

A DISASTER PLAN

Plan and practice for emergencies before the event. Discuss with your family what actions you will take. With fire, you may only have a moment's notice.

- Post local emergency telephone numbers in a visible place.
- Post directions to your home for emergency calls.
- Leave before it's too late. Decide where you will go and how you will get there. Plan at least two escape routes and meeting locations.
- Have tools available, such as a shovel, rake, axe, handsaw or chain saw.
- Have a plan for your animals.
- Practice family fire drills.

Wildfires can occur without notice; be ready to take action and evacuate.

ASSISTANCE WITH PLANNING

For more help making your home firewise, contact the King County forest and rural stewardship programs at 206-296-6519 or your local fire district.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS

When calling the fire department, speak legibly and use clearly marked street names and house numbers so emergency vehicles can find your home.

Trim vegetation 15 feet above your driveway to allow emergency vehicles unobstructed access.

Alternate formats available

206-296-6600 TTY Relay: 7217

Produced by: WLR Visual Communications and Web Unit

File: 0506_FireWiseBroch.indd lpre,mdev



Use the tips in this brochure to prepare your home and protect your family and animals from wildfires. Firefighters need your help. Beware of accidentally starting a wildfire!

A healthy forest with growing space for trees will be healthier, more drought tolerant and less susceptible to fire.

Wildfires do not respect property boundaries. Share this information with your neighbors and consider creating a neighborhood wildfire prevention and evacuation plan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

King County

- Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES)
www.metrokc.gov/ddes/fire/
- Department of Natural Resources and Parks
www.dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/forestry/index.htm

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Fire Information
www.dnr.wa.gov/fire/index.html

Firewise

www.firewise.org

The Fire Safe Council

www.firesafecouncil.org/



King County

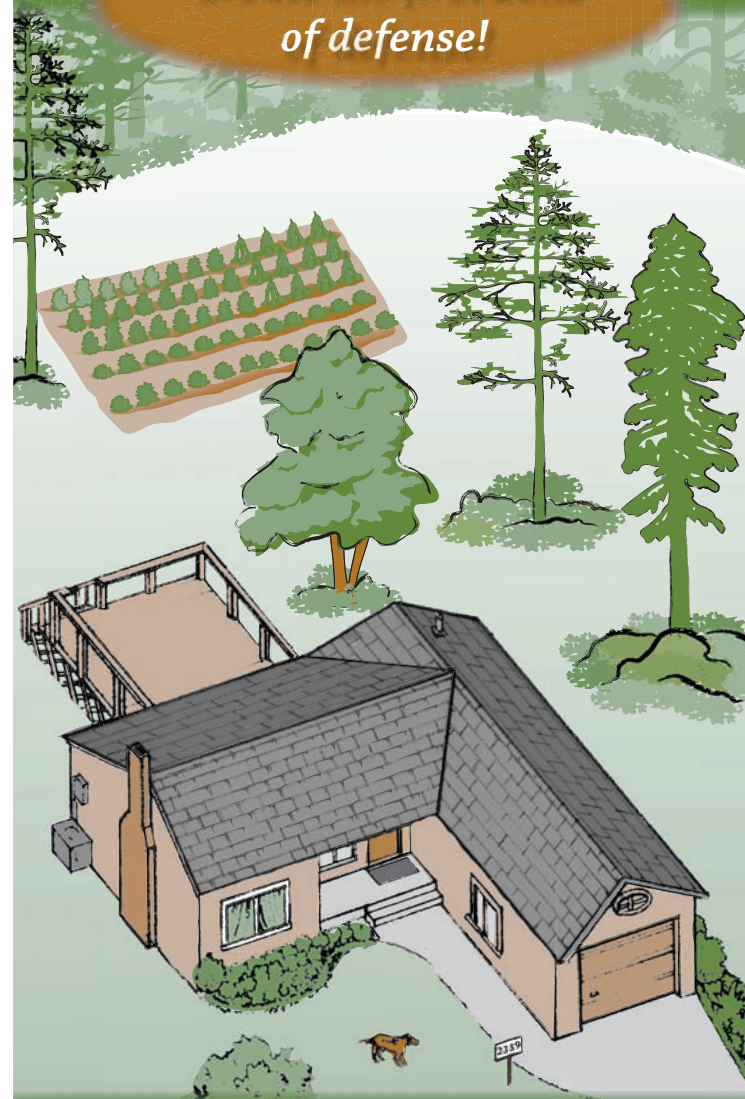
Department of Development and Environmental Services
900 Oakesdale Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98055-1219
206-296-6600 TTY Relay: 7217

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Water and Land Resources Division
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104
206-296-6519 TTY Relay: 711

BE FIREWISE

Create the first zone of defense!



