

REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS IN THE HOME IGNITION ZONE

WHEN YOUR HOME IGNITION ZONE EXTENDS INTO NEIGHBORING PROPERTIES

Your home and your home's ignition zone extends into adjacent properties. To reduce the risk of wildfire damage, you should work with your neighbors to collaboratively reduce your shared risk.

ON PARCELS OF LAND LARGER THAN THE 100' EXTENDED ZONE

Property owners with more than 100 feet of land that extends beyond the extended zone to provide additional actions up to 200' feet into home and outbuildings.

FIREWISE USA
NATIONAL CENTER FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION

THE HOUSE AND IMMEDIATE ZONE CHECKLIST
The Immediate Zone includes both the home and the area of 0 to 5 feet out from the furthest attached exterior point of the home.

THE HOME AND ITS BUILDING MATERIALS

Upgrade exterior building materials, construction techniques, along with landscaping and maintenance practices to reduce wildfire risk. The checklist below provides a starting point for the immediate zone. Landscaping practices that fall outside the checklist are listed in the adjacent section.

1 **CHIMNEYS:** Remove flammable items stored in chimneys. Use metal screening on vents.

2 **CRACKS AND LEAKY ROOFING:** Patch up roof and exterior cracks to block wind-blown embers. Repair damaged gutters, downspouts, and debris from roof debris.

3 **GAPS AND JOINTS:** Remove the soil and mulch at exterior wall and foundation joints. Seal gaps between roof and exterior walls and foundation with caulk.

4 **SCREENS:** Use noncombustible screening material for windows, doors, and vents. Use metal mesh screening material for vents and air conditioning units. Use metal mesh screening material for air conditioning units. Use metal mesh screening material for air conditioning units.

5 **LANDSCAPING/HARDSCAPING:** Remove flammable mulch and plants within 10 feet of the house. Use noncombustible mulch and plants within 10 feet of the house. Use noncombustible mulch and plants within 10 feet of the house.

6 **ROOFING MATERIALS:** Remove flammable roof materials. Use noncombustible roof materials. Use noncombustible roof materials.

7 **DECKING:** Remove flammable decking materials. Use noncombustible decking materials. Use noncombustible decking materials.

8 **SCREENS:** Use noncombustible screening material for windows, doors, and vents. Use metal mesh screening material for vents and air conditioning units. Use metal mesh screening material for air conditioning units.

9 **SCREENS:** Use noncombustible screening material for windows, doors, and vents. Use metal mesh screening material for vents and air conditioning units. Use metal mesh screening material for air conditioning units.

10 **SCREENS:** Use noncombustible screening material for windows, doors, and vents. Use metal mesh screening material for vents and air conditioning units. Use metal mesh screening material for air conditioning units.

NOTE: This document is intended to provide a general overview of wildfire risk reduction strategies. It is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. For more information, visit www.firewise.org.

READ MORE!
INTERMEDIATE AND EXTENDED ZONE CHECKLISTS LOCATED ON BACKSIDE OF POSTER

Visit Firewise.org for more information.

FIREWISE USA
NATIONAL CENTER FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION

INTERMEDIATE ZONE CHECKLIST
0 to 30 feet from the furthest exterior point of the home

LANDSCAPING/HARDSCAPING

- 1. Create mulch-free zones along exterior walls, patios, decks, and stairs.
- 2. Create fuel breaks with screens, mulch-free zones, and screens.
- 3. Trim trees and shrubs to a height of four feet.
- 4. Screen trees and shrubs to a height of four feet.
- 5. Remove water table irrigation pipes from a surface that extends to the exterior. These pipes can be up to 100 feet from the house. If they do, they should be removed or capped at the exterior wall height.
- 6. Screen trees to a height of eight feet from the exterior wall.
- 7. Screen trees to a height of eight feet from the exterior wall.
- 8. Screen trees to a height of eight feet from the exterior wall.
- 9. Screen trees to a height of eight feet from the exterior wall.
- 10. Screen trees to a height of eight feet from the exterior wall.

EXTENDED ZONE CHECKLIST
Extends out from 30 to 100 feet, keep in mind your property line may end prior to 100 feet. In these instances working collaboratively with your neighbor is important to having protected multiple properties.

