

Lean, Clean, & Green

Lean - Prune your shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 feet of your chimney. You also want to cut back limbs that stretch over part or all of your roof.

Clean - Remove all dead plant material, including dead limbs, sticks, twigs, leaves, dry grass, and even stacked firewood from your 30 foot defensible space. Remember, if you do not have any fuel right around your home, a wildfire cannot spread from the woods to your home.

Green - Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green for most of the year. Then make sure you keep it adequately watered. (We can give you a list of fire-safe plants.)

Fire resistant attachments

Attachments are any structures that are connected to your home or building. Attachments include porches, decks, out buildings, garages, carports, or fences. If the attachment is not fire-resistant, then the whole home or building is not **FireWise**. Remember that double pane glass should be used in out buildings, and porches and decks need to be enclosed at the bottom so that nothing burning can get under them.

Would you like some
FREE help to make your
home or building
FireWise?

We can come talk to you
and your church or civic or
neighborhood group. We
can send you information,
answer questions, and
help you help yourself
and your neighbors
be **FireWise** !

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fax or email:

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Arkansas FIREWISE

What is **FireWise** ?

FireWise is a plan to help protect homes and buildings from wildfire (forest, grass, and brush fires).

Wildfires are going to happen, and unfortunately, there is no way to completely stop them. What we can do is to make our homes and other buildings safe so that we reduce or eliminate the risk of our homes burning if a wildfire occurs.

Where do wildfires occur?

Wildfires occur wherever there are trees or grass or brush for fuel, but what we are most worried about is the **Wildland/Urban Interface**, or the area where homes and buildings are built next to wooded or brushy areas. The Wildland/Urban Interface can be in the forest or in a rural setting, but it can be in an urban or suburban setting, too, like the home shown below.



In a perfect world...

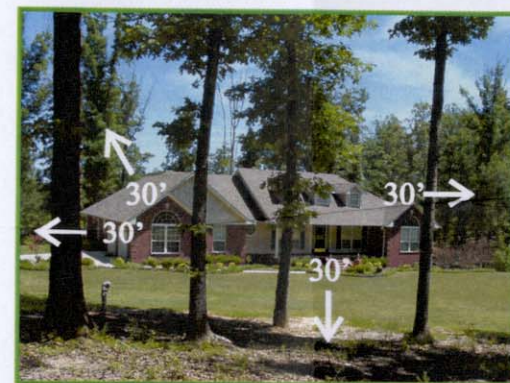
In a perfect world, we would all design our homes and buildings using the proven **FireWise** concepts. For instance, if you are building a home, you should use heat and flame resistant materials, like cement, plaster, stucco, masonry, steel, fireproof siding, and other fireproof materials. For the roof, being **FireWise** includes using Class A roofing materials and shingles or metal, concrete, cement, concrete, or ceramic tile. A fire resistant subroof can also add protection. Double pane glass is another safety feature that can be added to a home while it's being built without a huge cost penalty. Finally, we want to make sure that there are two ways in to our site, and that our home and street are well marked. To make it easier for emergency vehicles to get to you, the street should be at least 12 feet wide, have 15 feet of vertical clearance and a turnaround large enough for emergency vehicles.

If it's already built...

Most of us do not have the luxury of getting to build our houses or buildings over again now that we're learning about **FireWise**. OK, we can help just the same. Just as there are **FireWise** concepts we would use if we were building, there are many things we can do to our present homes and buildings.

Defensible space

With **FireWise** landscaping, you can create defensible space around your home. Keep in mind that your objective is to create an environment where your home can survive a wildfire without the intervention of firefighters.



This home is a pretty good example of FireWise landscaping

If your home is on flat ground, as little as 30 feet of defensible space all around your house will give you a high degree of fire safety. What do we mean by defensible? First, large leafy hardwood trees should be pruned so that the lowest branches are at least 6 to 10 feet off the ground, which will prevent a fire on the ground from spreading up into the tree and then to your home. Next, remove those types of flammable plants from your defensible space that contain resins, oils, and waxes that burn readily. Keep your grass cut short and well-watered.