



HOME FIRE SAFETY NEWS

Could your home survive a wildfire?

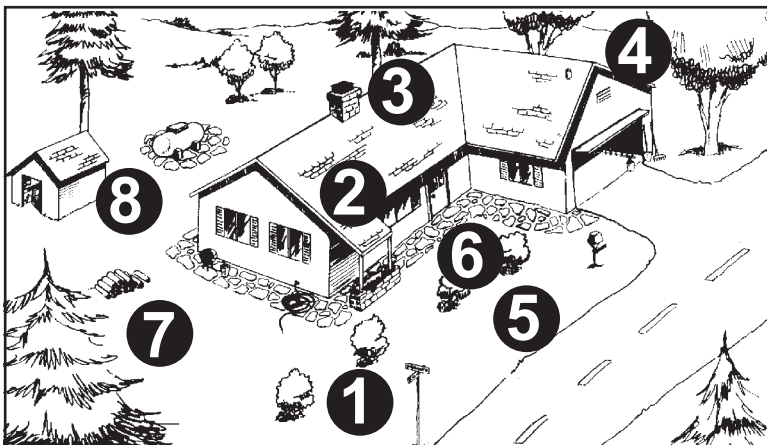
Many homes are destroyed by wildland fires each year. Often, these homes could have survived had the owners taken preventative action beforehand. Don't let your home become part of the fuel of a wildfire! Follow these fire prevention tips and become "Firewise."

Firewise Landscaping

- Firewise landscaping can create a line of defense against the threat of wildfire by creating a safety zone or "survivable space" around your home.
- The goal is to break the chain of flammable fuel between your home and the wildland. Examine the yard. What can catch fire and carry it to the house? Do firefighters have a safety zone for battling the flames? Are you sure firefighters can safely find and reach your home?
- You can landscape for fire protection while maintaining a natural look to your surroundings. Work with the plants native to the site, using the patterns found in nature. Also consider hardiness zones and planting sites when choosing new plants.
- There are not fireproof plants, but some plants are more fire-resistant than others. Use these considerations when choosing plants and trees for your yard.
- Group together plants with similar water needs, and space them in your landscape to create a "fuel mosaic" that will conserve water and protect against "fire ladder." (A fire ladder is created when plants are arranged next to each other in a way that allows flames to move from the ground up into taller vegetation when it is more difficult to stop.)
- Once a firewise landscape has been installed, it must be regularly watered and maintained to preserve its fire resistance.

The Firewise Home

- 1 Build home on the most level portion of the lot.
- 2 Roofs and exteriors should be of fire resistant materials.
- 3 Screen the chimney and stove pipe.
- 4 Remove overhanging tree limbs, moss, and needles from the roof and gutters.
- 5 Maintain a survivable space around the house. A large green lawn is ideal.



- 6 Remove highly-flammable plants from around the house, especially on the side most exposed to prevailing winds, and on the downhill slope.
- 7 Clean chimneys and stove pipes; check their screens. Keep storage areas clean and tidy. Never allow rags or newspapers to accumulate. Store flammable liquids in approved containers.
- 8 Stack firewood away from the house.