches and lighters out of reach of children
- ❑ Make sure that electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads

2 Living Room

- ❑ Install a screen in front of fireplace or wood stove
- ❑ Store the ashes from your fireplace (and barbecue) in a metal container and dispose of only when cold
- ❑ Clean fireplace chimneys and flues at least once a year

3 Hallway

- ❑ Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas
- ❑ Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year, when clocks are changed in the spring and fall
- ❑ Replace electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections, or are frayed

4 Bedroom

- ❑ If you sleep with the door closed, install a smoke detector in the bedroom
- ❑ Turn off electric blankets and other electrical appliances when not in use
- ❑ Do not smoke in bed
- ❑ If you have security bars on your windows or doors, be sure they have an approved quick release mechanism so you and your family can get out in the event of a fire

5 Bathroom

- ❑ Disconnect appliances such as curling irons and hair dryers when done; store in a safe location until cool
- ❑ Keep items such as towels away from wall and floor heaters

6 Garage

- ❑ Mount a working fire extinguisher in the garage
- ❑ Have tools such as a shovel, hoe, rake and bucket available for use in a wildfire emergency
- ❑ Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage
- ❑ Dispose of oily rags in Ⓤ Underwriters Laboratories approved metal containers
- ❑ Store all combustibles away from ignition sources such as water heaters
- ❑ Disconnect electrical tools and appliances when not in use
- ❑ Allow hot tools such as glue guns and soldering irons to cool before storing
- ❑ Properly store flammable liquids in approved containers and away from ignition sources such as pilot lights

* Disaster Preparedness

- ❑ Maintain at least a three-day supply of drinking water, and food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking
- ❑ Maintain a portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, lanterns and batteries
- ❑ Outdoor cooking appliances such as barbecues should never be taken indoors for use as heaters
- ❑ Maintain first aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives
- ❑ Keep a list of valuables to take with you in an emergency; if possible, store these valuables together
- ❑ For safety, securely attach all water heaters and furniture such as cabinets and bookshelves to walls
- ❑ Have a contingency plan to enable family members to contact each other. Establish a family/friend phone tree
- ❑ Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home
- ❑ Practice *emergency exit drills in the house* (EDITH) regularly
- ❑ Make sure that all family members understand how to STOP, DROP AND ROLL if their clothes should catch fire.