



WILDFIRE HOME & PROPERTY SELF-ASSESSMENT

Best practices for preparing your home and reducing the risk of loss due to wildfire

Instructions: Review each section below and check the box that best describes the characteristics of your home and surrounding property. Once completed, use the key to identify concerns and prioritize your prevention efforts. If you have no structures on your property but plan to build, this document can serve as a helpful guide. All secondary structures should receive their own assessment.

Key: = best management practice; = area of concern; = major concern; = Factor, but not as applicable in remote AK

SITE ACCESS

ACCESS ROUTE:		DRIVEWAY WIDTH & HEIGHT IF APPLICABLE:	
Two or more roads or trails in and out	<input type="checkbox"/>	14' wide & 13.5' tall, w/ veg. cleared to 20'	<input type="checkbox"/>
One road or trails in and out	<input type="checkbox"/>	14' wide & 13.5' tall, w/o veg. cleared to 20'	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adequate turn-around for emergency vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	Less than 14' wide & 13.5' tall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bridge marked with weight limitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRAILHEAD WIDTH & HEIGHT IF APPLICABLE:	
Year-round access	<input type="checkbox"/>	5' wide & 6' tall w/ veg. cleared	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer only access	<input type="checkbox"/>	5' wide & 6' tall w/o veg. cleared	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter only access	<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 5' wide & 6' tall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evacuation/safety zone w/ family identified	<input type="checkbox"/>	ADDRESS / HOME IDENTIFICATION VISIBLE:	
Evacuation/safety zone w/ family not identified	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, all trails / roadways marked	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No, most or all trails / roadways not marked	<input type="checkbox"/>

STRUCTURE

ROOF MATERIAL:		ROOF / GUTTER MAINTENANCE:	
Non-combustible – composite or asphalt shingles metal, slate, clay tile, or concrete	<input type="checkbox"/>	No debris on roof and/ or in gutters	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treated or untreated wood / natural material	<input type="checkbox"/>	A little debris on roof and/ or in gutters	<input type="checkbox"/>
EAVES:		A lot of debris on roof and/ or in gutters	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boxed with non-combustible material	<input type="checkbox"/>	EXTERIOR WALLS / SIDING:	
Boxed with combustible material	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-combustible (fiber cement, stucco, metal, plaster, brick, stone)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not boxed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large diameter logs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation or other fuels directly below eaves	<input type="checkbox"/>	Combustible (T-11, plywood, wood shake, vinyl)	<input type="checkbox"/>
WINDOWS:		Gaps in siding or natural material for insulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Double-paned tempered glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	6" vertical non-combustible construction at base	<input type="checkbox"/>
Double-paned (non-tempered)	<input type="checkbox"/>	DECKS / PORCHES / ACCESIBILITY RAMPS:	
Single-paned (non-tempered)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-combustible/ fire resistant composite materials used	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal screening on all windows	<input type="checkbox"/>	Combustible wood material used	<input type="checkbox"/>
No screens or fiberglass/plastic window screens	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decks treated with nonflammable preservatives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation against or directly below windows	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 st floor deck: screened or boxed in underneath	<input type="checkbox"/>



CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:

House incomplete with exposed Tyvek wrap or other openings

DECKS / PORCHES / ACCESIBILITY RAMPS CONTINUED:

Elevated deck: Flammables stored on/under deck during fire season or when not home

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONES

These zones begin at the exterior walls of your home and any secondary structures gets its own defensible space. Most buildings catch fire due to direct flame exposure or wind-borne embers igniting nearby combustible materials. Clearing combustible materials within 100 feet or more significantly improves your home's chances of withstanding a wildfire.

