

Did You Know?

- The #1 cause of wildfire in Georgia is debris burning?
- It is illegal to burn household garbage.
- Fire can be a valuable tool to manage natural resources.
- Many forests have survived centuries of natural fires.
- Fire can burn 16 times faster up slopes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Georgia Forestry Commission
1-800-GA TREES
www.gfc.state.ga.us

Interface South
www.interfacesouth.org

Firewise
www.firewise.org

IT'S A LAW!

In 1988, the Georgia Forest Fire Protection Act was amended to require a permit for the burning of woods, lands, marshes, or other flammable vegetation.

This means that you must call your local Georgia Forestry Commission office and obtain a permit before you proceed with any outdoor burning.



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Director
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DON'T BE A FUEL!



GEORGIA FIREWISE



Look Out! Don't Be a FUEL!

Your goal is for you, your family, your pets, and your property to be as safe as possible, so be honest in evaluating your home and surroundings.

1. I have a minimum 30-foot non-combustible area around my home.
____ True ____ False
2. Overcrowded or weakened trees have been thinned or removed from my property and low hanging branches have been pruned.
____ True ____ False
3. Address of my home is clearly visible from the road.
____ True ____ False
4. I've cleared pine needles, leaves, and debris from my roof, gutters, and decks.
____ True ____ False
5. All firewood and other flammables are stored at least 30 feet from the house.
____ True ____ False

If you answered FALSE to any of these questions, take some corrective measures and try again! The more TRUE answers you give, the greater your chances are of survival. Remember, during a large-scale fire, firefighters must focus on homes they can SAFELY DEFEND.

Protect Your Home from Wildfire

Do You Have the Following in Place?

Defensible Space

- ☞ Clear at least 30 feet around structure to provide an area for firefighters to enter and prevent flames from reaching the home.
- ☞ Remove dead limbs and debris within at least 100 feet of the structure.
- ☞ Store firewood away from structures.
- ☞ Keep L.P. gas far away from structures.

Emergency Access

- ☞ Have your address clearly marked.
- ☞ Have a 12-foot wide driveway with a 15-foot high clearance.
- ☞ Have two exit routes.

Fire Resistant Roof

- ☞ Use Class A asphalt shingles or metal roofing - *The #1 cause of ignition to homes is wind-driven sparks and embers (examples include: leaves, pine cones, and glowing charcoal).*
- ☞ Sweep gutters, eaves, and roof regularly to remove accumulations of flammable materials.



Fire Resistant Construction

- ☞ Use materials that resist heat and flames, such as brick or cement.
- ☞ Use double pane glass windows.
- ☞ Have fire-proof deck attachment points.
- ☞ Screen chimney and crawlspace openings.
- ☞ If constructing on a ridge, build a minimum of 30 feet from the edge.

Firewise Landscaping

- ☞ Keep plants "Lean, Clean, and Green."
- ☞ Prune tree branches up to ten feet from ground.
- ☞ Keep mulch watered or use stone or rock.

A Disaster Plan

- ☞ Post emergency numbers.
- ☞ Have tools handy, such as rakes, shovels, and a ladder that will reach your roof.
- ☞ Have an evacuation plan for your family and pets.
- ☞ Practice fire drills.

Be Firewise!