

Your Best Defense

Guidelines for Reducing Wildfire Risk



1. Create a defensible space – a circle of protection around a forested home. Dimensions vary by topography, vegetation, and construction materials.

- Thin weak, dead, and overcrowded trees.
- Remove vegetation that can transport wildfires from the ground to the treetops.
- Limb trees to a height of 10-15 feet above the ground.
- Remove or chip remaining slash.
- Trim branches that extend over the eaves of the home or within 15 feet of the chimney.
- Clean pine needles and debris from roofs and gutters.
- Relocate woodpiles at least thirty feet from buildings.
- Maintain a mowed greenbelt immediately around home.
- Reduce the density of the forest surrounding the defensible space.

2. Evaluate your home for wildfire safety.

- Do you have a wildfire evacuation plan?
- Is there an outdoor water supply?
- Is the driveway wide enough for rescue vehicles to access and turn around?
- Are road signs and house numbers posted and easily visible?
- Is there more than one escape route?
- Are there hand tools (shovels, axes, rakes, or hoes) on site for wild-land firefighting?
- Do you have enough garden hose to reach all parts of the residence?

3. Use fire-resistant building materials, especially for roof.

4. Additional precautions can be taken during the height of fire season.

- Dispose of leaves and debris with trash rather than open burning.
- Use only propane grills.
- Smoke inside a building or a vehicle when in forested areas.
- Use caution with power tools and lawnmowers – don't park or idle hot equipment in dry grass.

5. Maintain defensible space annually since the forest continues to grow.

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Subdivisions are at an increased risk to wildfire. Talk to your neighbors about reducing risks.

Reducing wildfire risk makes communities and subdivisions safer from the threat of wildfire, increases property values, reduces risk of disease and insect damage to trees, allows for firefighter safety during a wildfire event, improves scenic views, improves accessibility in forested areas, and restores forest health.

Schedule a free on-site estimate by contacting your local Fire Ready office.