Immediate Zone (0 to 5 Feet):

Only non-combustible materials (e.g., rocks, pavers, cement, etc.) within 5 ft of structure and extensions, like fences or decks Yes No

Underneath deck/porch clear of combustibles (e.g., firewood, lumber, lawn furniture, etc.) Yes No

All vegetation removed and down to bare mineral soil or non-combustible material Yes No

Intermediate Zone (5 to 30 Feet):

Lawn is mowed (to <4") and watered Yes No

Space between bushes and shrubs at least 2 times their mature height (greater spacing on slopes) Yes No

Trees are pruned at least 6 feet from the ground, not to exceed 1/3 of overall tree height Yes No

All conifers, dead trees, limbs, brush, and additional ladder fuels removed Yes No

No firewood storage or debris piles within 30 feet of any structure Yes No

Tree limbs >10 feet from structures, powerlines, & chimneys (overhead & beside) Yes No

Trees (or clusters of trees) have at least 10 feet between crowns (greater spacing on slopes) Yes No

Extended Zone (30 to 100 Feet or 200 Feet on slopes greater than 25%):

All grass is cut or mowed Yes No

Space between bushes and shrubs at least 2 times their mature height (greater spacing on slopes) Yes No

All dead trees, limbs, brush, and additional ladder fuels removed Yes No

Trees are pruned at least 6 feet from the ground, not to exceed 1/3 of overall tree height Yes No

Trees (or clusters of trees) have at least 10 feet between crowns (greater spacing on slopes) Yes No

TOPOGRAPHY AND UTILITIES

Fire behavior is influenced by terrain features (for example, fire more readily burns uphill) and fuels characteristics (for example, vegetation on South or West-facing slopes tends to be drier). Understanding how your home's location interacts with fire behavior & fuels can help uncover vulnerabilities and help determine where to focus defensible space efforts.

SLOPE WITHIN 150' OF STRUCTURE:

Flat

0-10%

10-25%

>25%

Gullied

PREDOMINANT ASPECT OF SLOPE:

Flat

North

East

South

West

POSITION OF STRUCTURE ON SLOPE:

Floodplain or adequately setback from slope

Footslope

Backslope

Shoulder

Summit

UTILITIES & GAS WITHIN 30' OF STRUCTURE:

Combustible engines have >10' clearance of veg

Combustible engines have <10' clearance of veg

Gas shut off easily accessible

Propane/oil tanks > 30' & no vegetation w/in 10'

Propane/oil tanks < 30' & vegetation w/in 10'



COMMUNICATION METHODS

Methods to communicate are an important aspect of protecting yourself and others from wildfire. Think of ways you could communicate with neighbors, responding personnel, family, and others. Having one or more lines of communication will ensure that yourself and others can get out safely during an emergency situation.

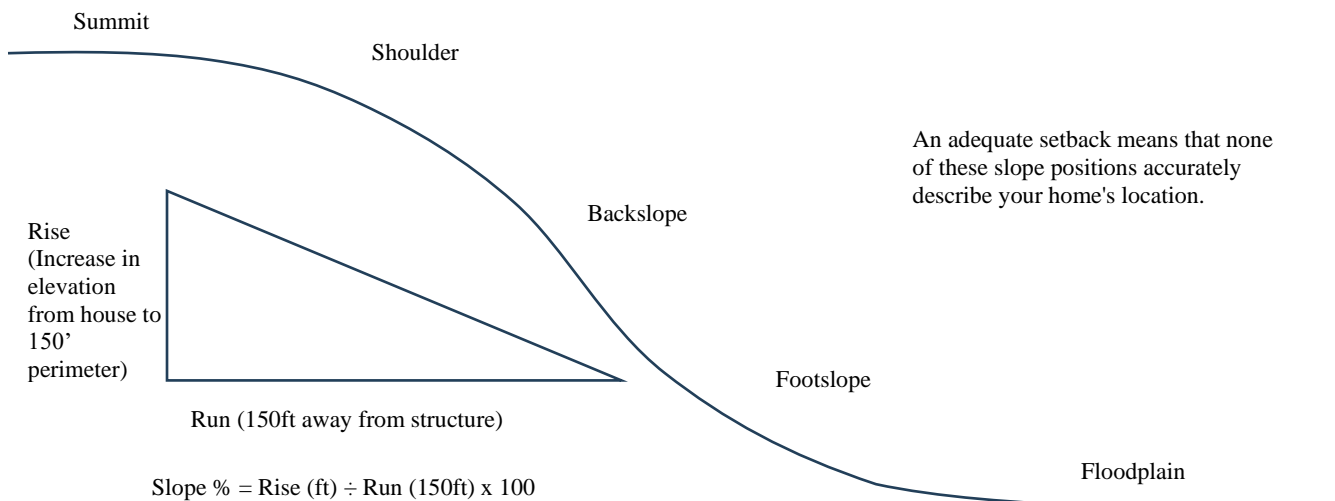
Cell phone or landline works at location	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Internet access (starlink or other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
CB Radio with pre-identified channels	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Satellite phone/communication device	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other known methods	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

