

FIRE SAFETY 101:

ATTACHMENTS: FENCES, DECKS, AND SHADE STRUCTURES

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WHEN IT COMES TO ATTACHED STRUCTURES, WHAT IS FIRE SAFE?



Structural attachments are an extension of your home and can act as a potential pathway for fire.

When it comes to best practices for fences and other structural attachments like decks, it is important to pay attention to the material type, condition, vegetation proximity, and location of those attachments.

MATERIAL TYPE



CONDITION



VEGETATION



LOCATION



MATERIAL TYPE

MATERIALS

Attached structure materials should be non-combustible such as composite, TREX, stone, or metal. Wood can also be fire resistant when it is made of solid hardwood and properly maintained. For shade structures, opt for metal or other non-combustible materials for shade.

Plastic Vinyl fences are not recommended for fire-safety. **If you have a combustible fence or gate within Zone Zero (0 - 5ft of your home), replace this section with non-combustible materials, especially if it is attached to your home.**

TREX



STONE



METAL



CONDITION

ATTACHMENTS & FENCES

Wooden fences and attachments are often subject to intense weathering. To maintain properly, repaint them or use weather resistant sealant to reduce ember intrusion. Weather resistant paint is the most durable option.



VEGETATION AND DEBRIS

ATTACHMENTS

There should be no vegetation present in the first 5 ft of your yard, surrounding your deck, or shade structure.

Decks can easily collect leaves and debris; make sure to seal gaps with caulking and regularly remove leaf litter.



FENCES

Remove vegetation, like vines, off or near fences within the first 5 ft of your home. If your fence is made of combustible material, like wood, remove all vegetation on it. Watch out for leaf build up.

LOCATION OF ATTACHMENTS

ZONE ZERO

Fences and shade structures that are within 0 to 5ft of your home, must be non-combustible or removed. For decks, Zone Zero starts at the end of your attachment, so no combustible materials including vegetation in the first 5 ft.

COMBUSTIBLE ITEMS

Remove any combustible items that are stored underneath or on the structure. This can include: wood furniture, curtains, umbrellas, paint, and more.

For more information visit:

defensiblespace.org
or
fire.ca.gov/buildingmaterials

