

## KEY ISSUES:

Many homes have attached decks, which can spread fire directly to the home when ignited during a wildfire. The materials used to build the deck, combustible materials stored on and under the deck, and the vegetation around it all contribute to how vulnerable a deck will be to ignition during a wildfire. Decks are an important consideration because of their proximity to homes and buildings.



### What factors contribute to the vulnerability of decks and porches?

- Slotted deck surfaces allow combustible debris to accumulate below the deck. The accumulation of combustible debris in these gaps makes ignition from embers easier.
- Most deck boards are combustible, including dimensional wood and plastic.

### Consider these guidelines when planning an upgrade to your deck and with your ongoing home maintenance:

- Replace combustible deck/porch material with non-combustible or fire-rated materials.
- Cap deck joists with flashing or foil tape.
- Your local area may have specific minimum requirements that must be followed for new decking materials.
- Sheath or screen the exposed underside of decks/porches/foundation with fire-resistant materials, such as fibre cement board or metal screening.
- Create and maintain a non-combustible surface under and for 1.5 metres around the deck /porch.
- Move combustible materials stored underneath and on top of the deck to greater than 10 metres from home or store inside a FireSmart-mitigated building.
- Check the condition of combustible wood deck boards and replace or repair boards that are showing signs of rot or have large cracks.

