

Following are considerations to keep in mind from FIREWISE for homes and landscaping to reduce Wildfire Risks:

### **HOME:**

General building construction should be made of ignition resistant building materials:

- Roofing Materials:** Composite shingles, metal, cement, or clay tile.
- Siding:** Stucco, masonry products, plaster, or cement.
- Soffit Vents:** Vents on the underside of eaves should have non-combustible mesh or screening.
- Skirting:** Material used around the bottom of homes and underside of decks to reduce exposure.
- Attachments:** Non-combustible materials should be considered for decks, patio covers, trellis', fences, or other attachments to the home.
- Windows:** Should be double versus single pane and metal frames versus plastic.
- Gutters and Downspouts:** Should be metal versus plastic. Both roofs and gutters should be kept free of leaf litter and pine needles.
- Fencing:** Consider non-combustible options.

### **LANDSCAPING:**

#### **IMMEDIATE ZONE: 0 - 5 FEET FROM THE HOME:**

(This area addresses the need to create a combustible-free zone next to the home.)

- Has hardscaping been used around perimeters? Are there concrete, stone, or gravel walkways?
- Have wood mulch products next to the home been replaced with non-combustible alternatives, such as crushed stone or gravel options.
- Are there trees/shrubs directly next to the home? Are there branches overhanging the roof or within 10 feet of the chimney?
- Is there dead vegetation or ground debris near foundations.

**INTERMEDIATE ZONE: 5 - 30 FEET FROM THE HOME:**

(This area uses landscaping and breaks to help influence and decrease fire behavior)

- Are there fuel breaks such as driveways, walkways, patios, or decks?
- Are lawns and native grasses kept to 4 inches or less in height?
- Is vegetation in this zone spread out in smaller clusters to break up continuity? Trees in this zone should have at least 12 feet between crowns.
- Have trees been pruned and ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) been removed so a surface fire cannot reach the crown?
- Are plants, trees, and lawns well-watered and maintained?

**EXTENDED ZONE: 30 – 100 FEET FROM THE HOME:**

(This area focuses on interrupting a fire's path and keeping flames smaller and on the ground.)

- Are storage sheds or other outbuildings in this zone clear of vegetation?
- Have heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris been removed?
- Has dead plant and tree material been removed?
- Do trees 30 – 60 feet from the house have at least 12 feet between canopy tops? Trees located 60 – 100 feet from the house should have at least 6 feet between canopy tops.
- Is the space between mature trees maintained? Have excess ladder fuels been removed?