

FIREWISE CONSTRUCTION

To create your FIREWISE structure, remember that the primary goals are fuel and exposure reduction.

- ✓ Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible whenever possible.
- ✓ Use shingles such as Class-A asphalt, slate or clay tile, metal, or cement and concrete products for roof construction.
- ✓ Construct a fire-resistant sub-roof for added protection.
- ✓ Use fire resistant materials such as stucco or masonry for exterior walls. These products are much better than vinyl which can soften and melt.
- ✓ Consider both size and materials for windows; smaller panes hold up better in their frames than larger ones; double pane glass and tempered glass are more effective than single pane glass; plastic skylights can melt.
- ✓ Prevent sparks from entering your home through vents, by covering exterior attic and underfloor vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 of an inch.
- ✓ Keep your gutters, eaves and roof clear of leaves and other debris.
- ✓ Clear dead wood and dense vegetation within at least 30 feet from your house, and move firewood away from your house or attachments like fences or decks.

Any structure attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences and sheds should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuses or fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials.

- ✓ If you wish to attach an all-wood fence to your home, use masonry or metal as a protective barrier between the fence and house.
- ✓ Use non-flammable metal when constructing a trellis and cover with high-moisture, fire-resistant vegetation.
- ✓ Prevent combustible materials and debris from accumulating beneath patio deck or elevated porches; screen underneath or box in areas below the deck or porch

www.firewise.org

Would you like some **Free** help to make your home or building **FireWise?**

We can come talk to you and your civic or neighborhood group. We can send you information, answer questions, and help you help yourself and your neighbors be FireWise!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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VISIT THESE HELPFUL WEBSITES:

FireWise
www.firewise.org

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
www.fs.fed.us

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
www.fema.gov

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Are You
FIREWISE
Oklahoma?

FIREWISE LANDSCAPING

To create a landscape that will make your home less vulnerable to wildfire, the primary goal is fuel modification. Think of the area around your home in zones. Zone 1 is closest to the structure, Zone 4 is the farthest away.

- Zone 1** This well-irrigated area encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency. Plants should be limited to carefully spaced fire resistant tree and shrub species.
- Zone 2** Fire resistant plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low-growing, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.
- Zone 3** Place low-growing plants and well-spaced trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of vegetation (fuel) low.
- Zone 4** This furthest zone from the structure is a natural area. Thin selectively here and remove highly flammable vegetation.

Also remember to:

- ✓ Carefully space the trees and shrubs you plant.
- ✓ Take out the "ladder fuels" – vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops. These fuels can carry fire from vegetation to a structure or from a structure to vegetation.

When maintaining a landscape:

- ✓ Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune all trees six to 10 feet from the ground.
- ✓ Water and maintain your lawn regularly.
- ✓ Mow dry grass and weeds.
- ✓ Dispose of cuttings and debris properly.
- ✓ Landscape with less-flammable plants. Contact your local state forester, county extension office or landscape specialist for plant information.

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