

FIRE RISK RATING FOR HOMES IN THE WILDLAND / URBAN INTERFACE

Resident Name: _____

Resident Address: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911

GIS coordinates: _____ X _____

Fire Service Area: _____

Open Burning Information Phone Number: _____

Consider your home and its surroundings. Included in this survey is an area within a ½ mile radius of your home (unless otherwise noted). The best answer for each question is marked and subtotaled on each page. Total ratings are on Page 4. This short survey will generally determine your home's fire risk.

**THE HIGHER THE NUMBER SCORED ON THE SURVEY, THE HIGHER THE RISK TO YOUR HOME. Suggestions for improvements are on page 5 and tips for emergency planning are on the last page.

SECTION I. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION: Addresses ignitability of your home.

A. Roofing Material (The roof is one of the most vulnerable parts of your home)

- Home has metal or tile roof 0 _____
- Home has composition roof 1 _____
- Composition roof covered with pine needles, leaves or moss 5 _____
- Wood shake or shingles, treated with retardant 10 _____
- Untreated wood shake or shingle roof 25 _____

B. Eaves, Balconies, Stilts

- Enclosed eaves, decks or stilts 0 _____
- Enclosed eaves, but unenclosed balcony, deck or stilts 5 _____
- Unenclosed eaves, balcony, deck, or stilts 10 _____

C. Building Density:

- Greater than 100' between structures 0 _____
- 75-100' between structures 2 _____
- 50-75' between structures 5 _____
- Less than 50' between structures 10 _____

SECTION II. LANDSCAPING: 50' defensible space around the home.

- Manicured with fire-resistant landscaping and fire safety zone 0 _____
- Some fire-resistant landscaping and fire safety zone 5 _____
- No fire-resistant landscaping and no defensible space 15 _____

Subtotal _____

SECTION III. FUELS: Within 200 feet of dwelling.

- Grass mowed and green or cultivated field 0 _____
- Hardwood forest (60% hardwood; conifers pruned 15' above ground) 1 _____
- Large conifers 15' to lowest limbs, 20' apart, 75' from structures. 2 _____
- Grass not mowed, brush or conifers w/ limbs to ground in 200' zone. 10 _____
- Slash w/in 100' of residence; conifers w/limbs to ground < 20' apart. 15 _____

SECTION IV. FIREWOOD AND OTHER FLAMMABLE MATERIALS STORAGE

- No firewood piles, woodsheds, or fuel tanks w/in 100' of structures 0 _____
- Firewood piles, woodsheds, or fuel tanks w/in 100' of structures 2 _____
- Firewood piles or fuel tanks adjacent to home 5 _____
- Firewood piles or fuel tanks under eaves or on/or under deck 15 _____

SECTION V. OUTDOOR BURNING (Open burning increases risk of fire starts)

- Never burn trash or debris 0 _____
- Burn yard debris, with permit a few times/year during low fire danger 2 _____
- Burn yard debris often, with permit or w/in 50' of dwelling 5 _____
- Burn yard debris often in fire season, w/o permit 15 _____

SECTION VI. TOPOGRAPHY: Within 200 feet of dwelling.

A. Slope

- 0-10% 0 _____
- 11-20% 1 _____
- 21-30% 3 _____
- Greater than 30% 4 _____
- Greater than 30% - on ridge top 5 _____

B. Aspect (How much sun exposure does your property get?)

- Level (evenly exposed to sun) 0 _____
- NW-NE 1 _____
- SE-NE 2 _____
- W-SW 3 _____
- SE-SW 4 _____

C. Dangerous Topography Features: (Within ¼ mile)

- None present 0 _____
- Nearby steep slopes (30% or greater) 2 _____
- Draws / ravines 3 _____
- Chimney or nearby canyons 5 _____

Subtotal _____

SECTION VII. ROAD ACCESS: Consideration of Fire Vehicle Access and Resident Evacuation.

A. Ingress/Egress

Points

- Multiple City/Borough roads 0 _____
- Two City/Borough roads 1 _____
- One City/Borough road 2 _____
- Private road, more than one way in 3 _____
- Private road, one way in / out 5 _____

B. Road Width

- More than 38' road – all weather surface 0 _____
- 30-28' road – all weather surface 1 _____
- 6-30' road – all weather surface 2 _____
- Less than 16' road – all weather surface 4 _____
- Less than 24' road – without all weather surface 5 _____

C. Maximum Road grade

- 0-5% 0 _____
- 6-12% 1 _____
- 12-15% 2 _____
- Greater than 15% 4 _____

D. Road Terminus

- Loop road or cul-de-sac turnaround is 100' in diameter 0 _____
- Cul-de-sac turnaround diameter 80-100 feet 1 _____
- Cul-de-sac turnaround diameter less than 80' 2 _____
- Dead end. (No turnaround) 4 _____

E. Bridges

- No bridges or 40-ton + limit on all routes 0 _____
- 40-ton + limit, one route less than others 1 _____
- 20 to 40 ton limit 2 _____
- One-lane bridge 3 _____
- Less than 20-ton on any bridge 4 _____

F. Driveway (Should be 12' in width with a 13.5' clearance, less than 10% grade, and 100' turnaround)

- Accessible to Fire Vehicles 0 _____
- Accessible clearance to fire vehicles (> 200' long w/ turnaround) 2 _____
- Accessible clearance to fire vehicles (> 200' without turnaround) 3 _____
- Poor access for fire / emergency vehicles 5 _____

Subtotal _____

SECTION VIII. WATER SUPPLY

A. Hydrants

- 500 gpm (gallon per minute_ hydrants w/in 500' 0 _____
- 500 gpm hydrants w/in 1000' 1 _____
- No hydrants 3 _____

