



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**Fire-Rescue Department**

**December 19, 2003**

**RECOMMENDED CODE CHANGES FOR HOMES IN HIGH FIRE HAZARD AREAS**

**To reduce the risk of embers starting fires on roofs require:**

- Class A non-combustible roofing for residential buildings – such as cement shingles or sheets, exposed concrete slab roofs, ferrous or copper shingles or sheets, slate shingles and clay or concrete roofing tile.

**To reduce or stop the spread of fire inside structures require:**

- Sprinklers in residential occupancies, including inside attics and garages

**To reduce the chance of flying embers to enter the structure and start a fire require:**

- All exterior walls to be of fire resistant material (one-hour rated) and double layered glazing in openings
- Boxed eaves – enclosing the underside of roof overhangs with non combustible material
- Added protection for attic and eave vents and fireplace chimneys; and restricted location of these vents
- Tempered or double glazing for skylights

**To prevent the structure from catching fire due to flying embers starting fires on combustible materials attached to the structure require:**

- Non-combustible material for roof gutters and down spouts
- No exposed wood fences, decks or garage doors

**RECOMMENDED CODE CHANGES FOR BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE CITY**

**To reduce the risk of embers starting fires on roofs require:**

- Banning wood shake/shingles on new roofs and re-roofs over 25 percent of roof area
- Class A roofing only for all new roofs and re-roofs over 25 percent
- All existing wood shake/shingle roofs to be replaced in 25 years