

30 Days 30 Ways

Family Emergency Preparedness

Wildland Fires

This year's wildfire season was one of the most costly and devastating in history. Creating defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it protects your home from catching fire – either from direct flame contact or radiant heat.

Defensible Space Zones

Two zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space.

Zone 1

Zone 1 extends 30 feet* out from buildings, structures, decks, etc. Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).

Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.

Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.

Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.

Relocate wood piles into Zone 2.
Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.

Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.

Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.



Zone 2

Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.

Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees. (See diagram)

Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram)

Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 3 inches.