

FIRE WISE 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. Ask your contractor or building supply store.
- ✔ 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.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

FireWise Oklahoma
firewise@ag.ok.gov

VISIT THESE HELPFUL WEBSITES:

Oklahoma Forestry Services
Division of Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405.522.6158
www.forestry.ok.gov

Oklahoma FireWise
www.forestry.ok.gov/firewise

FireWise
www.firewise.org

This publication was developed by FireWise, adapted, printed and issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food, & Forestry, Forestry Services, as authorized by Jim Reese, Commissioner. 25,000 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$2,740.00. Copies have been deposited with Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

No person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, natural origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of an applicant or recipient receiving federal financial assistance from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) or any agency thereof.

ARE YOU FIRE WISE OKLAHOMA?



FIRE WISE 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 structures in zones. Zone 1 is closest to the structure, Zone 4 is the farthest away.

- ZONE 1** DISTANCE 0'-30' 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** DISTANCE 30'-80' Fire resistant plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low-growing, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.
- ZONE 3** DISTANCE 80'-100' Place low-growing plants and well-spaced trees in this area, remember to keep volume of vegetation low.
- ZONE 4** DISTANCE 100'+ 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 ten 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.

SURVIVABLE SPACE

Do you have at least 30 ft. of space surrounding your home that is Lean, Clean and Green?

The objective of Survivable Space is to reduce the wildfire threat to your home by changing the characteristics of the flammable vegetation.

LEAN - Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 ft. of your chimney.

CLEAN - Remove all dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry vegetation and even stacked firewood.

GREEN - Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year.

Survivable space provides a safety zone around 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 home as a whole is not firewise.

A DISASTER PLAN

The time to plan for any emergency is prior to the event. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will take.

🔥 Post local emergency telephone numbers in a visible place.

🔥 Have tools available, such as a shovel, rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw.

🔥 Have a plan for your pets.

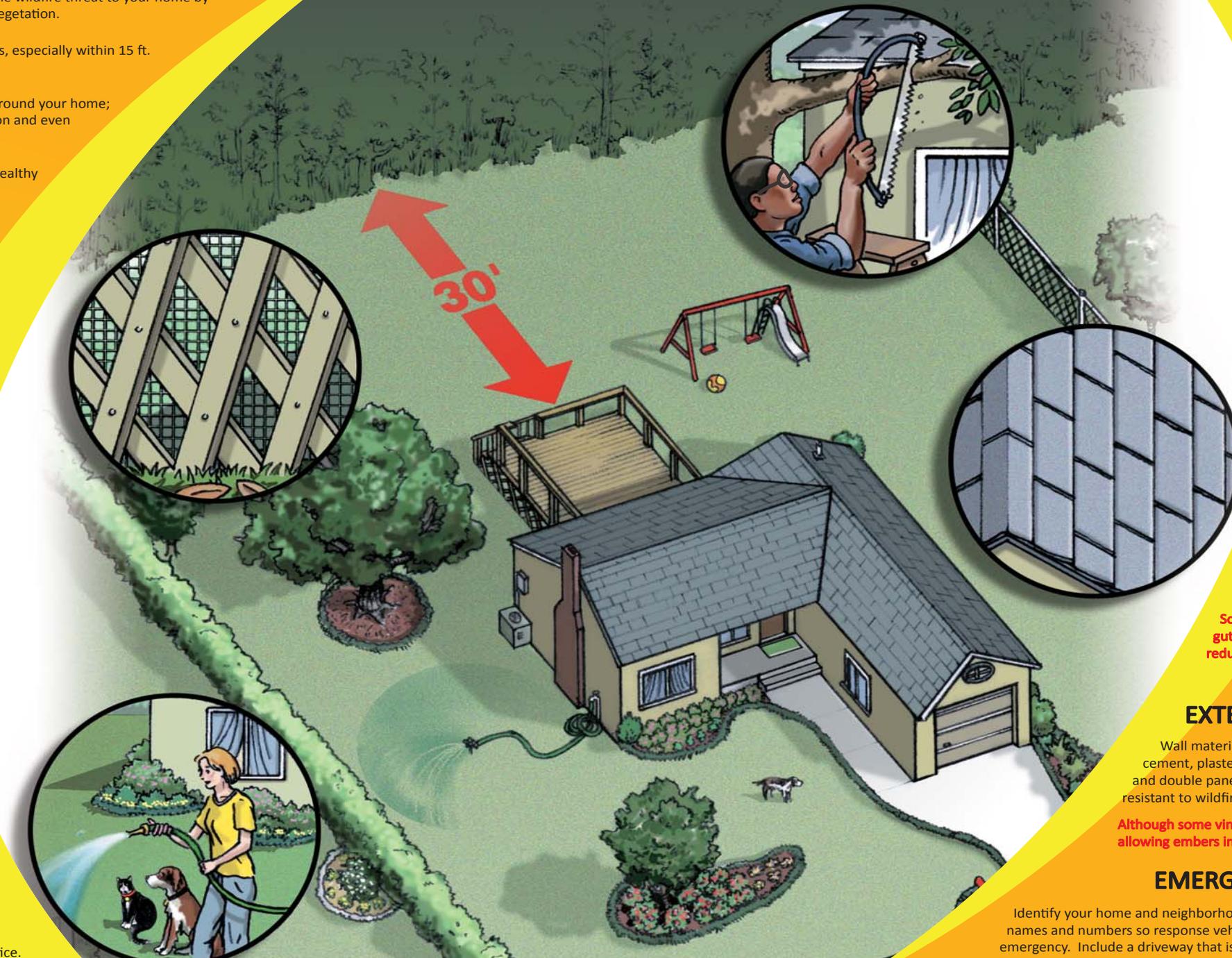
🔥 Leave before it's too late. Decide where you will go and how you will get there. With fire, you may only have a few moments notice. Two escape routes out of your home and out of your neighborhood are preferable.

🔥 Maintain an emergency water source.

🔥 Practice family fire drills.

Evacuations for a wildfire can occur without notice. When wildfire conditions exist, be ready to take action.

A FIREWISE HOME HAS ...



Graphic used by permission from NFPA Firewise Communities Program

LEAN, CLEAN & GREEN LANDSCAPING

With firewise landscaping, you can create survivable space around your home that reduces your wildfire threat. Large 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 to the tree tops. Within the survivable space, remove flammable plants that contain resins, oils and waxes that burn readily: ornamental junipers, yaupon holly, red cedar, and young pine. A list of less flammable plants can be obtained from your local state forester, forestry office, county extension office or landscape specialist.

Although mulch helps retain soil moisture, when dry, it can become flammable. Mulch as well as all landscaping should be kept well watered to prevent it from becoming fire fuel.

FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Firewise construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, tile and concrete products. Additionally, the inclusion of a fire-resistant sub-roof adds protection.

Something as simple as making sure that your gutters, eaves and roof are clear of debris will reduce your fire threat.

FIRE-RESISTANT EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION

Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco and concrete masonry. Tempered and double pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames.

Although some vinyl will not burn, some vinyl soffits can melt, allowing embers into the attic space.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

Identify your home and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers so response vehicles can rapidly find the location of the emergency. Include a driveway that is at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet - to provide access to emergency apparatus.