

# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WILDFIRES?



## DO YOU HAVE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

### ZONE DEFENSE

Create and maintain a defensible space to protect your family, home and property now. Defensible space is a fundamental part of wildfire safety and increases your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It is the a "buffer zone" between any structure on your property and all vegetation that surrounds it. This buffer is needed to help slow or stop the spread of wildfire, and protects your home from direct flames and radiant heat. A properly maintained defensible space gives firefighters a safe area in which to defend your home from a wildfire, providing a decreased opportunity of home damage or destruction.

**Reduce your wildfire risk by following these basic tips on zone defense:**



#### Home Zone: Home + 5 Feet

- Harden your home to wildfire. Use non and low flammable construction materials on roofs, walls, decks etc.
- Clean roofs and gutters - no flammable/dead plants and debris
- Vents & Openings covered with 1/8 - 1/4 inch metal mesh

#### Zone 1: 5-30 Feet- Cleaned, Watered, Limited Plants

- Lawns should be mowed and maintained regularly\*
- Plants: Limited & well-spaced Low Flammable species - Remove all dead vegetation
- No firewood or fuel piles
- Trim low hanging branches - 10 Ft. away from chimney



\*Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation. Sparks from mowing operations, and hot exhaust could contribute to the ignition of a wildfire.

#### Zone 2: 30-100 Feet - Reduce Fuel Area

- Annual grasses cut or mowed to a max of 4 inches
- Create separation between grasses, shrubs and trees to avoid a "ladder fuel" effect.
- Space trees to prevent crowns from touching

### Defensible Space Checklist

- ✓ Clean your roof and gutters of all debris regularly
- ✓ Keep the area (3-5 feet) around your home clear of any flammable vegetation.
- ✓ Keep all grasses cut to a max height of 4 in. within 30 ft. of structures.
- ✓ Trim any tree with branches extending within 10 feet of your home
- ✓ Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet, or 1/3 the height of the tree if the tree is shorter than 15 feet.
- ✓ Screen all attic, roof, soffit and foundation vents with 1/8 metal screening.
- ✓ Properly store all flammable items (propane tanks, gasoline cans, fire wood piles)
- ✓ Combustible outdoor furniture and objects should be kept away from inhabited structures.
- ✓ Garden hoses should be connected to water outlets
- ✓ Emergency Fire Tools should be available (Ladder long enough to reach the roof, shovel, rake and water bucket)
- ✓ Each home should have at least two different entrance and exit routes.

## BE PREPARED! KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE FROM WILDFIRES!