

MAKING YOUR HOME FIREWISE

Sierra National Forest



DEFENSIBLE SPACE

State regulations now require that you have 100 feet of defensible space surrounding your home. The objective of defensible space is to reduce wildfire threat by changing the characteristics of the vegetation surrounding your home.

FIRE RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS

Attachments include any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches or fences. If an attachment to a home is *not* fire-resistant, then the entire home is *not* firewise. Make sure your chimney opening has a 1/2 inch mesh screen covering it to prevent hot material from escaping.

LANDSCAPING

With firewise landscaping, you can create defensible space around your home that reduces your wildfire threat. Trees should be pruned so that the lowest branches are at least 6 to 10 ft high to prevent a fire on the ground from spreading up to the tree tops. Within the 100' defensible space, remove flammable plants that contain resins, oils and waxes including junipers, cedar, young pine and native brush species. Remember to:

- **Lean** – Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, within 15 feet of your chimney.
- **Clean** – Remove all dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry grass and even stacked firewood. Keep gutters, eaves and roof clear of debris.
- **Green** – Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year. For a list of fire-resistant plant species visit www.firewise.org.

FIRE RESISTANT EXTERIOR

Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco and concrete masonry. Double pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames. Do not stack firewood against the side of your home.

FIRE RESISTANT ROOF

Firewise construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, tile, cement and concrete products. Additionally, the inclusion of a fire resistant sub-roof adds protection. Make sure to remove all dead needles, leaves and debris from your roof.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

Identify your home with a legible and clearly marked street number so emergency vehicles can rapidly find the location of the emergency. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet – to provide access for emergency apparatus.

A DISASTER PLAN

The time to plan for a fire emergency is now. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will need to take.

Remember to:

- Decide where to meet and how you will get there.
- With fire, you may only have a moments notice. Identify escape routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Have fire tools available.
- Maintain an adequate water source.
- Have a plan for your pets.
- Practice family fire drills.

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