Preparedness Tips for Wildfire Season—Physical Prep

- **100-foot clearance** – Fire officials and homeowner insurance companies recommend homeowners create 100 feet of defensible space around the home. Homeowners should clear brush, grass, shrubs and dead trees that could ignite within the 100 feet around your home. Defensible space will slow the spread of a fire and help keep fire fighters safe.

- **Clean rain gutters** – Clean out leaves, pine needles and dirt that may have collected in rain gutters and on your roof since last winter.

- **Clean chimney** – Cut back tree branches that hang over the house or near the chimney.

- **Cut trees** – Create 6 feet of clearance between the ground and tree branches.

- **No wood piles** – Do not place wood piles or wooden play houses against homes or structures.

- **Fire extinguishers** – Keep operational fire extinguishers in kitchens.

- **Batteries** – Make sure your fire/smoke alarms are operational with new batteries.

- **Have a family plan** – Have family evacuation drills. Make sure your family knows what actions to take if a fire breaks out in the house. Teach all family members, young and old, how to stop, drop and roll in a fire. Make sure family members know how to get out of a house in the event of a fire. If a fire is in one room, shut the door to slow the spread of a fire. Do not open a room with a “hot” door knob.

- **I.D. valuables** – Identify family valuables and treasures you can gather in a short time span. Plan for pets, grab leashes and food.

- **Fire resistant landscaping** – Consider landscaping with fire resistance trees and shrubs such as deciduous trees and low growing shrubs: [http://www.clca.org/clca/education/fire-protection.php](http://www.clca.org/clca/education/fire-protection.php).

- **Know your codes** – Know your building codes and use fire resistant materials. Some states now require the installation of sprinklers in new construction. Learn more about fire resistant building materials available in your area.