

**DEFENSIBLE SPACE** is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. Defensible Space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire.

Defensible space will help slow or stop the spread of wildfire and protect your home from catching fire – either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important to help protect firefighters when they are defending your home.

Defensible space means a healthy, well maintained landscape. Native plants and trees, and healthy habitat for birds, animals, and pollinators can and should be part of your defensible space. Creating defensible space does not mean you need a ring of bare dirt around your home! Through proper planning and routine maintenance, you can have both a beautiful landscape and a fire resistant home.

Your home may be the most valuable investment you ever make. If you live in a high-risk fire hazard area, protect against the chance of losing that investment by creating defensible space and "hardening" your home with fire-resistant construction materials and design.

**ZONE ZERO** extends 0'-5' from your house. It's the area closest to your house, including plants, decks, outdoor furniture, and the outside walls and coverings. This area is most vulnerable and should be more aggressively maintained for fire resistance. There should be ZERO combustibles in this zone!

- Remove combustible outdoor furniture. Replace with metal or non-combustible varieties.
- Replace jute or natural fiber doormats with heavy rubber or metal grates.
- Remove or relocate all combustible materials including garbage and recycling containers, lumber, trash, and patio accessories.
- Clean all fallen leaves and needles.
- No vegetation is recommended within 5' of any structure.
- Remove tree limbs that extend into this zone. Fire prone tree varieties should be removed if they extend into this zone.
- Do not store firewood, lumber, or combustibles here, even (especially) under decks or overhangs. Move stored combustibles inside or at least 30' from any structure.
- Use only inorganic, non-combustible mulches such as stone or gravel.
- Hardscaping is strongly recommended around the base of structures.