- 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.
- Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turn-around areas wide enough for emergency vehicles.
- Construct turnouts along one-way roads.
- Clear flammable vegetation horizontally at least 10 feet from roads and 10 feet from driveways.
- Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads.
- Construct fire barriers, such as greenbelts, parks and golf courses.
- Make sure your street name or number is visibly posted at each intersection.
- Post your house address at the beginning of your driveway or on your house if it is easily visible from the road.

REMEMBER TO . . .

Install and maintain working smoke detectors inside your home and practice emergency evacuation drills regularly!

RECOGNIZING POTENTIAL ARSON ACTIVITY

Be A.W.A.R.E.! Arson fires do not discriminate; once set, they will cross all jurisdictional boundaries in their path. Many of the wildland fires that occur in Southern California are caused by arson.

Therefore, it is imperative that everyone be aware that arson can occur anywhere at anytime. Why arson? There are three basic reasons; *arson for profit, arson for revenge and arson for fun.*

Whatever the reason or motivation behind the arsonist's actions, there are some early warning signs that can help you to recognize potential arson activity in your neighborhood before it happens:

- Buildings with absentee landlords and no resident manager or superintendent
- A business with minimal or obsolete stock, appearing to be going out of business
- All tenants being evicted from a building
- Homes and businesses with poor housekeeping practices
- Homes and businesses experiencing frequent burglaries
- People fighting and making threats to one another
- People moving out of homes or buildings at an odd hour
- People hanging out in vacant buildings
- Juveniles loitering around vacant homes, buildings or wildland areas
- People or vehicles in your neighborhood that look suspicious or out of place

Remember, the best weapon against arson is for the public to understand the problem and know how to report a potentially dangerous condition. If you observe suspicious activities around your neighborhood, take note of the **TIME**, the **DATE** and the following information:

SUSPICIOUS PERSON(S)

- Height
- Weight
- Sex
- Race
- Hair color
- Eyes
- Clothes
- Distinguishing marks
- What happened?

SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE(S)

- License number
- Vehicle description (van, truck, motorcycle, bicycle, etc.)
- Make
- Model
- Year
- What happened?

By following these simple guidelines and REPORTING THIS INFORMATION **IMMEDIATELY** TO YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, the chances of identifying and catching a suspected arsonist will increase greatly.

PERSONAL WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY PREPAREDNESS

If you have followed the steps in the **A.W.A.R.E. Pamphlet**, and you have prepared your home in advance for wildfires by creating a "defensible space" and a fire safe environment, then you are ready to take additional steps to protect your home.

First, if you see smoke or fire in your area, immediately report it by dialing 9-1-1. Remember to take note of the location so that the dispatcher can send emergency equipment to the correct location before you hang up.

GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION

- Wear long pants (cotton or wool).
- Wear long sleeve shirts (cotton or wool).
- Wear a pair of sturdy work gloves (leather palmed preferred).
- Keep a large damp cloth or bandanna handy. Note: This will provide limited respiratory protection from heat, smoke and debris. This will not protect you from the toxic gases associated with fire.
- Wear a pair of goggles for eye protection. **Note:** This will only provide limited eye protection from irritating smoke and toxic gases.
- Wear a pair of sturdy work shoes or boots.
- Wear an approved hard hat. This will provide protection from falling objects and hot embers.
- DO NOT wear short sleeve shirts, pants or clothing made of synthetic materials.

EMERGENCY WILDFIRE HOME PROTECTION

PREPARATIONS AHEAD OF THE FIRE

- Back your car in the garage heading out (windows closed and keys in the ignition).
- Close the garage door, leave it unlocked, disconnect the automatic garage door opener in the case of power failure.
- Place important documents, photo albums, pets and other valuables inside your car in case you have to evacuate.
- When evacuating to a safe location, use your pre-planned evacuation route, away from the approaching fire front.
- Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times and stay tuned to your local news station.
- If you become trapped by fire while evacuating in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket and lie on the floor.
- If you are trapped by fire while evacuating on foot, select an area clear of vegetation or lie in a ditch. Avoid canyons that can steer the fire.
- Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage.
- Cover windows, attic openings, eaves and vents with fire resistive material such as 1/2 inch or thicker plywood. Close window shutters and blinds if they are fire resistive.
- Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so that they can reach all areas of your house.
- Fill all sinks, bath tubs, trash cans, buckets and other containers with water. Keep small rugs or potato sacks handy to dip in the water and extinguish spot fires.
- If you have an emergency generator or a portable gasoline-powered pump that will supply water from a swimming pool, pond, well or tank, clearly mark its location and be ready to operate it.
- Place a ladder against the house on the opposite side of the approaching fire for access to the roof.
- Wet down or place a lawn sprinkler on flammable roofs but don't turn it on unless the fire is an immediate threat.
- Close all windows and doors around your home to prevent sparks from blowing inside.
- Close all doors within the house to slow fire spread inside the house.
- Turn on the lights in all rooms of your house, on the porch and in the yard. Your home will be more visible through the smoke or darkness.
- Shut off liquefied petroleum gas or natural gas valves.
- Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to keep them from igniting from the radiant heat of the fire.
- Remove curtains and drapes. If you have metal blinds or special fire resistant window coverings, close them to block heat radiation.

