



# FENCES ARE FUSES

Understand your options



## Why?

**Combustible fencing often contributes to home loss during a wildfire.**

Once the fence catches fire:

- Radiant heat from the burning fence cause the house siding to ignite or windows to fail bringing flame in direct contact with the home.

- The burning fence generates embers and larger fire-brands that get blown against the home and lead to ignition.
- The fence acts as a fuse, drawing fire into direct contact with the home.

## How?

**There are several strategies that can help mitigate the risk of having a wood fence.**

- Use noncombustible or low-flammable material instead of wood for the entire fence.
- Use noncombustible material for at least the 3-5 feet of fencing that directly contacts your home.
- Include sections of noncombustible material along the length of the fence. This will help interrupt a running fire.



## What?

**Each fencing material should have a fire rating.**

The rating is determined by measuring flame spread in a standardized (ASTM E84) test.

These ratings can be helpful when discussing various fencing materials with a building contractor or building materials supplier.

**The lower the number, the less combustible the material will be.**

Class A = 0-25 ASTM rating

Class B = 26-75

Class C = 76-200



## DO YOU KNOW?

Your fence might not touch your own home, but may still be posing a threat to your neighbors' home or to outbuildings on either property.





## Class A Fencing includes materials like masonry, stone, iron, brick, rock, and steel-on-steel



**MASONRY**



**METAL**



**METAL**

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## Class B Fencing includes materials like vinyl, hard plastic, and steel siding on wood framing



**COMPOSITE**



**STEEL + WOOD**

## WORK WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

If you can't afford to change out the entire fence, start by retrofitting each section that touches your home for at least 5 feet.

Maintain a clean noncombustible surface along the length of your fence, and work with your neighbors if possible so that both sides of the fence are free of kindling fuels like dry weeds, leaves, and debris against wood.



**WOOD-STEEL-SIDING**