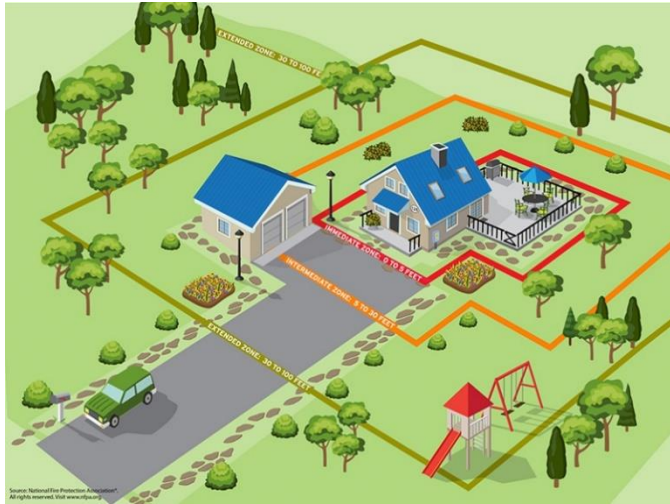
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

These are critical factors to consider for Alaska properties that could be the difference between your property surviving a wildfire and being the cause of one. Additionally, these are key points to best prepare for an evacuation event.

Full-time or Volunteer Fire Department within 5 miles of property	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
30'x30' cleared & Level landing zone for helicopter on property or identified nearby	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
All flammable material not needed on the property disposed of (old lumber, broken equipment etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Evacuation/safety zone identified	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Hydrant or water source accessible year-round (Firefighters may be able to lay up to 1000' of hose from source to set up sprinklers if given adequate time)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Chimney is capped and has a spark arrester	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Chimney/stove pipe cleaned regularly	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
All exterior vents/openings/decking have 1/8 th inch metal mesh screening	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Go-bag prepared for evacuation (important documents, heirlooms, food/water for 72 hours minimum)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Consistent use of safe burning practices (barrel w/ metal meshed cover, small piles, water/tools available, appropriate number of adults)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If fencing is adjoining the house, pick non-combustible materials other than wood	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Positions of a Slope:





