



## **MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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### **Mariposa County RCD Offers Free Help for Home Hardening**

*Get an onsite assessment, free installation of vent screens and more!*

March 7, 2023 (Mariposa) - The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) is launching a free program to help residents to harden their homes against wildfire. The new program includes a team of technical experts to perform an onsite assessment, and a list of recommendations specific to the home. When possible, we will also install ember screens on attic and crawlspace vents, and clear vegetation from within five feet of the building foundation, free of charge.

In wildfire events, 60 to 90 percent of home loss is due to embers. Embers can ignite materials in an attic after entering through a vent or ignite nearby vegetation, a wood pile, or storage shed causing radiant heat or direct flame contact with the home. Reducing the vulnerability of homes to ember ignition will increase the chance of homes and neighborhoods surviving a wildfire.

Each home will be evaluated by looking at common ignition vulnerabilities like:

- Defensible Space - Siding -Roofs -Fences -Windows - Rain Gutters -Decks -Vents

Participants will receive personalized recommendations for the measures best suited to protect their home. Implementing these recommendations will also help neighborhoods interested in receiving their FireWise certification. Home hardening, defensible space management, and neighborhood collaboration are all important in protecting our homes and community from wildfire, however homes can still burn despite these efforts. This program is offered to reduce risk, but will not eliminate it.

The Home Hardening program is funded by a combination of grant funds and funds dedicated for the purpose awarded to MCRCD by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors. Applications must be completed in full, and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications must be accompanied by a signed right of entry form.

Please visit our website [www.mcrcd.net](http://www.mcrcd.net) to read or download the [Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide](#), download the program application, or contact us at MariposaCountyRCD@gmail.com. And watch for future community workshops in collaboration with the University of California Cooperative Extension!

***The mission of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is to encourage and facilitate cooperative solutions to local resource conservation issues. We provide technical, financial and educational resources to meet the needs of local land users.***