



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Fire Department

Fire Prevention Division

Home Hardening - Ember and Flame-Resistant Vents

Purpose: The purpose of this technical bulletin is to provide information and direction for homeowners to upgrade the vent component of the construction materials on their home or structure for residents living in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Reason: In a wildfire scenario, embers act as incendiary messengers capable of causing destruction even at considerable distances from wildland sources. Their capacity to infiltrate homes and exploit the slightest vulnerabilities demands our attention. Despite their innocuous appearance, embers can pinpoint weak links in a home's fire protection. By integrating enhanced vent designs and materials, you can create a barrier against embers' infiltration into your home. These upgraded vents are equipped to deter and prevent ember entry, significantly reducing the risk of ignition.

Newport Beach Municipal Code:

- 9.04.380 Amendment to the of the California Fire Code Section 4905.2 Construction Methods and Requirements within Established Limits.
- Section 4905.2 is amended by adding Section 4905.2.1 to read as follows:
- Section 4905.2.1 Required **ventilation screening** for existing structures. All structures within the identified Very High Fire Severity Zones with ventilation openings shall comply with all the following:
 1. Vents shall be covered with a mesh where the dimensions of the mesh therein shall be a minimum of 1/16" and shall not exceed 1/8" in diameter.
 2. The mesh material shall be non-combustible.
 3. The mesh material shall be corrosion resistant.

Home Assessment Steps:

1. Complete a home assessment.
 1. Evaluate the type of vents on your structure.
 2. Evaluate the opening dimensions of the existing mesh.
 3. Any vent openings large than 1/8" should be replaced with 1/8" to 1/16" vent openings.



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2. Request an inspection from the Newport Beach Fire Department.
 1. [Nbfd Home Assessment Request](#)
 2. Choose "Home Hardening/Defensible Space Assessment"
 3. Complete and submit the form, a member for Nbfd will contact you to schedule your inspection.

3. Review vents listed by the State Fire Marshal for use in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
 1. [2023 SFM WUI Listed Products](#)
 2. Determine which vent to install based on recommendations by your licensed contractor and SFM listed materials.

4. Have ember and flame-resistant vents installed.
 1. Upon completion of installation, provide documentation to Newport Beach Fire Department by emailing nbfdwildland@nbfd.net

Contact Information:

- **Phone:** (949) 644-3106
- **Email:** nbfdwildland@nbfd.net

Important Links:

- [Newport Beach Fire Department - Fire Prevention](#)
- [Newport Beach Fire Safe Council](#)
- [CalFire Home Hardening](#)
- [CalFire Ready for Wildfire](#)
- [CA Department of Insurance - Safer from Wildfires](#)
- [FIREWISE USA - Community Organization](#)

Newport Beach Fire Department recommends working with a licensed contractor to ensure the proper evaluation and installation of vents.