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.

When constructing, renovating, or adding to a Firewise home, consider the following:

- Choose a Firewise location.
- Design and build a Firewise structure with fire resistant materials.
- Employ Firewise landscaping and maintenance.

To select a Firewise location, observe the following:

- Slope of terrain; be sure to build on the most level portion of the land, since fire spreads more rapidly on even minor slopes.
- Set your one-story structure at least 30 feet back from any ridge or cliff; increase distance if your home will be higher than one story.

In designing and building your Firewise structure, the primary goals are fuel and exposure reduction. Therefore:

- Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible whenever possible.
- For roof construction, consider using materials such as Class-A asphalt shingles, slate or clay tile, metal, cement and concrete products, or terra-cotta tiles. A fire-resistant sub-roof can also add protection.
- On exterior wall facing, fire-resistant stucco or masonry may be much better choices than vinyl, which can soften and melt.
- Window materials and size are important. Smaller panes hold up better in their frames than larger ones. Double-pane glass and tempered glass are more reliable and effective heat barriers than single pane glass. Plastic skylights can melt.
- Install non-flammable shutters on windows and skylights.
- To prevent sparks from entering your home through vents, cover exterior attic and under-floor vents with wire screening no larger than 1/8-inch mesh.
- Provide at least two ground-level doors for easy and safe exit, and at least two means of escape (i.e., doors or windows) in each room so that everyone has a way out.

Any structures attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences, and outbuildings should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials. Therefore, consider the following:

- If you wish to attach an all-wood fence to your house, use masonry or metal as protective barriers between the fence and house.
- Use metal when constructing a trellis and cover it with high-moisture, low flammability vegetation.
- Prevent combustible materials and debris from accumulating beneath patio decks or elevated porches. Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire screening no larger than 1/8-inch mesh.
- Make sure an elevated wooden deck is not located at the top of a hill where it will be in direct line of a fire moving up-slope. Consider a terrace instead.
HOME IGNITION ZONE
The Home Ignition Zone begins with at least 30 feet of space immediately around the home and extends out as far as 100 to 200 feet depending on the characteristics of the surrounding forests or grasslands. Creating and maintaining the Home Ignition Zone reduces or eliminates ignition hazards presented by vegetation (by thinning or separating, 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 office, county extension office, or landscape specialist.

WHY? Although mulch helps 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, hand saw, 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...

FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION
Firewise roof construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, slate or clay tile, and concrete products. The inclusion of a fire-resistant subroof adds protection. Make a periodic inspection looking for deterioration such as breaks and spaces between roof tiles. Keep the roof, gutters, and eaves clear of leaves and other debris. Make sure under-eave and soffit vents are as close as possible to the roof line. Box in eaves, but be sure to provide adequate ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew.

WHY? Something as simple as making sure that your gutters, eaves, and roof are clear of debris will reduce your fire threat...

A FIREWISE HOME HAS THESE SEVEN FEATURES

1. Home Ignition Zone
2. Lean, Clean, and Green Landscaping
3. Fire-resistant Attachments
4. Fire-resistant Construction
5. A Disaster Plan
6. Emergency Access
7. Why?

For more information, visit the web site: www.firewise.org