IF YOU STAY INSIDE YOUR HOME WHEN A FIRE APPROACHES

- Stay inside your house away from outside walls.
- Keep all doors closed but leave them unlocked.
- Keep your entire family together and REMAIN CALM. Remember if it gets hot in the house, it is four to five times hotter and more dangerous outside.

AFTER THE FIRE PASSES

- Check the roof immediately, extinguish all spark sand embers. If you must climb on the roof, use caution, especially if it is wet.
- Check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.
- Check your yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts or other materials.

FOR ADDITIONAL FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

Call the Public Affairs Office
At
(323) 881-2411

County of Los Angeles
Fire Department
1320 N. Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063

www.lacofd.org

IF YOU SEE ANY SUSPICIOUS PERSON(S) OR ACIVITY PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING SUSPECTED ARSON ACTIVITY PLEASE CONTACT OUR ARSON WATCH UNIT AT 626-433-1011.

IN CASE OF FIRE OR SMOKE ALWAYS CALL 911.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

AWARE

ARSON WATCH AND RESIDENT EDUCATION

The goal of **A.W.A.R.E.**, a community awareness and education program, is to use community education and involvement to help reduce the loss of life and property resulting from wildland brush fires.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Arson Watch And Resident Education

AWARE

The goal of **A.W.A.R.E.**, a community awareness and education program, is to use community education and involvement to help reduce the loss of life and property resulting from wildland brush fires. This pamphlet is meant to be another tool to further ensure the safety of residents who live in or near urban wildland interface areas.

CREATE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Your first defense against wildfire is creating a fire safe landscape and DEFENSIBLE SPACE around your home. This can be achieved by removing flammable vegetation and replacing it with fire-resistive vegetation. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department requires a "defensible space" of 30 feet or more around all buildings and structures.

FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST OUTSIDE THE HOME

ROOF

- Remove dead branches overhanging your roof.
- Remove any branches within 10 feet of your chimney.
- Clean all dead leaves and needles from your roof and rain gutter.
- Install a roof that meets the fire resistance classification of Class "B" or better.
- Cover your chimney outlet with a metal or non-flammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh.

CONSTRUCTION

- Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points (saddles) on a ridge.
- Build your home at least 30 feet from your property line.
- Use fire resistive building materials.
- Ensure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained according to code.
- Enclose the underside of balconies and above ground decks with fire resistive materials.
- Limit the size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation.
- Install only dual-paned or triple-paned windows.

LANDSCAPE

- Remove all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This does not apply to single trees, ornamental shrubbery or cultivated ground covers, provided they do not readily transmit fire.
- Thin out or remove additional vegetation an additional 70 feet from the structure for a total of 100 feet.
- At the discretion of the inspecting officer with the approval of the Fire Chief, an additional 100 feet of clearance may be required because of high fire hazard.
- Space trees and shrubs at least 10 feet apart.
- For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within 6 feet of the ground.
- Choose ornamental landscaping plants that are fire resistive.
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches, leaves and needles.

YARD

- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.
- Locate LPG tanks (butane and propane) at least 30 feet from any structure and surround them with 10 feet of clearance.
- Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

- Maintain an emergency water supply that meets fire department standards.
- If you have a swimming pool, consider obtaining a gas-powered fire pump with a fire hose and nozzle.
- Make accessible, clearly mark and maintain all emergency water sources.
- If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during a power failure.

ACCESS

- Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood.
- Construct roads that allow two-way traffic.
- Design road width, grade and curves to allow for large emergency vehicles.