



## FIREWISE

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## MARCH: PREPARE AND REPAIR YOUR HOME

Are you planning some renovation or home construction projects this spring? Choices you make now about those projects could have a big impact on your home's ability to withstand a fire. Now is a great time to educate yourself about FireWise home construction and what materials and improvements you can make on your home to better protect it from wildfire.

The trick to keeping your home safe during a wildfire is to imagine a blizzard of sparks buffeting on your home. Any nook and cranny in which those sparks can find fuel increases the chances of a wildfire damaging your home and property.

**Roofs:** Fire resistant materials such as metal are the best choice for roofing your home. If you have a home built in a high-fire-danger area, such as one with spruce trees or on a steep slope, metal or asphalt shingles would go a long way to improve your home's chances of withstanding a fire.

**Siding:** When it comes to siding, the

thicker the siding material, the better. Be aware that vinyl siding can melt from the heat of the fire, while alternative noncombustible siding materials, such as concrete planking, exist.

**Decks and balconies:** Decks, balconies and wood walkways can lead fire right to your house. Enclosing any areas under which a fire might start with fire-resistant materials will help minimize that risk. Wooden fences can also be a hazard if connected to your home.

**Eaves and soffits:** Enclosing eaves and soffits and screening or making vent covers for areas that need to have air flow will keep embers from finding a place to ignite during a wildfire. One-quarter-inch mesh helps keep out sparks.

For more information on ways you can be FireWise, go to [www.firewisekp.com](http://www.firewisekp.com) contact FireWise Kenai Peninsula 260-4262 or [sharon.roesch@alaska.gov](mailto:sharon.roesch@alaska.gov).