

# FIRE SAFETY 101:

## SIDING AND EAVES

For more information visit  
[smmfsc.org](http://smmfsc.org) to stay informed on the  
latest educational material from our  
monthly fires safety series

### FIRE SAFE SIDING



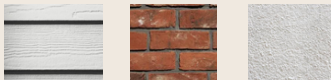
Siding and exterior walls are susceptible to direct flames and radiant heat. Fire can easily spread if siding is ignited. Non-combustible, well-maintained siding is crucial in order to protect from wind blown embers and radiant heat.

Non-combustible siding includes stucco, brick, and fiber-cement such as Hardie siding. Avoid vinyl, poorly maintained wood, and non pressure impregnated fire-retardant treated wood siding.

Kindly be advised, fire retardant paint is not an effective fire prevention solution. However, annual wood rot and termite inspections point out structure vulnerabilities that should be repaired.

### SIDING MATERIALS

#### FIBER CEMENT BRICK/STONE STUCCO



#### MAINTENANCE

Keep siding in good condition. Watch for warping or gaps and seal any openings with caulking.

#### WOOD SIDING

If wood siding is present, ensure it is well-maintained. Schedule an annual termite/wood-rot inspection to call out any vulnerabilities in the wood structure that need to be sealed.

#### WOOD MAINTENANCE

Wood siding will be fire resilient if there are no gaps, no rot, and it is well sealed with paint (weather-resistant paint is recommended, fire retardant paint is not effective).

### SKIRTING/ SIDING BUFFERS

#### SKIRTING

If siding is combustible, it is strongly recommended at least 6 inches of non-combustible material be added to base of your structure, this will act as a siding buffer. Ensure there are no gaps or cracks.



#### MATERIALS

This can be made out of the same non-combustible siding as the home or often is a section of concrete, stucco, or metal below the siding.

### EAVES AND SOFFITS

#### EAVES + FASCIA

Eaves connect the roof to the fascia board, which runs along the lower edge of the roofline, or wall. IF the eaves are exposed they are highly vulnerable to wind-blown embers, direct flame contact, and radiant heat.



#### SOFFITS

A soffit encloses the underside of sloped or flat-roof overhangs.

### FIRE SAFE EAVES

Ideally, eaves should be made of a non-combustible material, be in good condition, and enclosed.



If wooded and open eaves are present, fill gaps with caulking, repaint with weather resistant paint, and watch for wood rot.

### RESOURCES

Check out  
[defensiblespace.org](http://defensiblespace.org)  
and  
[fire.ca.gov/buildingmaterials](http://fire.ca.gov/buildingmaterials)  
for more information

