

THE WILDFIRE INCIDENT

Are You Ember Aware?

By Chad Nelson

Protecting your home in a wildland fire is never far from anyone's mind. Creating defensible space is a must and has proven to be effective. However, what have you done to protect your home from an ember attack?

During a wildfire, thousands of embers can rain down on your home pelting both the roof and walls. These embers can become lodged on your roof and walls, which is a major cause of homes being destroyed by wildfire.

There are some common materials that become embers in wildfires, such as branches, pine cones and even wooden shingles among others. Wind speed, fire intensity and size of the embers can dictate the distance they travel in a fire event. Some of these embers have been proven to travel over one mile in distance during intense conditions.

There are some precautions you can take to protect your home from these ember attacks



and help to assure that you are creating a true fire safe environment for your home.



*"Your ember awareness checklist should include:

- 1) Routinely remove roof debris from your roof and gutters.
- 2) Replace plastic skylights with glass. Also close your skylights in the event of the wildfire.
- 3) Cover all vents with 1/8 inch metal mesh screens, which will not allow the embers to penetrate your vent openings.
- 4) Fill gaps in siding with trim materials and good quality caulk. Replace poor condition building materials.
- 5) Move your patio furniture to your garage if a wildfire is threatening.
- 6) Replace deck boards that are in poor condition.
- 7) Keep the underside of your deck clear of all plant materials and do not store household items under your deck.

8) Remove and do not use wood mulches around your home or in your flower beds.

9) Be sure all garbage cans are empty.

10) Last but not least treat your home upon leaving with a protective gel coating."

A Thermo-Gel® Homeowner Fire Protection Kit will provide this protection and completely seal your home from an ember attack.

The Homeowner Kit hooks up to a standard garden hose and the product is applied by simply spraying it onto your home. The gel provides a thermal barrier of water that will cling to all types of surfaces including overhangs, vinyl siding and glass among others. The gel coating will last for several hours providing a barrier between your home and the ember attack or wildfire.

After the wildfire danger has passed you simply rinse your home clean with plain water. Because the gel is approved by the US Forest Service it is eco-friendly and will not harm the environment.

Following these steps during wildfire danger is crucial to saving your home from this imminent threat that falls upon all of us during the summer months.

To learn more about Thermo-Gel® go to www.thermo-gel.com.

*"University of Nevada Cooperative extension and US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management."