LANDSCAPING

- 1. Create a fire-resistant landscape.
- 2. Screen trees to a height of eight feet from the exterior wall.
- 3. Screen trees to a height of eight feet from the exterior wall.
- 4. Screen trees to a height of eight feet from the exterior wall.
- 5. Screen trees to a height of eight feet from the exterior wall.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 1. Add shade and interest with high moisture tolerant plants.
- 2. Address drainage issues to avoid water damage.
- 3. Consider foundation and grade soil levels should be checked when threatened by a wildfire and repaired after the danger passes.
- 4. Check and protect home openings, including attic and basement doors and walls, windows, garage and pet doors to prevent embers from gaining access to the home.
- 5. Consider grade issues, 18 inches, hot tub, garage cars or other large structures with windows and glass doors, decks, and water sources to extinguish spot fires.
- 6. Consider installing non-flammable shutters similar to hurricane shutters.
- 7. Consider using noncombustible deck boards (metal and fiber cement) or a solid light weight concrete.
- 8. Incorporate a mixture of deciduous and conifer trees.
- 9. Install a garage door on both attached and detached garages.
- 10. Store vehicles in a non-combustible area (concrete or metal) and not up at all windows.
- 11. When adding shrubs to a high, more protected landscape, choose shrubs that are not too tall, not too dense, and not too close to the house, window and garage or windows where wildfire embers are likely to land.
- 12. Place non-combustible in the Extended Zone.
- 13. Use rubber mulch instead of straw mulch with natural tree mulches.
- 14. When making future patio furniture purchases select fire resistant options.

IN THE HOME IGNITION ZONE

REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

THE FACTS

EXPERIMENTS, MODELS AND POST-FIRE STUDIES HAVE SHOWN HOMES IGNITE DUE TO THE CONDITION OF THE HOME, AND EVERYTHING AROUND IT, UP TO 200' FROM THE FOUNDATION.

HOMES AND THEIR SURROUNDING AREA ARE VULNERABLE TO THREE POTENTIAL TYPES OF IGNITION SOURCES:

- EMBER ATTACKS (A/K/A FIREBRANDS):** Burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind can cause spot fires and ignite homes, decks and other objects. They can also penetrate and smolder in woodpiles, patios/decks, vents and openings, roofs and debris lined gutters. Most home losses in a wildfire are from embers, not by direct contact with flames.
- SURFACE FIRES:** Typically small flames burning through grass and ground litter. They can reach houses or attachments if there's no interruption in the types of fuel sources. Flames touching a house, fence or deck can cause them to ignite.
- CROWN FIRE:** Large flames burning in the tops or canopies of trees. These large flames radiate heat that can ignite wood walls (up to 100' away). Other types of large flames can come from detached buildings burning wood piles and ignited vehicles.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Decades of research have shown that both the home and the landscape adjacent to it play a critical role in the structure surviving a wildfire. A wildfire can transfer from ignited vegetation or an ignited home(s) through:

- RADIATION**
- CONVECTION**
- EMBERS/FIREBRANDS**

A home's building materials, design and landscape have a significant role in the level of exposure that can be endured before ignition occurs from any of these sources.

WHERE TO START?

When planning your wildfire risk reduction project, **START WITH THE HOUSE ITSELF** as the point where your efforts begin, then move into the landscaping section of the intermediate zone. Once both have been completed, move into the Intermediate and Extended Zones.

In many areas, residents can **REQUEST A FIRE-RISK OVERVIEW VISIT FROM THEIR LOCAL FORESTRY OR FIRE AGENCY** to learn more about the science-based guidelines that help residents **PREPARE THEIR HOME AND PROPERTY FOR WILDFIRES**. This opportunity will provide additional information as it pertains to your individual property and topography.

Unable here to get started on reducing your wildfire risk.

TREE SPACING AND PRUNING GUIDELINES

Guidelines for tree crown clearance vary depending on slope, tree species and overstory vegetation, along with possible tree hollows and other site specific factors. Check with your local forestry or fire agency to get specific distance recommendations for where you live.

TREE SPACING

18 FEET
12 FEET
6 FEET

TREE PRUNING

NO FEET
4-6 FEET
1/3 TREE HEIGHT