

# Home Fire Safety

## FACTSHEET

### Living Near the Woods Safety Suggestions (Wildland Urban Interface)



### LANDSCAPING

- Create a safety zone by removing or reducing highly flammable vegetation near your house and any other structures. A good resource to check out fire resistive vegetation is:  
[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all\\_citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/rural/landscape.shm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/rural/landscape.shm)
- Create a green space immediately around your house by limiting all brush and by trimming trees up to 10 feet to remove possible ladder fuels.
- Keep tree branches away from power lines; call the power company (Northwest Energy at 888- 467-2669) if branches need to be trimmed.
- Space trees at least 10 feet apart. On sloped terrain space trees farther apart.
- Create a 10-foot area around your barbeque that is free of any combustibles and dry vegetation.
- Keep tree branches at least 15-feet away from your chimney.
- Encourage and help your neighbors to maintain their landscape, the safety of your property may depend on it.

### CONSTRUCTION

- Use fire resistive materials for shingles or roofing materials, avoid wood shingles and siding.
- Keep your roof and rain gutters clear of pine needles and leaves.
- Equip your chimney or stovepipe with a mesh spark arrestor.
- Enclose overhanging decks and eave openings with metal screen to keep out hot embers.

- Keep propane tanks at least 10-feet from your house or any structure, and remove any vegetation within 10 feet of the tank.

- **FUELS**

- Stack firewood at least 30 feet from your house, and remove any vegetation within 10 feet of a woodpile.
- Use a metal container for hot ashes, and keep it away from structures and vegetation.
- Use spark arrestors on all gasoline powered equipment.
- Do not fuel gasoline equipment until it has cooled down.
- Do not drive through dry grass or brush; hot exhaust pipes can start fires.

## **OTHER**

- If your house is not visible from the road, display your house numbers at the end of your driveway so firefighters can find your house.
- Make an evacuation plan of what you need to take with you and where you will go in the event of an evacuation. Please leave a note saying when you left and where you are planning to go. Plan to have a family survival kit with enough supplies including food, water and any prescribed medications to last for three days.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://mt.gov/homelandsecurity/content/citizen/72hour-v2.PDF>  
[www.KeepGreen.org/assets/Living.pdf](http://www.KeepGreen.org/assets/Living.pdf)  
[www.Firewise.org](http://www.Firewise.org)  
[www.FireSafetyCouncil.org](http://www.FireSafetyCouncil.org)  
[www.NIFC.gov](http://www.NIFC.gov)  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/fswy12.pdf>  
[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all\\_citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/rural/landscape.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/rural/landscape.shtm)

Helena Fire Department 406-447-8472