

Dealing with Vegetation and Combustible Materials

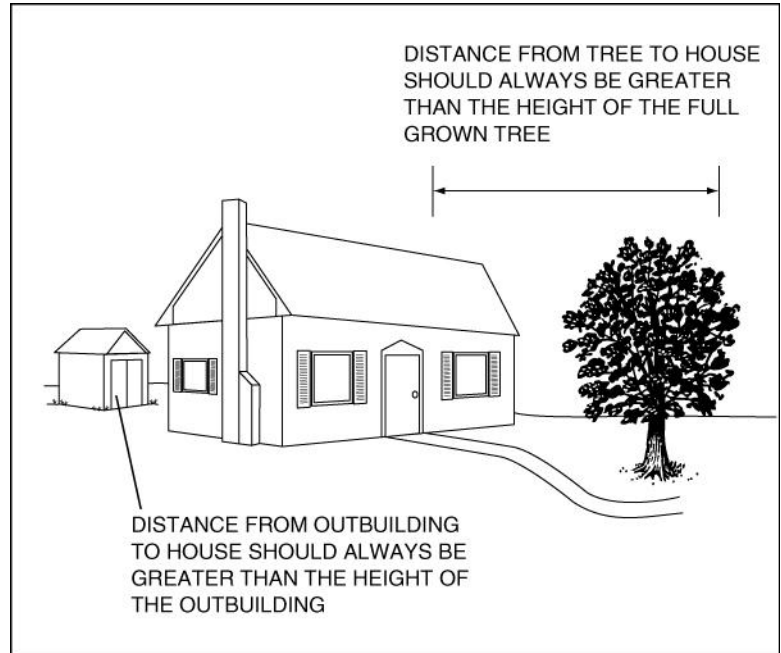


FEMA

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY FROM FIRE

If the area immediately surrounding your property contains yard debris, trees, shrubs, other vegetation or materials that burn easily, your property will be at an increased risk of damage during wildfires and forest fires. These combustible materials provide a path by which fire from nearby areas can reach your property.

As shown in the figure, keep clear the area around your property. Shrubs, brush, woodpiles, and combustible debris located within a radius of 30 feet should be removed. The distance between your property and any nearby tree should always be greater than the height of the mature tree or at least 10 feet. Similarly, any outbuildings, such as storage sheds, should be at least as far away as their height.



BENEFITS OF UTILIZING THIS MITIGATION STRATEGY

- Helps to prevent damage to structures and vegetation due to fire
- Helps to prevent injuries to occupants

TIPS

Keep these points in mind when you remove vegetation and other combustible materials:

- ✓ Removing large trees near your property can be very dangerous, for both you and your property. Tree removal is a job for a skilled contractor.
- ✓ Rather than plant shrubs near your property, consider landscaping alternatives such as creating a rock garden.

ESTIMATED COST

If you hire a contractor to remove a large tree, you can expect to pay about \$1,000 to \$1,500. The charge for removing smaller trees and shrubs would be less.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), <http://www.flash.org>.

Firewise Communities, <http://www.firewise.org>.

"Five Hot Tips for Homeowners on the Edge," by Herbert McLean, in *American Forest*, vol. 99, no. 5-6. May-June 1993, http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1016_v99/ai_14177979.

Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), <http://www.disastersafety.org>.

Interagency Wildfire Mitigation Program, Rocky Mountain Wildland Fire Information, Colorado State Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, and supporting partners, <http://rockymountainwildlandfire.info/firewise/index.htm>.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), <http://www.nfpa.org>.