

TENNESSEE

FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

The time to plan for a fire emergency is now. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will need to take if a fire occurs.

DISASTER PLAN

- **Emergency Access**
Identify your home and neighborhood with clearly marked reflective numbers and street names so that first responders can quickly locate the emergency.
- **Access**
Your driveway should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet to allow emergency vehicle access.
- **Contact**
Post the phone number to the local fire department in an obvious location.
- **Evacuation**
If you must evacuate, decide where you will go and how you will get there. Two escape routes out of your home and neighborhood are recommended.
- **Tools**
Keep a shovel, rake, axe, handsaw, and a 2-gallon bucket readily available.
- **Pets**
Have a plan for your pets in case of emergency. A leash and/or crate should be easily accessed if evacuation is required.
- **Practice**
Practice family fire drills to prepare for a fire emergency.

Visit www.wildlandfirersg.org for additional emergency planning tips.



Department of
Agriculture

Forestry

Contact your local division office for more information on the programs and services offered by the
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Division of Forestry
615-837-5520
BurnSafe.TN@tn.gov
www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests



www.tnwildlandfire.gov



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Protect Your Home from Wildfire



Evacuations for a wildfire can occur without notice. When wildfire conditions exist, **BE ALERT!**

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Areas where homes meet the wildlands are called the wildland/urban interface. A home in a woodland setting is surrounded by flammable forest fuels. You can help minimize a fire threat to your home and family by following a few safety tips to make your home **ignition resistant**.

An Ignition Resistant home has:

- **Defensible Space**

Do you have at least 30 feet of space surrounding your home that is **Lean**, **Green** and **Clean**?

The objective of Defensible Space is to reduce the wildfire threat to your home by changing the characteristics of the surrounding vegetation.

- **Lean** – Reduce volume and continuity of vegetation around your home. Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 feet of your chimney.
- **Clean** – Remove all dead plant material around your home, including dead leaves, dry grass, and stacked firewood.
- **Green** – Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green for most of the year.

Defensible space allows firefighters room to put out fires.

- **Ignition Resistant Exterior Walls**

Materials that can resist heat and flames include cement, plaster, stucco, and concrete masonry. Double pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames.

Although some vinyl will not burn, vinyl siding and soffits can melt, allowing embers into the attic and walls.

- **Ignition Resistant Roof Construction**

Ignition resistant roofing materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, cement, and concrete products. A fire-resistant sub-roof adds protection.

- **Ignition Resistant Attachments**

Attachments include any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches, or fences. If an attachment to a home is not fire-resistant, then the home as a whole is not ignition resistant.

- **Ignition Resistant Landscaping**

Trees should be pruned so that the lowest branches are at least 6 feet high to prevent a fire on the ground from spreading up to the tree tops. Within the defensible space, remove or thin flammable plants that contain resins, oils, and waxes that burn readily, such as eastern red cedar, pine, and rhododendron.

Although mulch helps retain soil moisture, when it is dry it will become flammable. Consider using alternative ground covers such as rock or pea gravel.

Home Ignition Zone

- Ignition resistant exterior construction
- Ignition resistant roof
- Double pane glass windows
- Ignition resistant attachments
- Ignition resistant landscaping
- 30 feet (minimum) defensible space surrounding your home
- Nothing burnable within 5 feet of your home
- Stack firewood away from home
- Prune branches to 6 feet above the ground

