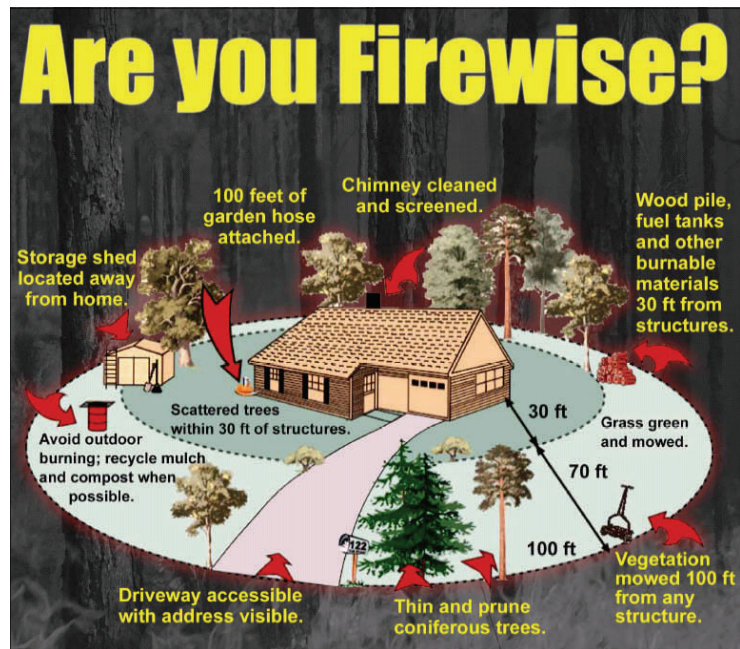


Safety From Forest Fire For Your Home

Learn how to protect your home in a forested area from the risk of fire before the fire starts.

- ✦ Vegetation around the home has been carefully selected and spaced. Low-growing, high moisture, drought resistant plants provide both visual appeal and fire protection.
- ✦ Construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible. There are very few nooks and crannies where debris or burning fire embers can gather.
- ✦ Window materials and size are important. Smaller panes hold up better in their frames than larger ones. Double-paned and tempered glass are more effective heat barriers than single pane glass.
- ✦ Landscape is to have a goal of primary fuel reduction. A well-irrigated area encircles the structure, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency.
- ✦ Carefully spaced trees and plantings create a serene landscape with plenty of shaded areas. Vegetative fuel is kept to a minimum.



- ✦ Structures attached to the house, such as a fence, should be considered part of the house. A fence made of a non-combustible material (wrought-iron or other metal) can contact the structure without the threat of fire spread. If you wish to attach an all-wood fence to a structure, use a masonry or metal protective barrier between the fence and the structure.
- ✦ Widely and carefully spaced trees can be both visually appealing and provide fire protection. Trees are also pruned 6' - 10' from the ground, so there is no link between grasses and treetops. Selectively pruning and thinning all plants to remove highly flammable vegetation helps reduce the fuel load and remove ladder fuels.
- ✦ Undereave and soffit vents are as close as possible to the roof line. The eaves are boxed in, but are constructed to provide adequate ventilation to prevent condensation. The boxed eaves will not allow firebrands to enter the attic of the structure.
- ✦ Skylights in a structure should be made of materials that will not melt under heat. The chimney is covered with 1/4 inch metal screening so that flying embers cannot enter or exit.
- ✦ A driveway free of pine needles and other flammable debris, providing an excellent firebreak and an easy area for firefighters to work if needed.

Visit firewise.org for more information about things you can do to protect your home.