



FACT Sheet

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Yes, Homes CAN Survive Wildfires

Wildland fire is a natural process, and is necessary for the survival of many plants and animals. But no one wants to see homes lost to fire. If you live near wildlands or have recently experienced extremely dry conditions, your home may be at risk. Unfortunately, once a wildfire starts, firefighters may not have the time or resources to protect every home in its path. However, **you** can take action to protect your home *before* a fire starts.

The National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program's Firewise Communities team recommends you improve your "home ignition zone"—the house and surrounding area within 100 to 200 feet. Following are steps you can take to reduce a home's vulnerability:

- Use non-combustible construction materials, such as stucco, brick, and **cement siding**.
- Consider using Class-A asphalt roof shingles, clay tile, or slate roofing materials.
- Prune all trees so the lowest limbs are six to 10 feet from the ground and remove dead or overhanging branches.
- Within five feet of the home, use nonflammable landscaping materials, such as rock, pavers, annuals, and high-moisture-content perennials.
- Select low-growing plants with high moisture content that are free of resins, oils, or waxes that burn easily.
- Remove leaves and pine needles from gutters and around your home and attachments, such as decks and fences.
- Allow 30 feet between tops of trees to reduce the risk of crown fire.

Detailed landscape techniques and building construction choices are online at www.firewise.org. Contact your fire department or state forestry office for specific local fire information. Contact a landscape specialist for low-flammability plants for your area.

There are no guarantees that a home will be fire**proof**. But if you take action to be fire**wise**, you can greatly increase the chances that your home will withstand a wildfire.

The national Firewise Communities program is an interagency program sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team, a consortium of wildland fire agencies that includes the USDA Forest Service, Department of the Interior, Federal Emergency Management Agency, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Emergency Management Association, US Fire Administration, National Association of State Fire Marshals, National Fire Protection Association and state forestry organizations. For more information, visit www.firewise.org.