

# LIVING WITH FIRE

## *A Guide for the Homeowner*



Clear Creek Fire, July 16, 2014, started by lightning strike and burned 300 acres.

— Kurt Hildebrand, [www.RecordCourier.com](http://www.RecordCourier.com)

## Living in a High Wildfire Hazard Area

The potential for loss of human life and property due to wildfire along the eastern Sierra Front is growing. In response, local, state, federal, private, and nonprofit organizations have banded together to create *Living With Fire*, a wildfire threat reduction program for homeowners.

The *Living With Fire* program is not about fire prevention. Its purpose is to teach people how to live more safely with the threat of wildfire. For many areas in our region, it is not a question of “if” wildfire will occur, but “when.”

— Courtesy of the *Living with Fire: A Guide for the Homeowner*

## Genoa’s History with Catastrophic Fire

The Town of Genoa has

experienced its own devastating bout with fire. In 1910, more than half the town buildings were destroyed by a fire.

These days, more homes are being built in wildfire hazard areas and the potential loss would be devastating to many

homeowners. We want to remind people about the measures you can take that could save your home in the event of a wildfire in Genoa.

The following excerpt lists a few steps from the *Living With Fire* guide to help you defend your home from fire in high wildfire hazard areas:

### 1. ROOF

- Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your house in a wildfire. If you have a wood shake roof consider replacing it with class C or better fire resistant roofing.
- (Read more in Guide...)

### 2. CONSTRUCTION

- Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge.
- Use fire resistant building materials.
- (Read more in Guide...)

### 3. LANDSCAPE

- See “Creating An Effective Defensible Space” and “Firescape - Fire Safe Landscape Design.”

### 4. YARD

- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.
- (Read more in Guide...)

### 5. EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

- Maintain an emergency water supply that meets fire department standards through one of the following:
  - a community water/hydrant system
- (Read more in Guide...)

### 6. ACCESS

- Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood.
- Construct roads that allow two way traffic.
- (Read more in Guide...)

### 7. OUTSIDE

- Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home.
- Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code.
- (Read more in Guide...)

— *The Living With Fire: A Guide for the Homeowner*, was written by Ed Smith, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, with assistance from Sonya Sistare, *Living With Fire* program assistant.

Web link: [LivingWithFire.info](http://LivingWithFire.info)