

Landscaping Fire Safety

Helpful landscaping tips:

- Select plants that are:
 - drought tolerant
 - high in moisture content
 - easily pruned and maintained
- Select trees such as oaks and maples that have open branching, which can help retard fire spread.
- Plant small trees and shrubs away from larger trees to avoid creating a ladder of vegetation that could lead a ground fire up into the tree crowns.
- Plant the right tree in the right place. Avoid planting potentially large trees and shrubs under utility lines.
- Avoid planting vegetation with high oil and resin content, such as pines, cedars and junipers. These types of plants burn quickly and can greatly increase the rate of fire spread.
- Restrict the use of flowerbeds and shrubbery against your house. Nonflammable mulches such as rock or crushed brick are preferred.



Should a wildfire occur, will your home burn to the ground like the home on the left or have a greater chance to survive, like the home on the right, because of its survivable space?



Clean gutters frequently.

Space trees 10-15 feet apart.



Remove limbs to a minimum 5 feet high off the ground.

Keep shrubs pruned and leave space between them as a natural break.

Connect a garden hose long enough to reach around the house.



Clean all debris off of the roof.

Install chimney screens and spark arresters.

Keep lawns mowed to a height of two inches or less.



Store firewood at least 30 feet upslope away from home and deck.



Rake and dispose of leaves, branches and other debris.



Do NOT allow vegetation to grow or collect under deck; enclose with a screen or hardware cloth.

Deck

Consider planting small shrubs with high moisture content.

Maintain at least 30 feet of survivable space between your home and surrounding wildland.