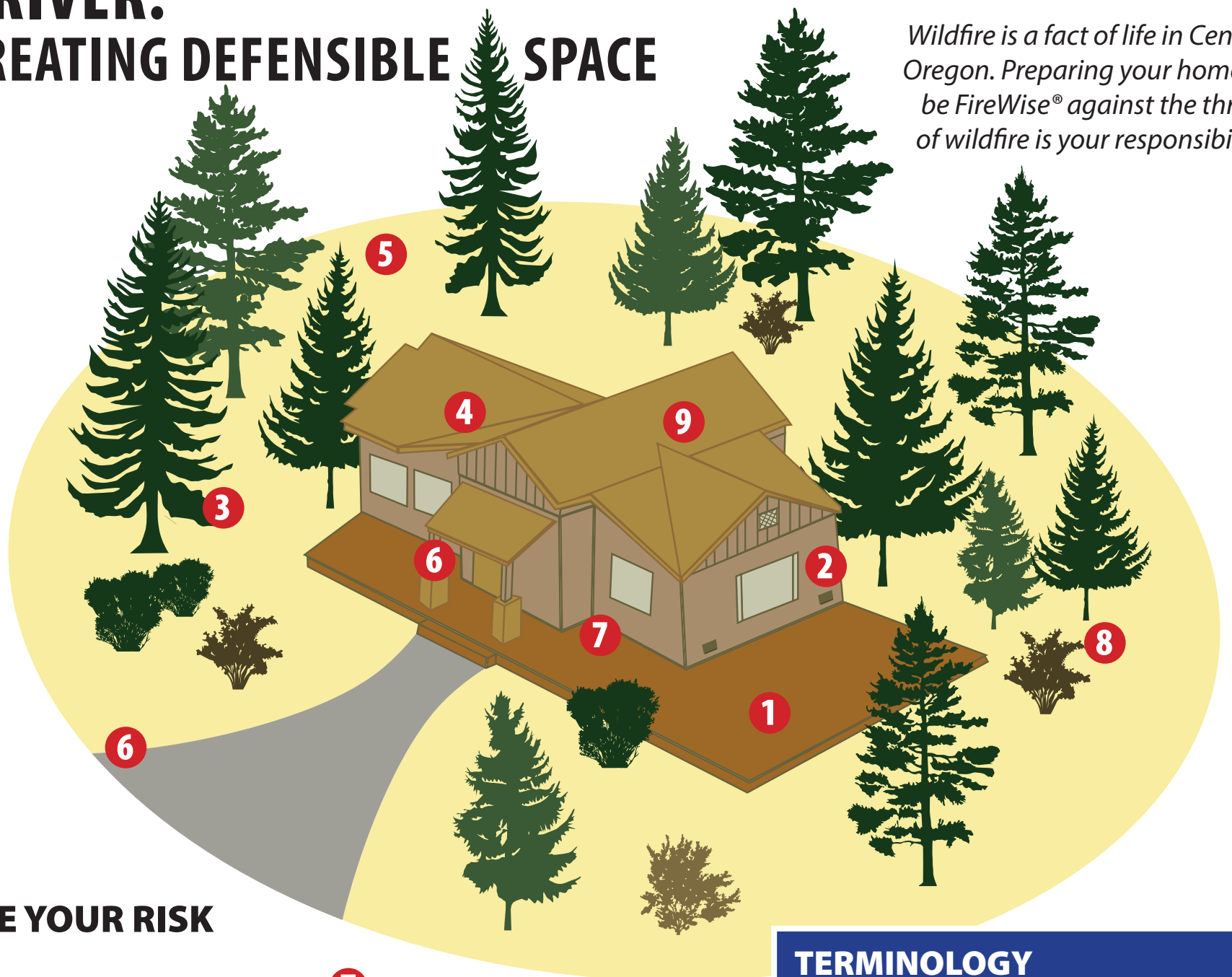


# SUNRIVER: CREATING DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Wildfire is a fact of life in Central Oregon. Preparing your home to be FireWise® against the threat of wildfire is your responsibility.



## REDUCE YOUR RISK

- 1** Practice good outdoor house-keeping. When not in use, do not leave cushions on patio furniture. Door mats and brooms left outside are also fuel sources.
- 2** Foundation, soffit and attic vents should be screened with metal mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering.
- 3** Remove low hanging branches to reduce ladder fuels. Prune branches to at least 15 feet from the chimney; 5 feet from the roof or wall.
- 4** Keep needles and leaves from collecting on the roof and gutters.
- 5** Move wood piles to your farthest property line. Do not store wood on or under decks or next to the house.
- 6** Make sure your address is visible and in a contrasting color to increase visibility by emergency responders.
- 7** Remove flammable fuels from around the outside walls of your home (mulch, grass, leaves, pine needles, etc.). These materials may also pile up from the wind under decks, near doorways and must be regularly removed.

## TERMINOLOGY

**DEFENSIBLE SPACE:** Is a fire resistant area surrounding your home where potential fuels are reduced and/or spaced apart to slow the spread of wildfire.

**FUELS:** Any combustible materials of your home, trees and vegetation.

**LADDER FUELS:** Anything flammable that can create a "ladder" to ignite other materials.

**FIRE RESISTANT PLANTS:** Those that do not readily ignite from a fire or ignition source.

- 8** Space out plantings to create breaks and slow the spread of fire.
- 9** Your chimney is required to have a spark arrestor.

## DEFENSIBLE FACTS

- Most homes are lost as a result of ember showers that deposit "fire brands" on vulnerable areas such as roof valleys, gutters, woodpiles and decks. Embers can smolder and ignite pine needles, leaves and even outdoor furniture cushions.
- Trees and shrubs CAN be part of a fire-resistant landscape as long as they are maintained. Defensible space does not mean clear cutting or a moonscape devoid of vegetation.
- Due to its flammable nature – juniper, bitterbrush and manzanita should not be within 15 feet of any structure or within three feet of tree branch drip lines.



**FIREWISE USA™**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

FireWise is a nationwide program providing education and guidelines to communities across the U.S. on how to harden their home and property against wildfire. One size does not fit all and communities are encouraged to tailor the FireWise program and principles to their own community's specific needs.