Fire safety tips for rural homeowners



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Department of Development and Environmental Services

See inside for more info about Zone 1

Zone 1 Survivable Space. This area surrounds your home for at least 30 feet, reducing fuels and providing space for fire fighting equipment. Plants should be carefully spaced and fire resistant.

Zone 2 In the next 20 feet keep trees 10 feet apart. For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within 10 feet of the ground.

Zone 3 In the next 50 feet thin trees to a spacing that leaves plenty of room for canopy growth. Remove highly flammable vegetation such as dead or dying trees and shrubs.

Zone 4 This zone is furthest from structures. Thin selectively to maintain healthy tree growth.

NOTE: Clearing work may require a permit from the King County Department of Development of Environmental Services (DDES). Contact DDES Site Development Services at 206-296-6759.



**FIRE-RESISTANT
LEAN, CLEAN AND GREEN
LANDSCAPING**

SURVIVABLE SPACE

Maintain a **LEAN, CLEAN and GREEN** safety zone of wildfire defense 30 feet around your home.

Reduce the wildfire threat to your home by managing flammable vegetation.

LEAN

- Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 feet of your chimney.
- Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune trees 6 to 10 feet from the ground while keeping live tree canopy at least 1/3 of total height of the tree.

CLEAN

- Remove all dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry vegetation and even stacked firewood.
- Take out "ladder fuels," vegetation between grass and tree tops. These fuels can carry fire between foliage and structures.
- Maintain your lawn. If brown, mow to 2 inches high. Mow dry grass and weeds.
- Remove dead or dying plant material. Mulch plant material away from structures. Dispose of cuttings and debris by recycling. For recycling locations see www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/wdidw/material.asp.
- Remove flammable plants that contain resins, oils and waxes: ornamental junipers, yaupon holly, red cedar, and young pine. For plant recommendations go to dnr.metrokc.gov/topics/forestry/FORtopic.htm.
- Keep potentially flammable (dry) mulch and landscaping well away from structures. Use a 3-foot wide swathe of crushed rock, gravel or other non-combustible materials around structures.

GREEN

- Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year.
- Space the trees and shrubs you plant in small groupings or individually and leave enough room between them to reduce spread of fire.
- Use native plants; they are adapted to our area and usually remain healthier and are often more fire resistant. For more information visit "Going Native" at dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/PI/Go-Native/ or the King County Forestry Program Web site at dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/forestry/index.htm.

ZONE 1: A FIREWISE HOME HAS SURVIVABLE SPACE FOR AT LEAST 30 FEET



**FIRE - RESISTANT
CONSTRUCTION**

To create your firewise structure, reduce fuel and exposure to your home.

FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Fire-resistant roof construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, tile, slate and concrete products.

- Construct a fire resistant sub-roof for added protection.
- Keep your gutters, eaves and roof clear of leaves and other debris.

FIRE-RESISTANT EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION

- Use construction materials that are fire resistant or non-combustible when possible.
- Use exterior wall materials that resist heat and flames.
- Consider window size and materials. Smaller panes hold up better than larger ones; double pane and tempered glass are more effective against fire than single pane glass; and plastic skylights can melt.
- Cover exterior attic and under floor vents with wire mesh to prevent sparks from entering your home through vents. Use 1/8 inch mesh or smaller.

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

FIRE-RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS

Attachments are structures connected to your home, such as decks, porches or fences. If an attachment to a home is not fire resistant, then your home is not firewise.

- If you are attaching a wood fence to your house, use masonry or metal as a protective barrier between fence and house.
- Use non-flammable metal when constructing a trellis and cover with high-moisture, fire resistant vegetation.
- Don't let combustible materials and debris accumulate under patio decks or porches. Screen areas below the deck or porch with 1/8 inch wire mesh.