

# Fire safety

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## Secondly, eliminate potential fuel from around your house by:

Removing dry weeds, dead trees, and flammable shrubs from your property. The city of Orinda has a list of plants which are considered dangerous:

<https://cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/1026/Disallowed-Vegetation-List-PDF>

Replacing shake shingle roofing with fire resistant or non-combustible materials.

Preventing embers from accessing fuel under your house or in the attic. Cover the vents on the foundation and attic of your house with wire mesh having less than 1/8 inch opening.

This last step could be a DIY item. Check the wire mesh which currently covers the vents to your foundation and attic. If the opening in the wire mesh is more than 1/4 inch square, it is recommended to cover the vent with a finer mesh. Your fire district may provide free wire mesh material for your use, if you go to their website and submit a request. Installing the mesh is pretty easy around the foundation -- cut the material to fit over your existing vents and secure it to the vent frame with self-tapping sheet metal screws. Covering the attic vents requires ladder work. If you are confident on a ladder, that is no problem, but if you don't care for heights, your local handyman might take care of that for you.

Once the outside of your house is prepared, it's time to prepare yourself. In the event of an emergency evacuation order, your first priority is to get everyone inside your home out of harm's way. If time allows, you might want to take a few irreplaceable items like family photo albums. If you happen to have those items in a box or bag, easy to grab and go, that is better. On high fire risk days, the fire district suggests having your go bag pre-packed and stowed in your car. However, do not waste time trying to gather that stuff together if a sheriff or firefighter is knocking on your door.

This article has highlighted a few important fire preparedness suggestions. I strongly recommend you visit the fire district web site for more complete information. The local fire districts have put together a comprehensive program of guidelines and actions required by statute in your area. They also provide consulting for residents on fire prevention and preparedness. Both local fire districts have pages of comprehensive information that will help you best prepare your home against fire.

Residents of Orinda and Moraga are in the Moraga-Orinda Fire District:

[www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention](http://www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention)

Lafayette residents are in the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District:

[www.cccfpd.org/wildfire-mitigation-program/](http://www.cccfpd.org/wildfire-mitigation-program/)

Taking action and following the recommendations of your fire department professionals will give you the satisfaction of knowing you are prepared. Being prepared is the best assurance that you and your family will be safe.

## Lamorinda home sales recorded

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### ORINDA

27 Bates Boulevard, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 07-02-24, Previous Sale: \$692,500, 05-22-02  
 296 Camino Sobrante, \$1,510,000, 4 Bdrms, 3286 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 07-02-24, Previous Sale: \$110,000, 04-01-87  
 15 Claremont Avenue, \$1,765,000, 4 Bdrms, 2042 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 07-10-24, Previous Sale: \$755,000, 07-20-04  
 6 Darnby Court, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 2021 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-03-24  
 3 Duncan Court, \$2,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3577 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 07-11-24  
 39 El Gavilan Road, \$2,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 3188 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-02-24, Previous Sale: \$1,417,000, 04-15-10  
 133 Fiesta Circle, \$2,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-12-24  
 42 Hillcrest Drive, \$2,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 2664 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 07-08-24  
 50 La Campana Road, \$2,385,000, 4 Bdrms, 2687 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-12-24  
 19 Las Piedras, \$2,249,000, 4 Bdrms, 3389 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 07-11-24, Previous Sale: \$480,000, 08-01-87  
 50 Overhill Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1746 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 07-03-24  
 112 Ravenhill Road, \$1,555,000, 2 Bdrms, 2060 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-12-24, Previous Sale: \$980,000, 04-21-14



Foundation cover with 1/4 inch mesh

Photos Jim Hurley



Foundation cover with additional 1/8 inch mesh