

Ladder Fuel Reduction Lot with Home Evaluation

Fire Wise Evaluation form for Urban interface properties located in areas classified "High"

Date: ____/____/____

Evaluated by: _____

(Initials)

Owner Name:

Address:

Phone #: ()

Lot No.

Checking "Y" means "YES", the standard or step has been met or satisfied. Checking "N" is equivalent to "NO," meaning the step or standard has not been met or satisfied. Checking "N/A" means the step or standard does not apply to the property or situation.

| LOT FUELS | | | YES | NO | N/A |
|--|--|--|-----|----|-----|
| 1. Trees and Shrubs | | | | | |
| 1.a Are trees and shrubs basically free of dead plant material? | | | | | |
| 1.b Are trees and shrubs on property maintained in a green and healthy condition? | | | | | |
| 1.c Have trees and shrubs been thinned to discourage transfer of fire from plant-to-plant? | | | | | |
| 1.d Have trees branches been trimmed up so they are not resting on the ground? | | | | | |
| 1.e Have Ponderosa and other appropriate trees been trimmed up 6 - 10 feet from the ground? | | | | | |
| 1.f Are tree branches and plants removed within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe? | | | | | |
| 1.g Have Bitterbrush and other flammable materials been removed from under trees and shrubs? | | | | | |
| 1.h Are mugo pines been cleared of needles and leaves? | | | | | |
| 1.i Have all ladder fuels been removed? | | | | | |
| 2. Ground Cover | | | | | |
| 2.a Is the property substantially composed of non-flammable ground cover? | | | | | |
| 2.b If dry grass is present, has it been mowed to a height of four (4) inches or less? | | | | | |
| 2.c Have continuous beds of fire fuel been eliminated? | | | | | |
| 3. Roofs, Decks, and Siding | | | | | |
| 3.a Have needles and leaves been removed from gutters and roof? | | | | | |
| 3.b Have needles and leaves been removed from decks, porches and utility enclosures? | | | | | |
| 3.c Is the area beneath the deck substantially free of needles and leaves? | | | | | |
| 3.d Is the area beneath the deck free of stored flammables? (e.g. cushions, firewood, etc) | | | | | |
| 3.e Has firewood present on the property been screened? | | | | | |
| 3.f Do the attic and foundation vents have wire mesh coverings? (1/8 inch preferred) | | | | | |

(Please read the other side of this form for basic Firewise information & recommendations)

Comments:

Firewise Lot with Home Recommendations/Descriptions

Wildfire doesn't have to burn everything in its path. In fact, clearing your property of debris and maintaining your landscaping are important first steps that help minimize potential damage and loss. The work you do today can make a difference. Follow these simple action recommendations now and throughout the year to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire.

What is fuel?

Fuel is anything that can burn. Needles, leaves, dry grass, dead branches and firewood are common fuels. Fuel reduction means to lessen the amount of fuel available to a fire, to increase the distance between fuels, and to isolate fuels so fire can't get to them. Ladder fuel is living or dead vegetation that allows a fire to climb up from the landscape or ground into the tree canopy.

Is it necessary to cut down a lot of trees?

Trees can protect a home from a wildfire's radiant embers. It may be necessary to thin some trees to reduce the volume of fuel on a property, but it is generally wise to leave the oldest trees, if they are healthy. Tall trees with split or co-dominant tops weaken the tree at the split and can be dangerous in a high wind or fire. They should be removed.

Trees & Shrubs:

Trees and shrubs should be maintained in a green condition and kept free from dead plant material, especially near your home. Trees and shrubs should also be thinned to discourage transfer of fire from plant to plant. It is strongly recommended that branches of trees that are resting on the ground be trimmed up so embers landing on the ground cannot quickly ignite the tree (at least 1 row of branches up). Some types of pine tree branches should be trimmed up 6-10 feet. It is recommended that branches overhanging a house be trimmed back so that they are not within 10 feet of a fireplace. Keep your trees healthy and trimmed away from a neighbor's house.

Bitterbrush should be thinned with dead patches cut out, and they should be removed from under trees. These plants are highly flammable and can burn 2-3 times their height. It is also recommended that mugo pines be removed from under trees and from near your home. They are also highly flammable and can burn 3-4 times their height. Their dead needles usually collect underneath and contribute to this plant's high flammability. The dead needles should be removed throughout the fire season and the plant should be kept hydrated.

Ground Cover:

It is recommended that you look at your property and determine if continuous beds of fire fuel have been eliminated. Is the area substantially composed of nonflammable ground cover? Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire. Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly. If dry grass is present, recommend keeping it mowed to a height of 4" or less.

Roofs, Decks, and Siding:

Pine needles, dead leaves and other debris should be removed from roof, gutters, eaves, porches, and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home. Regularly inspect shingles and roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Enclose or screen any open areas below patios and decks with 1/8" wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating. Cover exterior attic and foundation vents with 1/8" wire mesh to prevent sparks from entering the home. Remove anything flammable stored under your decks and porches.

During fire season, it is recommended that you store your firewood in a fully enclosed area to prevent it from being ignited by embers landing on top or at the base of the pile.

If a fire is imminent and you have time, it is recommended that you remove flammable materials from your decks, patios, porches, storage areas or any area close to your home, including firewood, propane tanks, rugs, seat cushions, etc. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, garage, deck or porch.

The Firewise committee suggests that each homeowner give a copy of this list of recommendations to your landscaper and/or yard maintenance person/company so that they can assist in making your home safer.

The Firewise Community thanks you.