

Lean, Green and Clean

Lean: Prune your shrubs and maintain shelterbelts. Disking between rows to reduce flashy fuels, such as cured grasses, may help a shelterbelt survive a wildfire event and reduce intensity near structures. Create adequate conifer canopy spacing to reduce the risk of sustained crown fire.

Green: Plant fire-resistive vegetation that is healthy and green for most of the year. Then make sure you keep it adequately watered.

Clean: Remove all dead plant material, including cured grasses, sticks, leaves and other combustible material from your 30 foot defensible space. Remember, Firewise practices can interrupt the spread of fire and will help to protect your home from initial ignition during a wildfire event.



Strategies To Reduce Wildfire Threat

1. **Defensible Space:** 30-200 feet around the structure. Remove dead vegetation and implement barriers such as rock walls, gravel and fireguards. Provide separation for shrubs and trees to breakup the fuel continuity, and also plant fire-resistant vegetation such as Lily, Iris, Cottonwood, Oak, Aspen or Birch trees. Homeowners should also maintain an irrigated yard or cut grass short.
2. **Roof:** Fire-resistant. Asphalt or metal roof coverings are important.
3. **Walls/Windows:** Fire resistant materials are key, no vinyl recommended.
4. **Homes:** Noncombustible skirting is important, no vinyl recommended.
5. **Inside the Home:** Smoke alarms and Fire Extinguishers.
6. **Water Supply:** Within 1,000 feet of your home.

What Parts of the Home Ignite First?

- **Roofs** – flammable roof coverings, and debris in gutters.
- **Eaves / Soffits** – burning embers enter the attic through open soffits, screen all openings with 1/8 inch metal screen.
- **Windows** – transmit heat and break under heat stress, use tempered or double-pane windows.
- **Other flammable objects exposed to heat source** – wooden decks, fences, combustible wall cladding.

FALL RIVER COUNTY Community Wildfire Protection Plan



Being Better Prepared To Live With Fire



www.firewise.org

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Proactive community planning, using Firewise choices to preserve life and property, utilizing firebreaks, updating fire suppression apparatus and utilizing public education we can decrease the potential risk from wildfire.



Why Should You Be Worried About Wildfire?

- Fire is a natural part of our environment. South Dakota was burning long before European settlement.
- Structures need to be maintained so they are more resistant to initial ignition and provide adequate survivable space.
- Fireguards, or fuel breaks, should be used to interrupt or provide opportunities to stop the spread of wildfire. These treatments should take place at the start of fire season and be maintained throughout the season.
- Today's wildfires can burn intensely and be very difficult to control, as we witnessed with the Alabaugh Fire.

- Catastrophic wildfire events will contribute to the following:
 - Greater loss of life
 - Increased property losses
 - More damage to natural resources
 - More money spent on fire fighting

How Fires Occur

- **FUEL**- is required for any fire to burn and includes anything that is combustible and available to burn, including-trees, shrubs, grass, homes, fences, sheds, and other vegetation and structures. Fine fuels, such as dead grass, leaves and pine needles, spread fire faster than coarse fuels, such as branches and larger timber litter.
 - **Surface fuels** – Any grass, shrubs, pine needles, dead branches and timber litter.
 - **Ladder fuels** – Tall brush, low branches and other fuels that can carry fire from a ground fire up into the canopy of the vegetation.
 - **Crown fuels** – Flammable tops of trees and other vegetation.

The amount, size, moisture content, arrangement of fuels, and other characteristics influence ease of ignition, rate of spread, length of flames produced, fire intensity and other fire behavior.

- **WEATHER**- Dry, hot and windy weather increases the severity of a wildfire.



These conditions make any ignition more severe by allowing fuels to burn more rapidly and increase fire intensity. A burning ember from a wildfire can travel a long distance in windy conditions and ignite a spot fire.

- **TOPOGRAPHY**- Greatly influences fire behavior. Steep slopes and narrow canyons can create a "chimney" effect and may increase fire intensity.
- **THE HOME IGNITION ZONE**- The condition of the 30-200 feet that makes up the survivable space around structures has a large impact of the probability of a structure surviving. The use of Firewise building materials and fire resistive landscaping practices greatly increases a structures chance of survival.



Protecting lives, property, resources and critical infrastructure is the primary concern for mitigating the threat from wildfire. For more information please contact your local fire department.