



Firewise Actions

in Dollars and Sense

No Cost, Just a Little Time

- Perform a FIREWISE assessment of your home.
- Move your firewood pile out of your home's defensible space.
- Clean your roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles (best done seasonally).
- Clear the view of your house number so it can be easily seen from the street.
- Put a hose (at least 100' long) on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.
- Trim all tree branches if they overhang your house.
- Remove all tree branches from within 20' of all chimneys.
- Remove trees along the driveway to make it 12' wide.
- Prune branches overhanging the driveway to have 14' overhead clearance.
- Maintain a green lawn for 30' around your home. If new homes are still being built in your area, talk to the developer and local zoning officials about building standards.
- Plan and discuss an escape plan with your family. Have a practice drill. Include your pets and livestock.
- Get involved with your community's disaster mitigation plans or start one yourself.
- Check your fire extinguishers. Are they still charged? Are they easy to get to in an emergency? Does everyone in the family know where they are and how to use them?
- Clear dead wood and dense flammable vegetation from your home's defensible space.
- Remove conifer shrubs from your home's defensible space especially if your home is in a high-risk fire-prone area.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage. Consult your insurance

agent about costs of rebuilding and repairs in your area.

- Talk to your children about not starting fires or playing with matches.
- If you have a burn barrel use it in accordance with local ordinances and any burn bans.
- Compost leaves in the fall; don't burn them.
- If you must burn your brush piles or grass, contact your local fire department for more information and guidelines.
- Always have a shovel on hand and hook up the garden hose *before* you start the fire.
- Never burn if the smoke and flames would blow towards your home (or your neighbor's home).
- Be a FIREWISE advocate! **

Minimal Cost Actions

(\$10 - \$25 and a little time)

- Install highly visible house numbers (at least 4" tall) on your home.
- Install big, highly visible house numbers (at least 4" tall) at the entrance of the driveway onto the street. Use non-flammable materials and posts.
- Install metal screens on all attic, foundation, and other openings on your home to prevent accumulation of leaves and needles.
- Hold a neighborhood meeting to talk about fire safety. Invite your local fire chief. Have coffee and donuts for neighbors.
- Install a fire extinguisher in the kitchen *and* the garage.
- Install a metal shield between your home and an attached wood fence.
- Consider using low-flammable plants in your home's defensible space.
- Thin and prune conifer trees in the 30' to 100' zone around your home.

- Purchase and use a NOAA weather alert radio. Many types of emergencies are announced through this service.
- Replace vinyl gutters and downspouts with non-flammable, metal gutters and downspouts.
- Install a spark arrestor or heavy wire screen with opening less than 1/2" on wood burning fireplaces and chimneys.

Moderate Cost Actions

(\$50 - \$500 and a little more work)

- Build a gravel turn around area near your house big enough to allow a fire truck to turn around.
- Join your neighbors in having an additional access road into your neighborhood. Share the costs.
- Treat flammable materials like wood roofs, decks, and siding with fire retardant chemicals.
- Dispose of old appliances, vehicles and other materials that could act as additional fuels within the defensible space of your home.
- Modify driveway gates to accommodate fire trucks. They should be at least 10' wide and set back at least 30' from the road. If locked, use a key box approved by your local fire department or use a chain loop with a lock that can be cut in an emergency.
- Enclose decks to prevent accumulation of leaves, needles, and debris. Include a metal screen with a 1/8" mesh opening to prevent sparks from getting under the deck.

High Cost Actions

(More than \$500)

- Replace your roof with fire-resistant materials such as Class A shingles.
- Install a roof irrigation system to protect your home's roof.
- Install an independent water supply for a sprinkler system with a non-electric (e.g., propane) powered pump capable of running unattended for 24 hours.
- Replace wood or vinyl siding with non-flammable material.
- Replace single-pane glass windows and plastic skylights with tempered, double-pane glass.
- Box in eaves, facias, and soffits with aluminum or steel materials to prevent entry of sparks.
- Improve driveway culverts and bridges to accommodate the weight of a fire truck.
- Relocate propane tanks inside the defensible space but at least 10' from the house. Have non-flammable ground cover such as gravel around them for 10'.
- Have electric service lines to your house placed underground.

Wildfires in the Oklahoma-Texas Wildlife Refuge Region

Wildfires in the National Wildlife Refuge region that includes Oklahoma and North Texas can cause excessive damage to property and natural resources. Many steps can be taken to save homes, other structures and human lives. While many measures can be taken to prevent wildfires themselves, the actions listed on these pages can go a long way to help protect your home and other structures from damage or destruction from wildfires. With this safety goal in mind, we hope you find these tips and estimated implementation costs helpful.

Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety. Discuss how your neighborhood can work together to prevent a wildfire disaster.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges in Oklahoma and North Texas are working in cooperation with your local fire department and other partners in your community to identify areas at risk to wildfire and develop strategies to reduce that risk.

If you would like more information on wildfire risk or the FIREWISE program, contact your local refuge.

For More Information contact you nearest National Wildlife Refuge

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge
32 Refuge Headquarters
Indiahoma, OK 73552
580/429-3222
580/429-9323 FAX

On-line information links:

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/oklahoma/wichitamountains/>

www.firewise.org/

Are You Prepared for Wildfire?

