

PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRE



GUIDELINES FOR CLEARING
PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTING
PILES FOR CHIPPING OR BURNING

Forestry, Fire
and State Lands



PREPARING YOUR HOME IGNITION ZONE

You can help your home survive wildfire on its own by creating a buffer to slow the spread of fire and limit embers' ability to ignite material.

You can reduce the threat of wildfire igniting your home by considering the 3 parts of your **Home Ignition Zone** (depicted below).

When clearing your property to improve your home ignition zone, consider the following:

- ◆ Remove dead vegetation.
- ◆ Create space between tree canopies. Prioritizing diseased, leaning and small diameter trees to be removed.
- ◆ Limit the ability of fire to climb from the ground to the canopy by removing shrubs and grasses under trees and low-lying limbs.

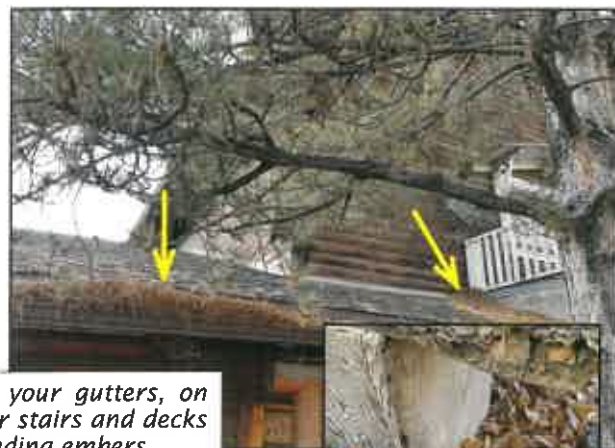
HARDENING YOUR HOME

Limit the ways fire can ignite your house...

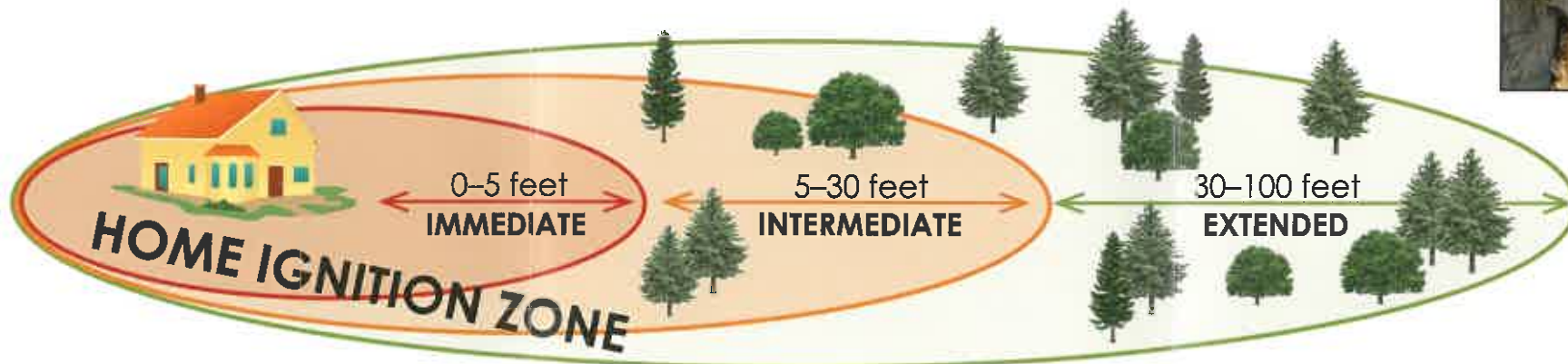
- ◆ Screen vents with 1/8 inch wire mesh.
- ◆ Construct fences with fire resistant material when attached to home.
- ◆ Install double pane, triple pane or tempered glass windows.
- ◆ Build roofs of tile, metal or asphalt. **Do not build with wood shake shingles.**
- ◆ Construct exterior siding with stucco, brick cement board or stone.
- ◆ Remove vegetation/debris from under wood deck, stairs, and eaves and within 25ft of propane tank.



The ability for wildfire to spread is limited when canopies have been separated and branches have been limbed up.



Needles and leaf litter in your gutters, on corners of roofs, and under stairs and decks can be easily ignited by landing embers.



Immediate Zone

- ◆ Keep vegetation to a minimum.
- ◆ Keep any vegetation lean and green.
- ◆ Do not plant under window, vents or decks.
- ◆ Decorative gravel, concrete or stone is recommended.

Intermediate Zone

- ◆ Plant firewise shrubs in small, separated clusters.
- ◆ Keep canopies of trees and shrubs separate.
- ◆ Remove limbs from lowermost 4-6 feet of trees, if recommended.

Extended Zone

- ◆ Remove dead, dry vegetation.
- ◆ Continue to thin trees to separate canopies.
- ◆ Remove lower limbs from trees that are close to one another, if recommended.

CONSTRUCTING PILES FOR CHIPPING

If a chipper program is being offered in your community, please adhere to the following instructions:

Sizing:

- ◆ Limbs should be 1-4 inches in diameter.
- ◆ Limbs should have max. length of 4 feet.

Placement:

- ◆ Place limbs with the larger end facing toward the road, within 5 feet of driveway or roadway.
- ◆ Piles should be less than 4 feet high and only 1 row deep.

Natural vegetation only!

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- ◆ Rock
- ◆ Metal
- ◆ Stumps
- ◆ Brush (rabbitbrush, sagebrush)
- ◆ Roots
- ◆ Dirt (clean piles only!)
- ◆ Lumber



Good example of stacked piles for chipping.

CONSTRUCTING PILES FOR BURNING

If you have been approved for pile burning, consider the following:

Arrangement:

- ◆ Construct pile densely.
- ◆ Appropriate size for a burn pile pictured below.



Placement:

- ◆ Do not place piles under power lines.
- ◆ Burn at least 15 feet from live trees, 50 feet from flammable materials such as propane and fuel storage tanks.

For questions about this information, contact your local Forestry, Fire and State Lands office. Contact will vary by area.