



Firewise

An introduction to Firewise concepts for local communities





Why Firewise?



- Wildfires can put dozens (even hundreds) of homes at risk simultaneously.
- Firefighters may not have the resources to protect each home and it may not be **safe**.
- Residents **can take action** to increase their homes' chances of surviving a wildfire.



Understanding Wildfire



- Fire is an essential, natural process:
 - Replenishes soil nutrients
 - Removes dead and dying vegetation
 - Creates conditions for healthy re-growth





Understanding Wildfire



- **Society's influence has altered historic fire cycles, leading to an unnatural build-up of vegetation in our wildlands.**
 - History of fire prevention and suppression
 - Risk of larger fires
 - Effects on plant and animal life



Wildland/Urban Interface



- Set of conditions where a wildland fire reaches beyond trees, brush, and other natural fuels to ignite homes and their immediate surroundings.





How Homes Ignite



- Fuels
 - Surface fuels
 - Ladder fuels





How Homes Ignite



- Fuels
 - Surface fuels
 - Ladder fuels
 - **Crown fuels**



Cody Nelson



Firebrands



Home Ignition Zone



Home Ignition Zone: The home in relation to its surroundings within 100 to 200 feet





Firewise Landscaping



All Hazard Areas

- Home Ignition Zone 1: The home and its immediate surroundings, up to approximately 30 feet.
 - No combustible materials within 0-5 ft. of structure
 - Low-flammability plants, landscaping materials, accessories
 - Prune limbs 6-10 feet from ground; generous space between trees
 - Mow, prune, and water regularly
 - NO firewood or propane tanks





Firewise Landscaping

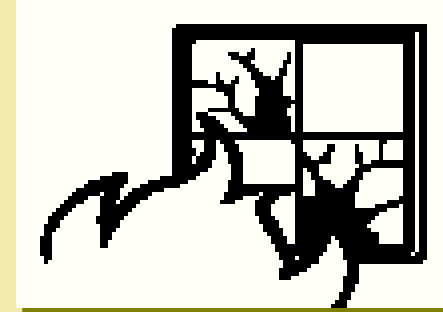




Firewise Construction



- Double-paned or tempered glass
- Enclose eaves, fascias, soffits, vents
 - 1/8" opening or smaller
- Protect overhangs and decks
 - Remove fuels from these areas
- Rated roofing materials
 - Composition shingle, metal, clay tile
- Fire-resistant exterior walls
 - Stucco, stone, brick, block, log





Maintenance





Site Access



- Driveway 12 ft. wide and 14 ft. high



photo by Aaron Mattson 2010





Firewise Landscaping



Moderate and High Hazard Areas

- Home Ignition Zone 2: 30 to 100 ft from home
 - 30 ft between tree clusters; 10 ft between individual trees
 - Fuel breaks
 - Branches and leaves 6 or more feet from ground
 - Remove heavy accumulation of flammable debris





Firewise Landscaping



High Hazard Areas

- Home Ignition Zone 3: 100 to 200 ft from home
 - Remove heavy accumulation of woody debris
 - Remove smaller conifers growing between trees
 - Reduce density of taller trees





Information



Programs

- Firewise Assessments
- Firewise Communities
- Outreach and education
- Brush disposal sites
- Chipper days/Brush pick up
- Fuels reduction grants
- Home ignition zone work
- Roadside brushing
- Metal roof grants (past)
- Sprinkler system grants (past)

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