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Media Kit with high-resolution images available at www.grindfiredefense.com/media

Wildfire Survivors Launch Fire Defense Company to Protect California Families Before Disaster Strikes

Shasta County-based Grind Fire Defense shares 7 urgent wildfire safety tips, combining science-backed strategy with lived experience.

Anderson, Calif. — [August ##, 2025] — With wildfire season growing longer and more dangerous each year, California homeowners are urged to take proactive steps to protect their families and properties. Grind Fire Defense, a family-run fire mitigation company born during the 2021 Monument Fire, is sharing critical preparedness tips learned from firsthand experience—both as survivors and as certified Defensible Space Service Providers.

“Grind Fire Defense cares about your family—because we are family,” said Lori Templeton, co-founder and “Mom” of the Grind Fire team. “Our company was born out of a panic call from Grandma Jane during a fast-moving wildfire. That moment changed everything for us—and now we’re working to make sure other families don’t have to face that same fear unprepared.”

7 Insider Tips from Fire Professionals in Northern California

The following tips combine standards from California defensible space laws and insights from families who've lived through evacuations:

1. Clear Your Roads and Plan Multiple Escape Routes

- Keep a **battery-powered chainsaw** with a car adapter to clear fallen trees from roadways.
- Mark your **driveway** with **reflectors** for visibility in smoke.
- Know alternative evacuation routes—even through a neighbor's fence or along power lines.
- Store **bolt cutters** and a **chain with hook** to remove obstructions with your vehicle.

2. Prepare to Evacuate Without Power

- Keep your **gas tank full**, flashlights charged, and cash on hand.
- Learn to **manually open garage doors and electric gates**.
- Pack a **go-bag** and **precious items box**, ready in the garage.
- Have a practiced plan for **elderly or mobility-challenged loved ones**.

3. Create Defensible Space Around Your Home

- Remove all vegetation within 5 feet of your home—this Zone 0 is your ember barrier.
- Maintain 30 to 100 feet of **cleared and spaced vegetation**.
- Upgrade to Class A roofing, install **metal gutters**, and screen vents with **1/8" mesh**.
- Cover outdoor furniture with fire-rated tarps or remove it completely.

4. Don't Rely on Cell Service—Use Emergency Tools

- Download the **WatchDuty** app for real-time local fire alerts.

- Use **walkie-talkies** with spare batteries and print an **emergency radio channel list**.
- Set and share a household communication and meeting plan.

5. Act Early—Fire Moves Fast

- Keep all evacuation items **ready by the door or in your vehicle**.
- Practice your evacuation route and identify who's responsible for pets and neighbors.
- Set a **meeting location** outside the fire zone. Mark this location with reflective tape.

6. Protect What You Can't Take

- Store firewood, propane tanks, and fuel at least **30 feet from your home**.
- Remove or upgrade wood fencing. Open gates and leave your doors unlocked as you evacuate, so firefighters can access your home.
- Leave your water hoses attached so that firefighters can turn them on as needed. Don't leave your sprinkles on or water running—this will drain city water resources that firefighters use.

7. Coordinate With Your Community Now

- Share evacuation plans and responsibilities before a fire is on the horizon.
- Discuss access through fences and shared roads.
- Work together to clear brush, share tools, and support vulnerable residents.

From Fire Threat to Fire Defense

Grind Fire Defense was founded by Lori and her son John after helping evacuate their grandmother during the Monument Fire in Trinity County.

“We looked around at all the work Grandpa had done over the years—cutting brush, clearing trees—and realized how many families don’t have that kind of preparation,” said Lori. “We started Grind Fire Defense to give others a fighting chance.”

Today, Grind Fire Defense is fully licensed, insured, and bonded, providing defensible space services and tree services to homeowners across Northern California.

About Grind Fire Defense

Grind Fire Defense is a California-based wildfire mitigation company founded in 2021. Built on family values and firsthand experience, the team provides science-based defensible space services to help residents survive wildfire season.

For media inquiries, interviews, or service requests, visit www.grindfiredefense.com or email lori.templeton@grindfiredefense.com.

Fast Facts About Grind Fire Defense

- Ownership: Family-owned & operated, Veteran-owned, Woman-owned
- Headquarters: Anderson, CA
- Coverage Area: California
- Specialty: Creating defensible space to protect homes & businesses from wildfire risk
- Website: grindfiredefense.com
- Phone: (530) 999-2035
- Social Media: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Linked In](#)
- Instructional Videos: www.youtube.com/@grindfiredefense