



www.firewise.org

FIREWISE LANDSCAPING

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USDA Forest Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
US Fish & Wildlife Service
National Park Service

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

International Association of
Fire Chiefs

National Emergency
Management Association

National Fire
Protection Association

U.S. Fire Administration

State Forestry Organizations

KEEPING LANDSCAPES LEAN, CLEAN, GREEN- AND FIREWISE

A well-maintained landscape can not only enhance the beauty and value of any property— it can also serve as a fuel break. Under the right conditions, a “Firewise” home can even survive a wildfire.

The goal is to keep your landscape lean, clean and green. If water is scarce, contact a landscape specialist to discuss plants that require less irrigation and are native to your area.

The following steps can reduce your home’s vulnerability from the threat of wildfire. For more tips on Firewise landscaping, visit www.firewise.org.

ZONE 1: 30 feet or more adjacent to the home beyond attachments such as wooden decks and fences.*

- Keep this area well irrigated and free from dry vegetation and debris. Plants should be carefully spaced, low growing and free of resins, oils, and waxes that burn easily.
- Mow the lawn regularly. Prune all trees so the lowest limbs are six to 10 feet from the ground. Remove dried leaves, pine needles and other dead vegetation.*
- Allow space between tops of trees to reduce the risk of crown fire.
- Within five feet of the home, use nonflammable landscaping materials, such as rock, pavers, annuals, and high-moisture-content perennials.
- If you live in a moderate- to high-hazard area, consider fire-resistant patio furniture, swing sets, and accessories.
- Keep firewood stacks and propane tanks at least 30 feet from the home.*
- Water plants and trees regularly to ensure they are healthy. Mulch should also be watered.

Firewise Landscaping cont.

ZONE 2: Approximately 30 to 100 feet from the home.*

- In moderate- and high hazard areas, plants should be low growing, well irrigated and less flammable.
- Leave approximately 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or approximately 20 feet between individual trees.*
- Prune trees so branches and leaves are at least six to 10 feet above the ground.*
- Give yourself added protection with “fuel breaks,” such as driveways, gravel walkways, and lawns.

ZONE 3: 100 to 200 feet from the home.*

- Keep this area thinned out.
- Remove heavy accumulation of woody debris.
- Reduce the density of tall trees so high-intensity crown fire is less likely to reach your home.

* Please note, all recommended distances are approximate. For specific information on defensible space recommendations in your area, and to determine your area’s wildfire hazard level, contact your state forestry office.

IMAGES AVAILABLE: <http://www.firewise.org/newsroom/artwork>

