



**READY, SET, GO!**

# BALCONIES AND DECKS

Embers can lodge and ignite in, on, or under balconies and decks built with combustible materials, allowing fire to spread inside your home through nearby walls or windows.



What the balcony and deck are made from, what's stored on or below them, and how well the plants around your home have been kept up are important factors that may determine whether a wildfire destroys your home or passes it by.



Woodside Fire  
Protection District  
[woodsidefire.org](http://woodsidefire.org)

If you plan to add a balcony or deck, check with your city or county Building Department and use non-combustible materials to help protect your home during a wildfire. Non-combustible decks and balconies are strong, have a low upkeep, and also resist termites, rotting, and mold.

Non-combustible materials include:

- Metal
- Masonry
- Lightweight concrete

If you have an existing balcony or deck made from flammable material, regular upkeep is needed to lessen the wildfire risk.

- Keep surface areas clear of plant debris, especially leaves
- Seal gaps between the deck and outside wall with quality caulk or metal flashing
- Do not store combustible items under the deck
- Move firewood at least 30 feet from any structures, including the home
- Choose furniture that is a fire resistant or non-combustible
- Enclose or screen the underside of the balcony with non-combustible material

A balcony or deck made from combustible material has a much better chance of surviving if you create 100 feet of Defensible Space around your home, follow rules for plant separation, and replace highly combustible plants with those that are drought tolerant and fire-resistant.

For more information, please visit the Woodside Fire website or call **(650) 851-1594** to schedule a Wildfire Home Assessment.

