

00:00:10:17 - 00:00:11:28

ALICIA: Hey there, home improvement

00:00:11:28 - 00:00:13:18

can sometimes seem daunting

00:00:13:18 - 00:00:16:09

but here at 7 Saturdays

To a Fire-Resistant Home,

00:00:16:09 - 00:00:17:15

we're all about simple

00:00:17:15 - 00:00:19:21

and affordable solutions you can use to

00:00:19:21 - 00:00:22:10

make your home more  
resilient in wildfire season.

00:00:22:10 - 00:00:25:12

I'm your host, Alicia Mason,  
for the past two episodes

00:00:25:12 - 00:00:27:07

we've learned about defensible space

00:00:27:07 - 00:00:29:11

and how a few easy adjustments to the land

00:00:29:11 - 00:00:31:21

around your property can  
better prepare your home

00:00:31:21 - 00:00:33:07

during wildfire season.

00:00:33:07 - 00:00:34:16

Today, we're going to learn

00:00:34:16 - 00:00:36:06

about three more affordable steps that you

00:00:36:06 - 00:00:38:29

can take to make your  
home more fire resistant.

00:00:38:29 - 00:00:40:04  
First, we'll start

00:00:40:04 - 00:00:42:18  
by showing you how  
weatherstripping can prevent embers

00:00:42:18 - 00:00:43:16  
from finding their way

00:00:43:16 - 00:00:46:08  
inside gaps like garage doors and windows.

00:00:46:08 - 00:00:49:20  
Then we'll show you how caulking,  
another low cost option,

00:00:49:20 - 00:00:52:00  
can plug up gaps in damaged doorframes,

00:00:52:00 - 00:00:54:21  
walls and boards, to keep embers out.

00:00:54:21 - 00:00:57:24  
And finally, without going  
too deep in your pockets,

00:00:57:24 - 00:00:58:18  
we'll take a look

00:00:58:18 - 00:01:01:00  
at how installing ember  
resistant vents can guard

00:01:01:00 - 00:01:02:18  
against flammable debris.

00:01:02:18 - 00:01:03:18  
To help me do this,

00:01:03:18 - 00:01:06:21

I need my 7 Saturdays  
partner, David Hawks,

00:01:06:21 - 00:01:09:03  
former chief of the Cal Fire Butte Unit

00:01:09:03 - 00:01:12:14  
and now senior public  
safety specialist at PGNE.

00:01:12:14 - 00:01:14:07  
DAVID: It's great to be back, Alicia.

00:01:14:07 - 00:01:16:09  
Today we're talking about  
harden your home, which is

00:01:16:09 - 00:01:17:23  
improving structural features

00:01:17:23 - 00:01:20:11  
of your home to make  
it more fire resistant.

00:01:20:11 - 00:01:22:03  
ALICIA: I Love that these steps are simple

00:01:22:03 - 00:01:23:22  
and some very affordable.

00:01:23:22 - 00:01:26:03  
I know that, you know,  
especially right now

00:01:26:03 - 00:01:28:06  
people are looking for ways to save money.

00:01:28:06 - 00:01:30:18  
Small improvements can go a long way

00:01:30:18 - 00:01:31:23  
to protecting our homes.

00:01:31:23 - 00:01:32:25

Isn't that right, David?

00:01:32:25 - 00:01:34:24

DAVID: Absolutely, by hardening your home,

00:01:34:24 - 00:01:35:24

you help prevent embers

00:01:35:24 - 00:01:38:05

from finding their way  
inside during a wildfire.

00:01:41:20 - 00:01:43:16

So Alicia one of the things  
that we need to remember

00:01:43:16 - 00:01:45:09

as we walk around the  
house, is we're looking

00:01:45:09 - 00:01:48:08

for areas in the home where  
embers could penetrate the home.

00:01:48:08 - 00:01:50:06

If you remember back to  
episode one, we were looking

00:01:50:06 - 00:01:53:05

for the little things on  
the ground, much like that,

00:01:53:05 - 00:01:54:27

where the wind blows, embers flow.

00:01:54:27 - 00:01:57:03

If you had an ember go  
through there, could it land

00:01:57:03 - 00:01:59:27

on material inside of your  
garage and catch that on fire.

