

Survivable Space Matters

Your house is more likely to withstand a wildfire if you create a survivable space around it using zones. It's simple and it can save your home when a wildfire strikes.

Define the survivable space around your house. Include detached garages, storage buildings, barns and other structures.

Involve your neighbors in your plan, making the most of a community effort.

You are the first and best line of defense for your home!

Create Survivable Space



**OBEY ALL SMOKING AND
FIRE RESTRICTIONS!**

Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management

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www.maricopa.gov/emerg_mgt

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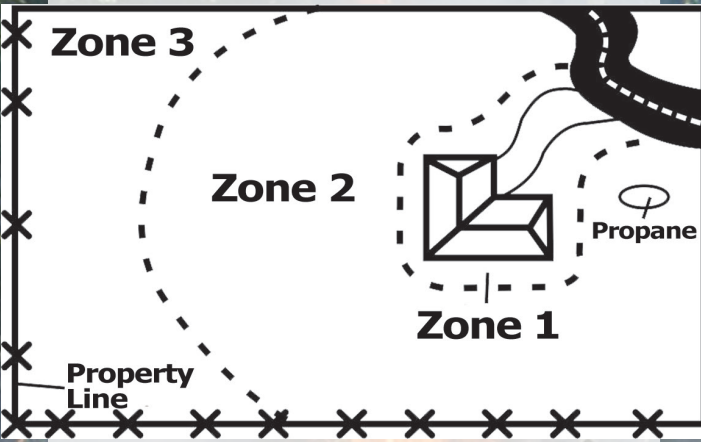
**PROTECT YOUR HOME
OR BUSINESS FROM
WILDLAND FIRE**

**It's Your
Responsibility!**



Maricopa County
Emergency Management

Create Survivable Space



Zone 1

The first 30 feet from structures

- Clean gutters and other roof areas on a regular basis, removing all debris which is flammable.
- Do not stack firewood or store other combustibles in this zone.
- Keep grass mowed and extend irrigation into this area, if possible.
- Keep culverts and drainage features clear of debris and overgrowth.
- Clear grasses, tree limbs, brush, and other natural or man-made fuels that can "ladder" a fire up a structure.
- Prune all trees at least 10 feet from chimneys. Remove any growth near or overhanging roof. Prune all trees 6 to 10 feet from the ground.

Zone 2

30 to 100 feet from structures

- Thin trees and shrubs at least 10 feet between crowns, more if on a steep slope.
- Isolated or small groupings of trees or shrubs are best to create screening and privacy.
- Prune under large trees to a height of 10 feet.
- Walkways and paths can help break up fuel continuity, making it more difficult for a fire to spread.
- Keep grasses and wildflowers under eight inches high, especially when dry or dormant.

Zone 3

100+ feet away

- Prune trees along trails and fire access roads, removing thinned materials by chipping or offsite disposal.
- Trees should not pose a threat to power lines or fire access roads.
- Specific thinning requirements depend on species. Thinning and pruning, especially ladder fuels will keep a fire on the ground.



Overgrown vegetation can threaten structures.

The difference can save your home!



Survivable space minimizes risk to the property and community.

Information Zone

Review your insurance plan to understand the coverage you have and what restrictions are included with your policy.

Get more information on protecting your property and community at:

www.firewise.org

www.AZsf.az.gov
—see "Living with Wildfire"

Protect Your Home

7 Ways Residents Can Reduce the Risk that their Homes & Property Will Become Fuel for a Wildfire

#1

Clear

Clear off pine needles, dead leaves & anything that can burn from your rooflines, gutters, decks, porches, patios & along fence lines. Falling embers will have nothing to burn.

#3

Screen & Seal

Wind-borne embers can get into homes easily through vents & other openings and burn the home from the inside out. Walk around your house to see what openings you can screen or temporarily seal up.

#5

Trim

Trim back any shrubs or tree branches that come closer than 5 feet to the house and attachments, and any overhanging branches.

#7

Close

If ordered to evacuate, make sure all windows & doors are closed tightly, and seal up any pet doors. Many homes are destroyed by embers entering these openings and burning the house from the inside out.

#2

Store Away

Store away furniture cushions, rattan mats, potted plants & other decorations from decks, porches & patios. These items catch embers and help ignite your home if you leave them outside.

#4

Rake

Embers landing in mulch that touches your house, deck or fence is a big fire hazard. Rake out any landscaping mulch to at least five feet away.

#6

Remove

Walk around your house and remove anything within 30 feet that could burn, such as woodpiles, spare lumber, vehicles and boats – anything that can act as a large fuel source.



NFPA has many more tips and safety recommendations on its websites, including www.firewise.org.



Wildland Fire Safety

Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. But by working together, residents can make their own property — and their neighborhood — much safer from wildfire.

Action steps for around your home:

- **CLEAR** leaves and other vegetative debris from roofs, gutters, porches and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.
- **REMOVE** dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.
- **SCREEN** in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- **REMOVE** flammable materials (wood piles, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Wildfire can spread to tree tops. **PRUNE** trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- **KEEP** your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. **DISPOSE** of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- **INSPECT** shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair the shingles that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- **COVER** exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- **ENCLOSE** eaves and screen soffit vents using 1/8 mesh metal screening to prevent ember entry.

AND DON'T FORGET...

The more actions a community takes, the more fire adapted it becomes. Learn how you can make a difference in your community. Visit www.fireadapted.org and www.firewise.org for more information.



FACT

- ! There are more than **45 million** homes near or in the wildland.
- ! More than **72,000** U.S. communities are now at risk from wildfire.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169