

Reduce the ignitability of your structure and be Firewise

Small steps are the key to a Firewise home!

Improving your home's chance of surviving a wildfire can seem like an overwhelming task – one that you may feel is impossible to achieve. Not necessarily so! Research shows that flying embers (firebrands) and creeping surface fire are significant contributors to the loss of homes to wildfires...

sometimes hours after the fire has passed. To begin making your home and property "Firewise," start with the structures on your property and move out as time allows. Keep in mind that anything attached to a structure (deck, fence, overhangs, etc.) is part of the structure.

Outbuildings

Outbuildings should be at least 30 feet away from the home and the vegetation should be managed around them.

Decks & Attachments

Attachments and overhangs should be kept free of flammable materials such as fallen leaves and pine needles, firewood, gas cans, and other flammable materials.

Roof

Roofing materials should be fire-resistant and debris removed from roof valleys, rain gutters and locations where the roof intersects a wall. Prune tree branches within 10 feet of your roof.

Flammables

Keep wood piles, propane tanks and other combustible materials 30 feet away from your home and other buildings.

Windows

Install dual-paned windows, with a minimum of one pane being tempered glass, to reduce the chance of breakage during a wildfire.

Within 5 Feet of Home

The area within 5 feet of your home should be kept free of flammables. Choose rock mulch or bare dirt over wood mulch, store wood posts and lumber away from the house, and remove dry leaves and pine needles.

Signs

All road name and address signs should be clearly visible and legible from the roadway to avoid delays in response.

Driveways

Provide an unobstructed width of 12 to 20 feet and unobstructed height of 13 to 15 feet to accommodate emergency vehicles. Long driveways should also provide a turnout.

Vegetation: Limit the amount of trees, especially evergreens, within 30 feet of the home and try to keep a green, well-maintained lawn.

The home ignition zone is your home and its surroundings out to 100-200 feet. In this area, vegetation and personal property should be managed and maintained to reduce the wildfire threat and improve the likelihood of your home surviving with little or no assistance from firefighters.