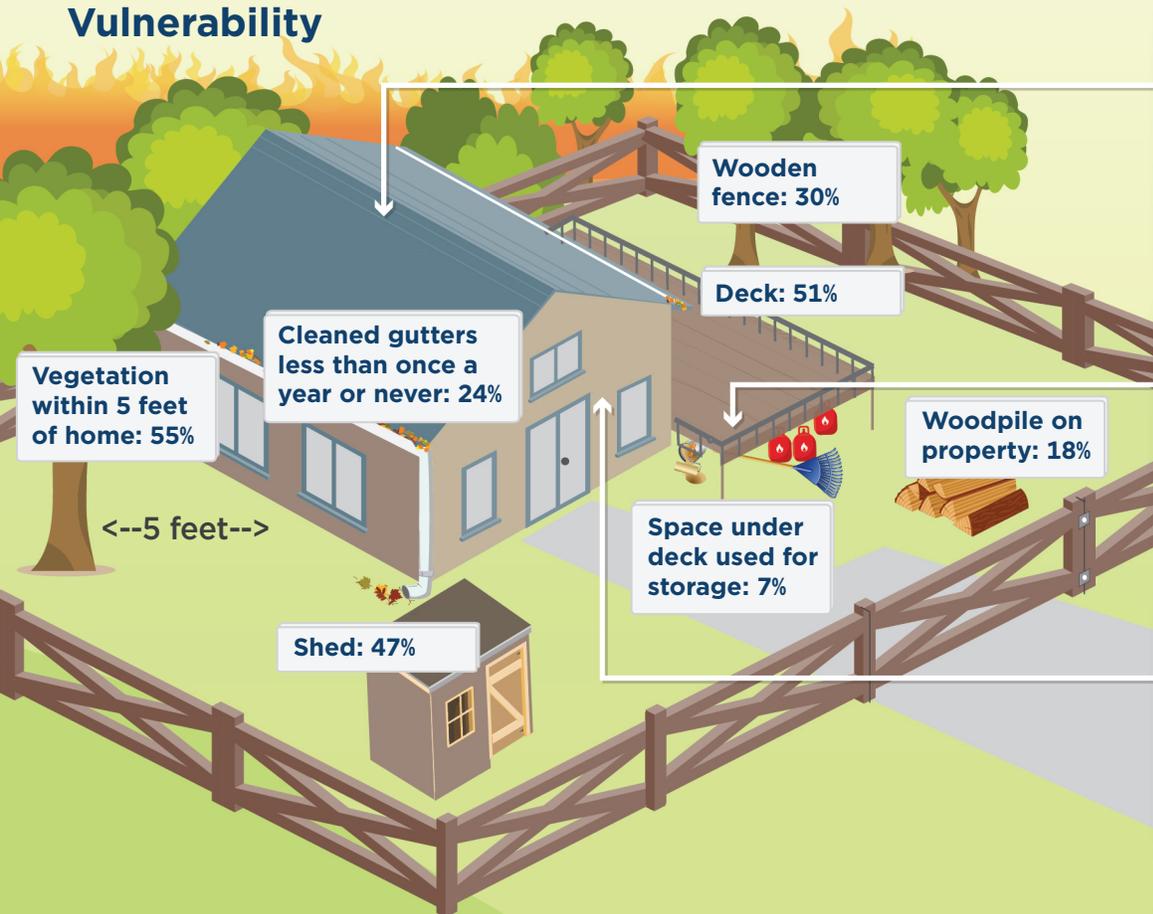


# Wildfires and Home Vulnerability

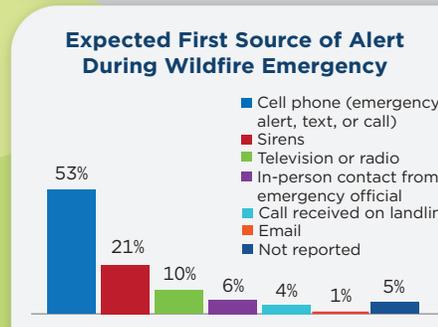
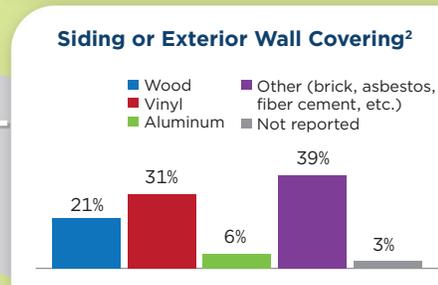
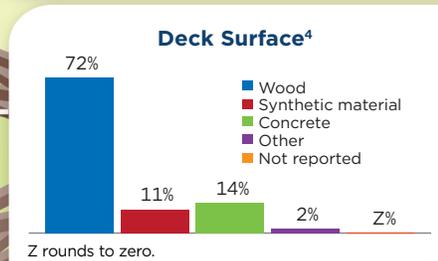
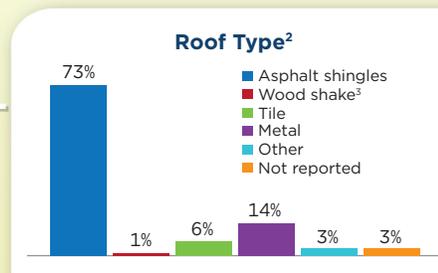
The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is comprised of small noncontiguous geographic areas located all across the nation. WUIs are defined by the U.S. Forest Service as areas where homes and other structures are in or adjacent to undeveloped wildland vegetation prone to a large scale wildfire, thereby posing a significant threat to human life or property. About 37 million 1-unit structures (38%) in the United States are located inside the WUI.

The 2021 American Housing Survey (AHS), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), collected data on the external characteristics of 1-unit structures in the WUI. These data are intended to improve our understanding of the vulnerability of the American housing stock to wildfires and other spreading fires. HUD worked with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) on the development of the wildfire risk questions and in determining the geographic areas in the United States that received the questions.

## Percentage of 1-Unit Structures<sup>1</sup> Located in the WUI With Wildfire Risk Factors Impacting Home Vulnerability



Combustible materials, such as wood, can increase a home's vulnerability.



<sup>1</sup> Commonly known as single-family homes, 1-unit structures can house individuals, single families, or multiple families.

<sup>2</sup> For more information about fire resistive construction materials, refer to <[www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Fact-sheets/FirewiseHowToPrepareYourHomeForWildfires.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Fact-sheets/FirewiseHowToPrepareYourHomeForWildfires.pdf)>.

<sup>3</sup> Wood shake refers to a material of wood roofing.

<sup>4</sup> Includes only 1-unit structures in the WUI with a deck.

Note: Percentages include not reported values. Information on confidentiality protection, methodology, sampling and nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <[www.census.gov/ahs](http://www.census.gov/ahs)>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2021 American Housing Survey.