Embers passing through “mesh” screen have sufficient energy to ignite combustible materials in the attic, and result in a building burning from the inside out. Screening was originally used in vents to prevent rodents from entering these enclosed spaces. Vulnerability to wildfire exposures wasn’t a consideration at the time. It is now required by law that new homes constructed in the WUI (Wildland-Urban Interface) have ember and fire safe vents. 1/8” mesh is also allowed.

Four vents have recently been accepted for use by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. These vents can be used in applications where 'ember and flame intrusion' resistance is required.

The **Vulcan vents** use screening on the front and back of the honeycomb matrix. This matrix is coated with an intumescent paint that swells when contacted by flames.

The **Fireguard vents** use screening and a fused-link. The fused-link device is shown in the photo inset. Activation of the fused-link causes a metal door to close.

The **Brandguard vents** use a baffle design.

**O’Hagin’s** makes low profile through-roof vents.

Check out our previous SIY Tip and Task: [Attic & Crawl Space Vents](#) for more information.

For more resources, visit our [Shelter in Yard](#) page on the [Santa Clara Council FireSafe Council](#) website.