



Embers that escape through uncovered chimney outlets and stovepipes can lodge in roofing and start a fire. They can also land in vegetation in your yard and beyond your property, and ignite a wildfire.



A chimney with an unprotected opening can threaten your family, your home, and your community.



Redwood City
Fire Department

www.redwoodcity.org

An exposed chimney opening also puts your home at risk from an oncoming wildfire. Even if the flames never reach your home, burning embers can travel up to 5-miles ahead of a wildfire and enter through the chimney, causing furniture and other flammable objects to catch fire.

The California Building Code requires any fireplace that burns solid fuel to have a spark arrestor with openings no larger than 1/2-inch, and no smaller than 3/8-inch. A spark arrestor is a non-combustible metal mesh screen that blocks the chimney opening to stop embers from entering or exiting.

Chimney upkeep is also important. The National Fire Protection Association recommends that all chimneys be checked once a year, and cleaned or repaired as needed. An inspection is also recommended before buying a home with a standing chimney, after a chimney fire, or to check for structural damage after an earthquake.

Whether you do it yourself or pay a professional, a full, quality cleaning will improve fireplace efficiency and reduce the risk of a chimney fire.



For more information, please visit the Redwood City website or call **(650) 780-7400** to speak with a Fire Prevention Officer