

Defend your home against wildfires. If your home is located in a woodland setting, rural area, or remote mountain site, you may be all too familiar with wildfires. By following these simple tips, you can reduce your risk and help protect your family, home, and property from wildfires.

1. Clear debris and leaves off roof and out of gutters

Accumulated debris can be an ignitable fuel source for flying embers during a wildfire.

2. Harden your home

Hardening the exterior of your home can make it more difficult for fires to start. Consider using fire-resistant materials for your deck, fencing, siding, roof, and windows, and installing ember-resistant vents with 1/8" to 1/16" thick metal mesh.

3. Remove trees that hang over the roof

Make sure tree limbs within 10 feet of your home that overhang the roof or chimney are removed.

4. Prune limbs and dead branches from trees

Tree branches should be pruned up 8 feet off the ground to prevent ladder fuels.

5. Vegetation spacing

Adequate vegetation spacing is critical, and each zone (see below) should be treated differently. Spacing between vegetation such as trees, shrubs, and plants can reduce the energy of a fire moving toward your home.

6. Relocate firewood 30 feet away from your home

Firewood stacks should be placed 30 feet away from your home. It is recommended to place stacks on noncombustible pads such as concrete or stone, and if possible, to cover with a fire-resistant material.

* Depending on where your home is located, there may be specific local wildfire mitigation guidelines. It is recommended to consult with your local or state fire agency or qualified fire management specialist about codes, requirements, and standards.

Did you know
90% of homes
lost to wildfire
catch fire from
flying embers,
not from the
heat of the fire?

Defensible
Space will help
protect your
home.

Zone 1: 0'-5' (Noncombustible Zone)

- This should be a fire-free area with no flammables.
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof, and rain gutters. Ensure wood, mulch, bark, and plants are removed near crawl space vents. Select noncombustible mulch material such as gravel or rock.
- Remove branches that overhang your roof line and chimney within 10 feet of the home.
- You want low-growing and widely spaced firewise plants if your siding is noncombustible. If you have wood siding, this should be a plant-free zone.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Lawns should be mowed and watered regularly.

Zone 2: 5'-30' (Lean, Clean, and Green Zone)

- Remove all dead plants, grass, weeds, and other vegetation.
- Plants should be carefully spaced, low growing, and free from resins and oils that burn easily.
- Lawns should be mowed and watered regularly, or xeriscaped.
- Relocate wood piles into Zone 3 and keep 30 feet away from your home.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs, and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, fences, sheds, or play structures, etc.
- Tree branches should be pruned up 8 feet off the ground with no ladder fuels.
- Maintain adequate spacing between trees with no crowns touching. Additional spacing is recommended for conifer trees.
- It is recommended that no propane tanks be located in this area. However, local building code may dictate a required specific distance.

Zone 3: 30'-100' (Reduction Zone)

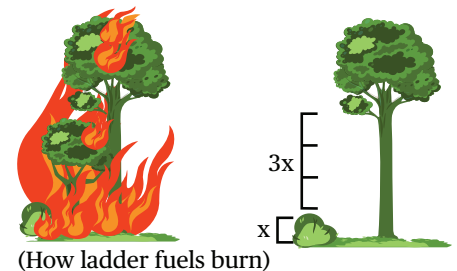
- This area should be open and park-like.
- Tree branches should be pruned up 8 feet off the ground with no ladder fuels.
- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal and vertical spacing between shrubs and trees. Slope and terrain may increase appropriate distances for both.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted for erosion control to a depth of 3 inches.

Zone 4: 100'+ (Extended Zone)

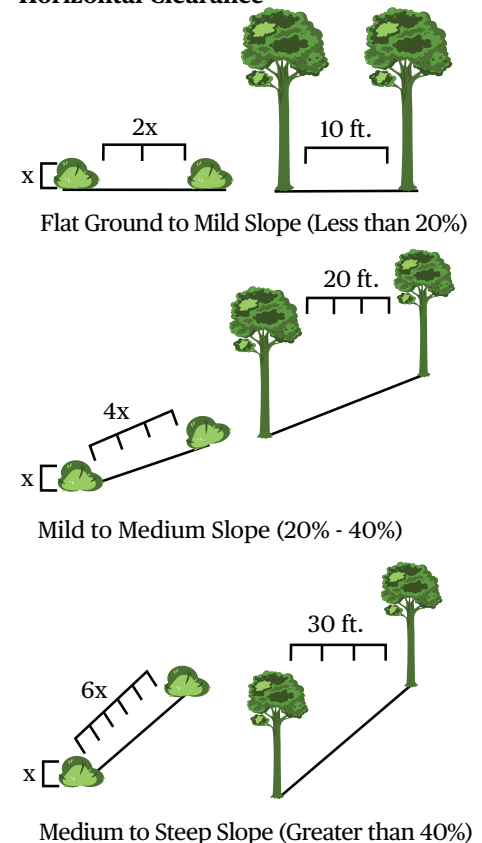
- This is the farthest zone from your home. The goal in this area is to improve the health of the property and interrupt the wildfire path. Shaping the terrain surrounding your home can influence the fire's spread and intensity.
- Remove any dead vegetation piles in this area. Thinning and pruning in Zone 4 can be more limited. However, it is recommended to manage vegetation the same way as Zone 3 in this area.

Trees and plants can vary based on where your home is located. Below are some general rules for vegetation spacing.

Vertical Clearance



Horizontal Clearance



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