



## **Wildfire Home Ignition Zoning and Firewise Principles**

Home ignition zone is defined as the home and its immediate surroundings up to 100 feet.

### **Home Zone – the home itself and within 5 feet of the foundation**

- Protect your home against wildfire. This includes fences, decks, porches and other attachments. From a fire behavior point of view, if it's attached to the house, it is part of the house. Non-flammable or low flammable construction material – especially for roofs, siding, and windows – are recommended for new homes or when doing upgrades. Keep any flammables, including plantings, debris and mulch, out of the area within 5 feet of the home's foundation as well as off the roof, eave lines, gutters and deck or porch surfaces. Ensure vents and other openings are screened (1/8 or smaller hardware cloth) or otherwise protected from ember penetration

### **5 – 30 foot zone**

- Should be well-irrigated around the home. Lawns should be well maintained and mowed, 6 inches or less in height. Plantings should be limited to carefully-spaced low flammability species, and consider hardscaping using rocks, gravel or stone instead of mulch (deco bark). Keep firewood piles or other flammable materials out of this zone. Conifer trees should be spaced at least 10 feet apart, limb to limb. Limbs should be pruned 6 to 10 feet from surface. A 3 foot diameter clearing at the base of the tree should be grass and debris free, consider hardscaping.

### **30 – 100 foot zone**

- Low flammability plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low growing and the irrigation system should extend to this zone. Create separation between between grasses, shrubs and trees, to avoid a "fuel ladder" effect where fire can climb into taller vegetation. Trees should be spaced to prevent crowns from touching.

### **100 + foot zone**

- Place low-growing plants and well spaced trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of vegetation (fuel) low. If this zone overlaps your neighbors property or includes commonly owned property, including natural and wooded areas, work with your community and neighbors to achieve greater wildfire safety.

## Community Firewise Principles

- Ensure homes and neighborhoods have legible/clearly marked street names and numbers
- Know "two ways out" of the neighborhood for safe evacuation during a wildfire. Refer to the evacuation route map provided by Eagle River Fire Protection District.
- Sign up for emergency notifications – [www.ECAAlert.org](http://www.ECAAlert.org)
- Participate in "Ready, Set, Go" program. Know what to do in case of an evacuation.
- Have an evacuation plan for your pets. There is a separate checklist available.
- Make sure your home insurance is up to date and meets today's rebuilding costs. Talk to a local builder.
- Have a communication plan with your family in case you are separated during an evacuation.

## Community Triage Assessment

We conducted home triage assessments in Homestead in 2015. You would have received a door hanger with a hazard rating, contact and evacuation information. Below are the definitions related to each hazard rating:

**Low Risk** – Structure is considered ‘Stand Alone’ little or no preparation needs to be done.

**Moderate Risk** – Defend with aggressive tactics if resources are available. Some preparation needed.

**High Risk** – Firefighters will defend with caution based on fire behavior, amount of preparation needed and available resources.

**Extreme Risk** – Cannot safely defend and/or cannot change risk with preparation work that is needed.

Eagle River Fire Protection District offers free personalized wildland fire home assessments that include a multi-page report. If you wish to schedule an assessment, please give us a call.

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