00:01:59:27 - 00:02:02:25

It's really important  
that you look for any gap

00:02:02:25 - 00:02:04:21  
that's one 16th of an inch or greater,

00:02:04:21 - 00:02:06:05  
and for instance, there's a gap here

00:02:06:05 - 00:02:07:17  
that's well over a 16th of an inch

00:02:07:17 - 00:02:09:24  
between the door frame  
and the door itself.

00:02:09:24 - 00:02:10:27  
Good to clean that part out,

00:02:10:27 - 00:02:12:27  
but more important is to seal it up.

00:02:12:27 - 00:02:15:28  
Start by making sure the  
door is adjusted properly up

00:02:15:28 - 00:02:17:21  
against the framework.

00:02:17:21 - 00:02:19:05  
If it's not adjusted properly,

00:02:19:05 - 00:02:22:15  
you can use simple weather  
stripping, which is inexpensive,

00:02:22:15 - 00:02:24:24  
typically \$10 or less.

00:02:24:24 - 00:02:27:18  
Start by cleaning the edge up,  
take a rag and clean it up.

00:02:27:18 - 00:02:29:10

Once it's dried, seal it all the way up

00:02:29:10 - 00:02:31:06  
using this weather stripping  
all the way to the top,

00:02:31:06 - 00:02:33:03  
making sure you get a nice tight seal.

00:02:39:15 - 00:02:40:16  
ALICIA: Okay.

00:02:40:16 - 00:02:42:03  
DAVID: All right, shall we give it a try

00:02:42:03 - 00:02:43:05  
and see if we've got that sealed?

00:02:43:05 - 00:02:44:14  
ALICIA: Okay, Let's go.

00:02:50:01 - 00:02:52:12  
DAVID: Look, you can see it  
seal it up really nicely.

00:02:52:12 - 00:02:54:01  
And I don't see any gaps at all.

00:02:54:01 - 00:02:57:26  
No light is shining through  
along this entire door edge.

00:02:57:26 - 00:02:58:28  
ALICIA: Perfect.

00:02:58:28 - 00:02:59:29  
DAVID: It's exactly what we wanted.

00:02:59:29 - 00:03:01:06  
ALICIA: Job well done.

00:03:03:23 - 00:03:05:14  
So, David, what about cracks

00:03:05:14 - 00:03:07:23

and gaps that we can't fix  
with weather stripping?

00:03:07:23 - 00:03:09:13

You know, like this example right here.

00:03:09:13 - 00:03:10:09

DAVID: That's a great question.

00:03:10:09 - 00:03:12:13

This gap is large enough  
that embers blowing

00:03:12:13 - 00:03:14:20

through the air could  
penetrate and get inside

00:03:14:20 - 00:03:15:25

and catching the home on fire.

00:03:15:25 - 00:03:17:21

It's important that we seal these gaps up.

00:03:17:21 - 00:03:19:18

We could use something like caulking.

00:03:19:18 - 00:03:21:19

So grab some caulking and  
we'll take care of this job.

00:03:21:19 - 00:03:23:16

Sounds good.

All right.

00:03:23:16 - 00:03:25:22

Began with a clean, dry surface,

00:03:25:22 - 00:03:29:02

making sure that it's dry and  
clean, the best that we can,

00:03:29:02 - 00:03:31:13

we'll have a clean up here

to do, but as you can see,

00:03:31:13 - 00:03:32:14  
once you get on a rhythm,

00:03:32:14 - 00:03:36:23  
you get a nice beat of caulking  
and going inside the crack.

00:03:36:23 - 00:03:39:09  
Just keep forcing it into that open spot.

00:03:39:09 - 00:03:40:16  
Now that we're done with the caulking

00:03:40:16 - 00:03:42:03  
you can see how easy that is.

00:03:42:03 - 00:03:44:19  
You can use your finger or a  
putty knife to smooth that out

00:03:44:19 - 00:03:46:09  
and get it into the groove really good.

00:03:46:09 - 00:03:48:00  
It's always good to  
have a wet rag to clean

00:03:48:00 - 00:03:49:08  
up the excess material.

