



## ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

For Immediate Release  
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[www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

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### **Top 5 Ways to Protect Your Home from Wildfires**

Wildfires cost the United States more than \$3 billion annually. In 2007, wildfires destroyed 5,200 homes, buildings and other structures; burned nine million acres; and claimed 19 lives. More than 90% of U.S. communities at risk for wildfires do not have a community wildfire protection plan. While the International Code Council does not advocate building in areas that are prone to wildfires, those who elect to do so need an advantage. Here are five ways to protect your home from wildfires:

- 5. Use fire-resistant building materials**
- 4. Install residential fire sprinklers**
- 3. Install tempered or multiple pane windows**
- 2. Do regular yard work and maintenance**
- 1. Choose native plants to create a firebreak around your home**

For details on each of these, visit [buildingsafetyweek.org](http://buildingsafetyweek.org). Check your in-box for top green building tips on May 8.

The International Code Council, a membership association dedicated to building safety and fire prevention, develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states choose the International Codes, building safety codes developed by the International Code Council.

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