B. Draft Sources (Lake, stream, pond, cistern, etc.)

- 500 gpm hydrants w/in 100' 0 _____
- Draft source w/in 1000' 1 _____
- Draft source w/in ½ mile' 2 _____
- No Draft source available 4 _____

SECTION IX. STRUCTURAL FIRE PROTECTION (response time for emergency vehicles)

A. Home Identification (Can your home be seen from the road?)

- House number, street name properly displayed 0 _____
- House number properly displayed 1 _____
- House number not properly displayed 3 _____

B. Location within a fire district/service area

- Within a fire service area < 7 min's average response time. 0 _____
- Within a fire service area 7-15 min's average response time. 1 _____
- Within a fire service area >15 min's average response time. 2 _____
- Not within a fire service area. 5 _____

SECTION X. ELECTRICAL UTILITIES

- Underground (Within 200 feet of dwelling) 0 _____
- Above ground, right-of-way maintained 1 _____
- Within 200' of major utilities right-of-way 2 _____
- Above ground, poorly maintained 4 _____
(For vegetation w/in 10' of line – call Utility)

TOTAL RATING FOR YOUR HOME

Total All Pages _____

Fire Danger Rating: LOW 0-20; MODERATE 21-40; HIGH 41-63; EXTREME >64

****NOTE**** This rating system determines your home's general wildfire risk. You should consider it a conservative estimate because it is impossible to predict the exact behavior of a wildfire. You can make positive changes to you home and its surroundings that will reduce the risk to your home and family from wildfire. See next page for some suggestions for improvement.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FIREWISE IMPROVEMENT

- Create a fire safety zone around your home. A minimum 50-foot strip between your home and the dense forest is recommended. Thin and space evergreens within 100 feet of structures. Prune low limbs and / or remove small unproductive trees.
- Keep ladder fuels such as dry brush under control. Any vegetation that will help a ground fire to get into upper tree branches is considered a ladder fuel and can be a fire risk.
- Keep grass mown and watered.
- Store firewood and other flammable materials away from existing structures (at least 50 feet from your home). Remove accumulated leaves and debris from under decks.
- Attend to your roof by clearing it of all needles, leaves, overhanging branches and limbs. Enclose eaves and other openings into the home.
- Keep driveway clear of overhanging branches and encroaching underbrush. For fire vehicles to pass un-hindered, the driveway should be 12' in width with a 13.5' clearance, less than 10% grade, and 100' turnaround.
- Have utility lines cleared of overhanging branches.
- Know where your closest water sources are located and have means to transport water.
- Have enough hose on hand to reach every part of your yard.
- Take proper care of slash or unburned piles. Follow safe and correct outdoor burning procedures. Most areas of the Kenai require burning permit. Contact the local fire service agency if you have any questions.
- Make sure your road is properly marked with a street sign.
- Properly display your home address. It should be at least 3 inches high, made of a non-combustible material and located at the entrance of your driveway.
- Sit down with your family to practice emergency procedures and review your evacuation plan.
- Stay safe and happy in your forest home.
- Contact Alaska Division of Forestry for more information: 260-4260.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - PLANNING

- ➔ Designate an out-of-area contact person.
- ➔ Duplicate important documents and keep copies off-site. Inventory valuables, in writing and with photographs or video.
- ➔ Make a household/family plan: disaster supply kit, where to go/meet, go-bags for everyone, and special-need items for children, seniors, people with disabilities, and pets.

A 72-hour “go-bag” should include: Water, food, manual can opener, flashlight, radio – battery operated, batteries, whistle, pocket knife, personal medications and prescriptions, extra keys to your house and vehicle, basic First Aid kit and instructions, walking shoes, warm clothes, a hat, and rain gear, extra prescription eye glasses, hearing aid or other vital personal items, toilet paper, plastic bags and other hygiene supplies, dust mask, paper, pens and tape for leaving messages, cash, copies of insurance and identification cards, any special-need items for children and seniors or people with disabilities, and pets.

A disaster supply kit for the home should include additional supplies:

Water – one gallon per person per day, Food – ready to eat or requiring minimal water, manual can opener, First Aid kit & instructions, essential medications, flashlight, radio – battery operated, batteries, cash in small denominations, a copy of important documents & phone numbers, unscented liquid household bleach for water purification, personal hygiene items including toilet paper, feminine supplies, and soap, sturdy shoes, heavy gloves, warm clothes, a hat and rain gear, a local map, extra prescription eye glasses, hearing aid or other vital personal items, plastic sheeting, duct tape and utility knife for covering broken windows, blanket or sleeping bag, extra keys to your house and vehicle, large plastic bags for waste and sanitation.

- ➔ Plan for shelter-in-place or evacuation. Identify your criteria for making the decision. If you plan to stay, you must be prepared. If you plan to evacuate, do so sooner rather than later.

Shelter-in-place (volcanic ash, chemical release): Go inside, close exterior doors and windows, turn off furnace, vents, dryer, go to a safe room with emergency supplies, seal doors, windows, vents, power outlets, cracks, holes around pipes with plastic & duct tape, stuff a wet towel under the door, stay put and listen to the radio for instructions.

Evacuation (wildfire, flooding): Plan your possible routes ahead of time. Park your car heading out with windows closed. Close garage door, but disconnect electric door openers. Place valuables and 72-hour disaster kit in the car. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Listen to instructions given on the radio or from the CAN system. Tell someone where you are going and when you left (you might need to leave a note). Do not wait until the last possible minute to evacuate as you may be trapped by the approaching wildfire.

Visit the following website for more information: <http://www.72hours.org/>