



Could Your Home Survive A Wildfire?

There are a number of steps that a homeowner can take to increase the chances of a home surviving a wildfire. Several items are for consideration prior to construction of a home but most apply to an existing home.

- Locate house on the most level area of the parcel of land
- Roof and siding products should be made of fire resistant materials
- Screen chimney and stovepipes. Check screens and clean pipes regularly
- Remove overhanging tree limbs, moss, and needles from the roof and gutter areas
- Remove highly flammable plants from around the house, especially on the side most exposed to prevailing winds, and on the downhill slope
- Keeping a large green lawn close to the home is ideal for defense against fire spreading to a home
- Keep storage areas clean and tidy
- Store flammable liquids in approved containers
- Stack firewood away from the house

Firewise landscaping can create a line of defense against the threat of wildfire by creating a safety zone or “survivable space” around your home. The goal is to break the chain of flammable fuel between your home and the wild land. You can landscape for fire protection while maintaining a natural look to the surroundings. Work with plants native to the site, using the patterns found in nature. Some plants are more fire-resistant than others. Use these considerations when choosing plants and trees for your yard:

- Group plants with similar water needs, and space them in your landscape to create a “fuel mosaic” that will conserve water and protect against “fire ladder.” (A fire ladder is created when plants are arranged next to each other in a way that allows flames to move from the ground up into taller vegetation when it is more difficult to stop.)
- Once a fire wise landscape has been installed, it must be regularly watered and maintained to preserve its fire resistance

For additional information, contact your local fire protection agency or visit www.or.blm.gov/nwfire.

I'm concerned about WILDFIRE!