Defensible Space Zones

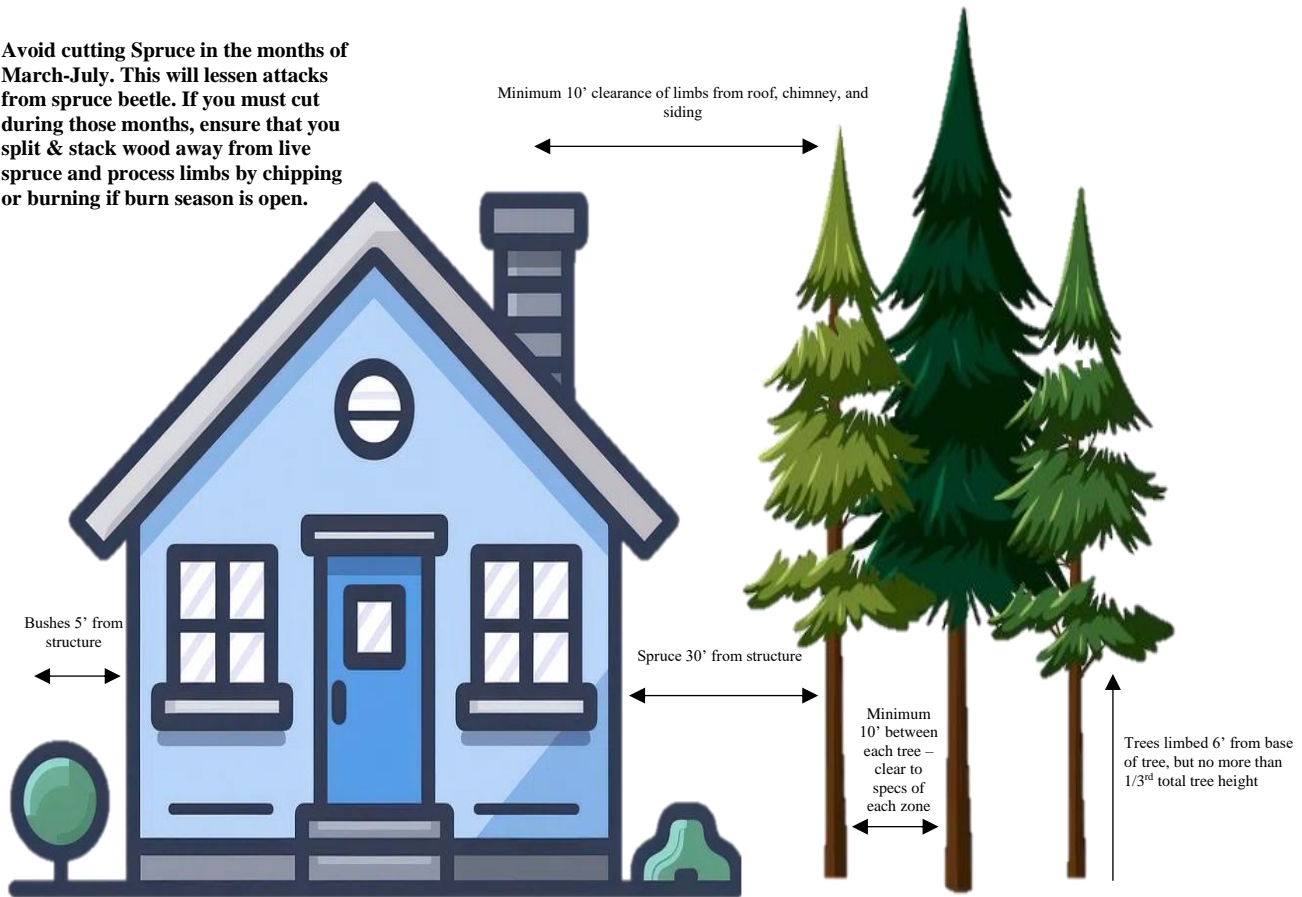
Immediate (0-5' from structures): Bare mineral soil or non-combustible material only in this zone

Intermediate (5-30' from structures): No conifer trees in this zone (ie. Spruce). Space deciduous trees (ie. birch, aspen, cottonwood) 10-15' apart, with same specs for brush or bushes. Remove any dead/dying trees.

Extended (30-100'+): Space trees and brush minimum of 10' apart.

Other: Clear all vegetation around any combustible or spark emitting engine or equipment a minimum of 10' down to bare mineral soil. Clear all vegetation around fuel tanks (ie. Propane, gas, heating oil).

Avoid cutting Spruce in the months of March-July. This will lessen attacks from spruce beetle. If you must cut during those months, ensure that you split & stack wood away from live spruce and process limbs by chipping or burning if burn season is open.



Remember, not all trees or fuel are harmful. Mature, healthy green trees in the 30-100+ foot zone can serve as ember catchers, helping to protect your home. The goal isn't to make your property look like a park, but rather to improve its resilience. The more green checkmarks you can complete on this form, the better the chances your belongings will remain intact after a wildfire.