BE FIREWISE® AROUND YOUR HOME

HOME IGNITION ZONE

The Home Ignition Zone begins with at least 30 feet of space immediately around the home and extend-
ing out as far as 100 to 200 feet depending on the characteristics of the surrounding forests or grass-
lands. Creating and maintaining the Home Ignition Zone reduces or eliminates ignition hazards present-
ed by vegetation (by thinning or spacing, removing dead leaves and needles and pruning shrubs and tree
branches) and combustible construction (wooden porches, decks, storage sheds, outbuildings, swing
sets and fences).

WHY? Reducing ignition hazards improves the chances that the structure will survive a wildfire...

LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN LANDSCAPING

With Firewise landscaping, you can create survivable space around your home that reduces your wildfire
threat. Prune large trees so that the lowest branches are at least 6 to 10 feet high to prevent a fire on the
ground from spreading to the tree tops. Within the Home Ignition Zone, remove flammable plants that
contain resins, oils, and waxes that burn readily: ornamental junipers, paupon, holly, red cedar, and
young pine. A list of less-flammable plants can be obtained from your local state forester, forestry of-

cine, county extension office, or landscape specialist.

WHY? Although mulch does help retain soil moisture, mulch and other landscape materials

can become flammable when too dry...

FIRE RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS

Attachments include any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches, or fences. If these items

attached to a home are not fire-resistant, then the home as a whole is vulnerable to ignition.

WHY? Firebrands (embers) collect in small nooks

and crannies and ignite combustible materials...

FIRE-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION

Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco, and concrete masonry. Tempered and double-pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames.

For more information, see the Firewise Construction

Checklist on the other side.

WHY? Firebrands (embers) collect in small nooks

and crannies and ignite combustible materials...

A DISASTER PLAN

The time to plan for any emergency is prior to the event. Take time to discuss with your family what

actions you will take. Post emergency telephone numbers in a visible place. Leave before it is too late.

Decide where you will go and how you will get there. Have tools available (shovel, rake, axe, handsaw, or

chain saw). Maintain an emergency water source. Have a plan for your pets. Practice family fire drills.

WHY? The need to evacuate can occur without

notice. When wildfire conditions exist, be ready
to take action...

EMERGENCY ACCESS

Identify your home and neighborhood with legible

and clearly marked street names and numbers. Include a driveway that is at least 12 feet wide with a vertical
clearance of 15 feet and a slope of less than 5 percent to provide access to emergency vehicles.

WHY? So emergency personnel can rapidly find

the location of the emergency...
When designing and installing a Firewise landscape, consider the following:

- Local area fire history
- Site location and overall terrain
- Prevailing winds and seasonal weather
- Property contours and boundaries
- Native vegetation
- Plant characteristics and placement (duffage, water and salt retention ability, aromatic oils, fuel load per area, and size)
- Irrigation requirements
- Give yourself added protection with “fuel breaks” like driveways, gravel walkways, and lawns

To create a Firewise landscape, the primary goal is fuel reduction. To this end, initiate the zone concept. Zone 1 is closest to the structure; Zones 2-4 move progressively further away.

**Zone 1:** This well-irrigated area encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency. Plantings should be limited to carefully-spaced low-flammability species.

**Zone 2:** Low flammability plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low-growing and the irrigation system should extend into this section.

**Zone 3:** Place low-growing plants and well-spaced trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of vegetation (fuel) low.

**Zone 4:** This furthest zone from the structure is a natural area. Selectively prune and thin all plants and remove highly flammable vegetation.

When maintaining a landscape:

- Mow the lawn regularly, and dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.
- Be sure the irrigation system is well-maintained.
- Use care when refueling garden equipment; maintain equipment regularly; store flammable liquids properly.
- Become familiar with local regulations regarding vegetation clearances, disposal of debris, and fire safety requirements for equipment.