

Spring 2004

Dear Bonita Valley Resident,

In May of 2003 a group of elected officials published a fire hazard assessment of San Diego County. Almost 1,000,000 acres were designated as a moderate to extreme fire hazard. With the recent fires, which burned 273,246 acres, this still leaves two-thirds of identified acreage susceptible if a fire were to occur again. This remaining acreage is also the acreage which creates the greatest risk to the Bonita Valley.

What can you as a resident of Bonita do to help avoid or prevent a disastrous fire from affecting our beautiful Bonita Valley *and* your house or property?

Listed below are some fire-preventative measures that can be taken now in an existing home.

- Clear, cut, and remove all dried grasses and/or weeds 100 feet from any structures
- Do not store any flammables near your house
- Trim tree branches at least 10 feet away from your house (20 feet if possible)
- Cover chimney with 'spark arresting' 3/8" screen
- Landscape with low growing, fire resistive vegetation
- Replace a wood-shake shingle roof as soon as possible
- Be a responsible fire-safe neighbor

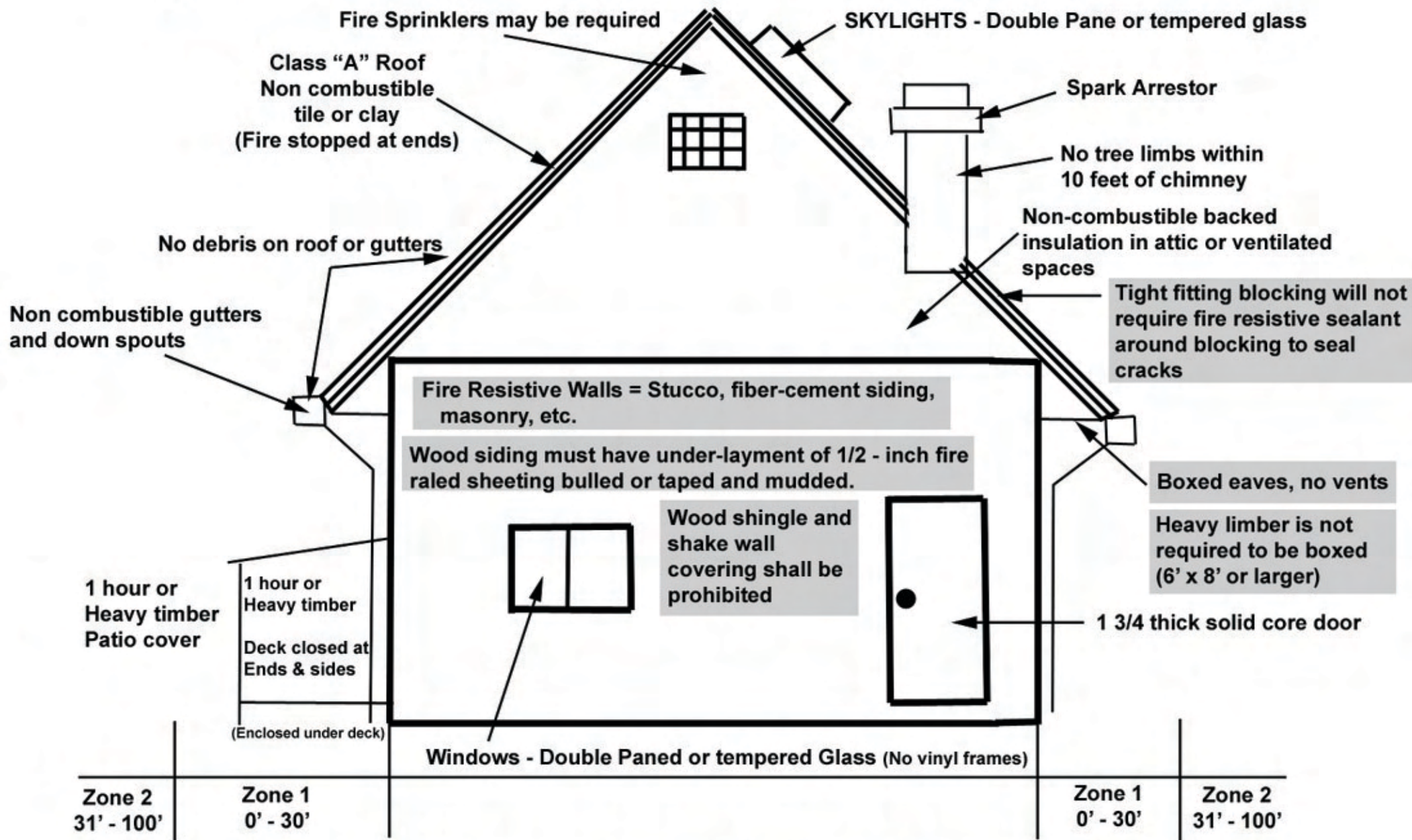
** (See next page for *new construction* fire-resistive requirements)

In light of the countywide fires last year, Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department will be seeking your cooperation to eliminate and/or control potential fire hazards by following the above-suggested actions.

The Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department expresses sincere gratitude to all residents for past and future efforts in eliminating fire hazards. Please contact the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department if you have any further questions and please continue your supportive efforts to keep the Bonita Valley fire safe.

Fire Chief Scott Walker
Fire Marshal Bob French

GUIDELINES FOR FIRE-RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION WITH LESS THAN 100 FEET-FACING THE WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE AREA



ZONE 1 = This zone includes the area from any building to point 30 feet away. This zone must be cleared and planted with fire resistive plants. **ZONE 2** = This zone is between 31 to 100 feet from building. In this zone the native vegetation may remain but it must be thinned by 50% and all dead and dying vegetation must be removed. (Fuel Modification) The modification of the vegetation will slow down fire spread and reduce flame heights.