

Make Home Ignition Zone Maintenance a Priority

WHY?

The home ignition zone requires regular, ongoing maintenance to be effective. Your home is located in a dynamic environment — trees, grasses and shrubs continue to grow, die and drop leaves each season, and there are ongoing maintenance needs on any structures on your property.

HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRE WITH THESE STEPS

TOP PRIORITIES

- CLEAR** roof, deck and gutters of pine needles and other debris.*
- MOW** grass and weeds to a height of 4 inches or less.*
- RAKE AND REMOVE** all pine needles and other flammable debris from 5 feet around the foundation of your home and deck.*
- TREAT** or mow shrubs that re-sprout aggressively (such as Gambel oak) every 3-5 years or more depending on growth rates.
- REMOVE** branches that hang over the roof and chimney.
- DISPOSE** of slash from thinning trees and shrubs by chipping, hauling to a disposal site or piling in open areas for burning later. *Any accumulation of slash that's chipped or otherwise should be 30 feet or more from the home.**
- AVOID** creating continuous areas of wood chips on the ground when chipping logs and/or slash. Break up the layer of wood chips by adding nonflammable material, or allow for wide gaps of at least 3 feet between chip accumulations.

* Address as needed, more than once a year.

FIREWOOD

- Keep firewood stacked uphill from (or at the same elevation as) any structures, and keep the woodpile at least 30 feet away from the home.
- Do not stack firewood between remaining trees, underneath the deck or on the deck.
- Remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.

PROPANE TANKS

- Keep aboveground tanks at least 30 feet from the home, preferably on the same elevation as the house.
- Remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of all propane tanks and gas meters.

DRIVEWAYS

- Maintain at least 10 feet between tree crowns, thinning them a minimum of 30 feet back from each side of the driveway from the house to the main access road.
- Remove ladder fuels beneath trees after thinning.
- Remove any shrubs that are within 10 feet of the outer edge of tree crowns.
- Space shrubs apart at least 2 ½ times their mature height, as measured from the edge of the shrubs.
- Post signs at the end of the driveway with your house number that are noncombustible, reflective and easily visible to emergency responders.

SOLUTIONS FOR MANAGING SLASH

- 1** Spread slash and wood chips over a large area to avoid heavy accumulations and large piles. Being close to the ground will help speed decomposition.
- 2** Burn slash piles, but before doing so, always contact your county sheriff's office or local fire department for current information or possible restrictions.
- 3** Lop and scatter slash by cutting it into small pieces (less than 24 inches long) and spreading it over a wide area, to a depth not exceeding 18 inches. Don't scatter material over 4 inches in diameter.