00:03:53:22 - 00:03:56:16  
Our final task is one that  
people often forget about

00:03:56:16 - 00:03:58:00  
and that's the vents.

00:03:58:00 - 00:04:00:10  
Embers can travel a great  
distance in wild land fire,

00:04:00:10 - 00:04:01:08



like a snow blizzard

00:04:01:08 - 00:04:03:29

and penetrate vents and  
other areas of your home.

00:04:03:29 - 00:04:05:27

And it's important that we check those.

00:04:05:27 - 00:04:08:15

This particular vent has  
openings that are too large

00:04:08:15 - 00:04:11:18

and would allow embers to  
get inside of the house.

00:04:11:18 - 00:04:14:25

The newer style vents have a  
weave that is much tighter,

00:04:14:25 - 00:04:17:00

as you can see in this particular vent

00:04:17:00 - 00:04:18:25

ALICIA: It's easy to forget about vents

00:04:18:25 - 00:04:20:06

when we're talking about homes, David,

00:04:20:06 - 00:04:22:11

can you let the viewers  
know any other areas

00:04:22:11 - 00:04:25:05

of the home that they should  
install protective screening?

00:04:25:05 - 00:04:27:11

DAVID: Absolutely, this  
vent is a sub floor vent,

00:04:27:11 - 00:04:29:06

as you can see, but there are other vents

00:04:29:06 - 00:04:31:06

in your home, gable end  
vents, vents that are up

00:04:31:06 - 00:04:33:20

under the eaves, as well  
as the sub floor vents.

00:04:33:20 - 00:04:35:14

All of those need to be checked

00:04:35:14 - 00:04:37:19

and inspected and either replaced

00:04:37:19 - 00:04:39:26

with a vent like this one,  
that's a tighter weave,

00:04:39:26 - 00:04:43:03

which is fairly inexpensive at about \$10.

00:04:43:03 - 00:04:45:13

There are a little bit  
more expensive versions.

00:04:45:13 - 00:04:47:22

Or you can retrofit existing vents

00:04:47:22 - 00:04:50:13

with this tighter weaved  
wire mesh material.

00:04:50:13 - 00:04:53:16

It's important that the vents  
that you select be metal

00:04:53:16 - 00:04:55:12

in nature, and non-combustible.

00:04:55:12 - 00:04:57:10

Okay and we're gonna install this vent.

00:04:58:06 - 00:05:01:15

Just slide it in position

00:05:01:15 - 00:05:03:13  
and then we'll affix it to the house.

00:05:03:13 - 00:05:04:08  
And we're good.

00:05:04:08 - 00:05:05:07  
ALICIA: Well, that was so quick and easy.

00:05:05:07 - 00:05:07:10  
I think we have some more  
to install, you want to go?

00:05:07:10 - 00:05:08:13  
Absolutely.  
Okay.

00:05:09:22 - 00:05:11:07  
ALICIA: Well, thank You so much, David.

00:05:11:07 - 00:05:12:22  
These steps were actually a lot easier

00:05:12:22 - 00:05:14:19  
and cheaper than I was expecting.

00:05:14:19 - 00:05:16:02  
And after just a Saturday's work,

00:05:16:02 - 00:05:17:23  
the house feels more secure even

00:05:17:23 - 00:05:19:12  
with these small adjustments.

00:05:19:12 - 00:05:21:19  
So, what are we working on next Saturday?

00:05:21:19 - 00:05:22:21  
DAVID: Next Saturday, we'll teach you

00:05:22:21 - 00:05:24:08

how to create an evacuation plan.

00:05:24:08 - 00:05:26:22

That way in the event of a fire,  
you can get your family out

00:05:26:22 - 00:05:28:09

and first responders can get in.

00:05:28:09 - 00:05:29:22

ALICIA: Well, that sounds important.

00:05:29:22 - 00:05:31:03

I'm looking forward to learning.

00:05:31:03 - 00:05:32:09

Thanks so much for joining us

00:05:32:09 - 00:05:34:21

for 7 Saturdays To a Fire Resistant Home.

00:05:34:21 - 00:05:37:11

We'll see you next week and  
make sure to share this video

00:05:37:11 - 00:05:40:10

with people you know  
living in fire prone areas.