

Emergency Preparedness Pointer

ADA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

June 2016

Make Your Landscape Firewise

Wildfire season is here, providing a great opportunity to evaluate your property for fire safety. Fire and land management agencies need homeowners to participate in wildfire mitigation in order to prevent wildfire disasters. It is important for homeowners living in wildland/urban interface (WUI) areas to understand their role by reducing wildfire risks in their community. There are several actions homeowners can take to make their home firewise. Creating a defensible space around your home will keep both you and wildland firefighters safe. The landscaping surrounding your home can be both attractive and firewise by utilizing plants that contain high moisture, have a high salt or soap content, are low growing, and non-resinous. Idaho Firewise provides guidance for what steps homeowners should take to create a defensible space around their homes. Use the zone guidelines below to learn about what plants you should use in specific areas around your home. For more information about defensible spaces and firewise communities, visit <http://idahofirewise.org/>



ZONE 1

30 feet from house: Install non-flammable roofing, enclose overhangs, remove debris from roofs and gutters, and identify flammable items around your home. Flammable items include patio furniture, flowerboxes, doormats, etc. Landscaping should be fire resistant by planting low-growing, fire-resistant plants. Remove dead plant material and mow or weed eat grasses and regularly irrigate.

ZONE 2

30-60 feet from house: Reduce plant density in this area. Plants should be low-growing and fire resistant. Cut down all tall grass and prune trees and shrubs to reduce the volume of plants. Spacing between trees and shrubs should be at least 2x their height.

ZONE 3

60-110 feet from house: Thin and prune existing plants in this area. Tree limbs should be pruned 6-10 feet high. Ladder fuels that cause fires to leap from grasses and shrubs to the tops of trees should also be reduced. Prune trees and shrubs that have overlapping branches.



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