

# Prepare Your Home For Wildfire

## Protect Our Firefighters

### Defensible Space and Wildfire Mitigation



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## Defensible Space Zones

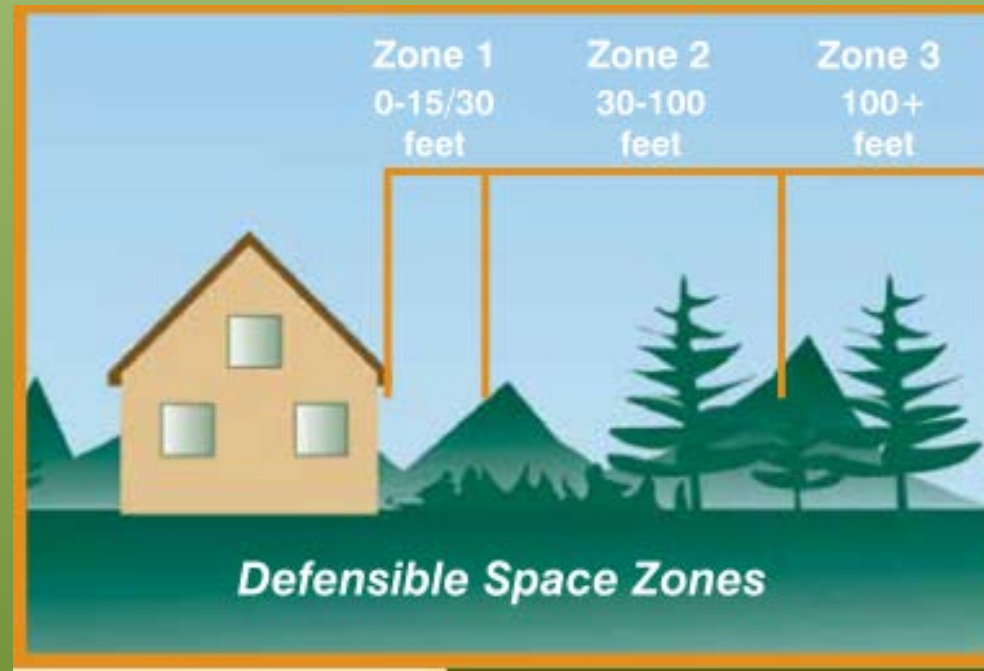
**Zone 1** is the area nearest the home and other structures. This zone requires maximum hazard reduction.

**Zone 2** is a transitional area of fuels reduction between Zones 1 and 3.

**Zone 3** is the area farthest from the home. It extends from the edge of Zone 2 to your property boundaries.

Defensible space gives your home a fighting chance against an approaching wildfire.

Creating defensible space also reduces the chance of a structure fire spreading to the surrounding forest and other homes.



## ZONE 1: Home Ignition Zone

### Structural Ignitability

#### Roof

- Non-combustible roofing material
- Clean gutters regularly
- Box-in eaves with ventilation

#### Chimney Top

- Spark arrestors on chimneys prevent fires from exiting and entering.

#### House Vents

- 1/8 inch metal screening inside all outside vents

#### Building Exterior

- If you have wooden siding keep it painted or stained. Untreated wood dries faster and can catch fire more easily.

#### Windows

- Windows often burst with radiant heat allowing embers to enter a home.
- Double pane windows offer more protection.



Remove all debris from roofs.



Metal screening stops sparks from entering the home (and critters).

# ZONE 1: Home Ignition Zone

## Structural Ignitability

### Other combustibles

- DO NOT STACK FIREWOOD NEAR YOUR HOUSE
- Store fuel, propane, other flammable material away from house.

### Deck

- The deck often ignites before fire reaches the house.
- Clean out any pine needles and leaves that may be on or under the deck.

### Fencing

- Wooden fencing can lead fire to your house.

### Address Visible

- Smoke reduces visibility. Reflective addresses work the best

### Access

- Where is your escape route?
- Is a fire truck able to turn around in your drive?



Wood lattice panels are thinner and ignite faster than a 2'x4'.



Metal screens can prevent embers from igniting a house.



**Zone 1: Home Ignition Zone**  
Landscaping Your house to 15 feet out (30  
for larger properties)

# Landscaping vs Mitigation



REMOVING MORE THAN DEAD TREES

## Zone 1: Home Ignition Zone

Landscaping Your house to 15 feet out (30 for larger properties)

### Immediate Zone 0-5 feet around the house

- Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and wood mulches
- Keep area clear of leaves and pine needles

### 5-15 or 5-30 feet around the house

- Most flammable material is removed in this zone, with the exception of a few low growing shrubs.
- If any trees are kept in this zone, consider them part of the structure and extend the distance of the defensible space.
- Remove any branches that touch or overhang the roof.
- Remove all fuels within 10 feet of the chimney
- Keep your grasses mowed and your shrubs pruned



Railroad ties are soaked in creosote. A toxic chemical to your plants and toxic smoke if it is burned.



**Understand the risks**

**Rule of thumb for firefighters : 2.5 times the flame length**

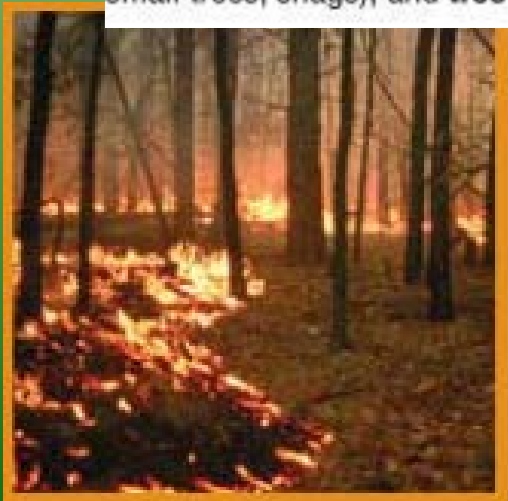


In a forest where fires rarely happen, fuel builds up: There's **surface fuel** (grass, logs, woody debris, brush); **ladder fuel** (shrubs, small trees, snags); and **tree crowns**.

**1** Surface fires spread quickly through brush and woody debris.

**2** Ladder fuels allow the fire to move up toward the forest canopy.

**3** Tree crown fires are so intense, they're difficult to control.



## ZONE 2

- Thin tree crowns 10-15 feet between trees
- Limb remaining trees
- Remove all shrubs under these trees







## Ground Juniper

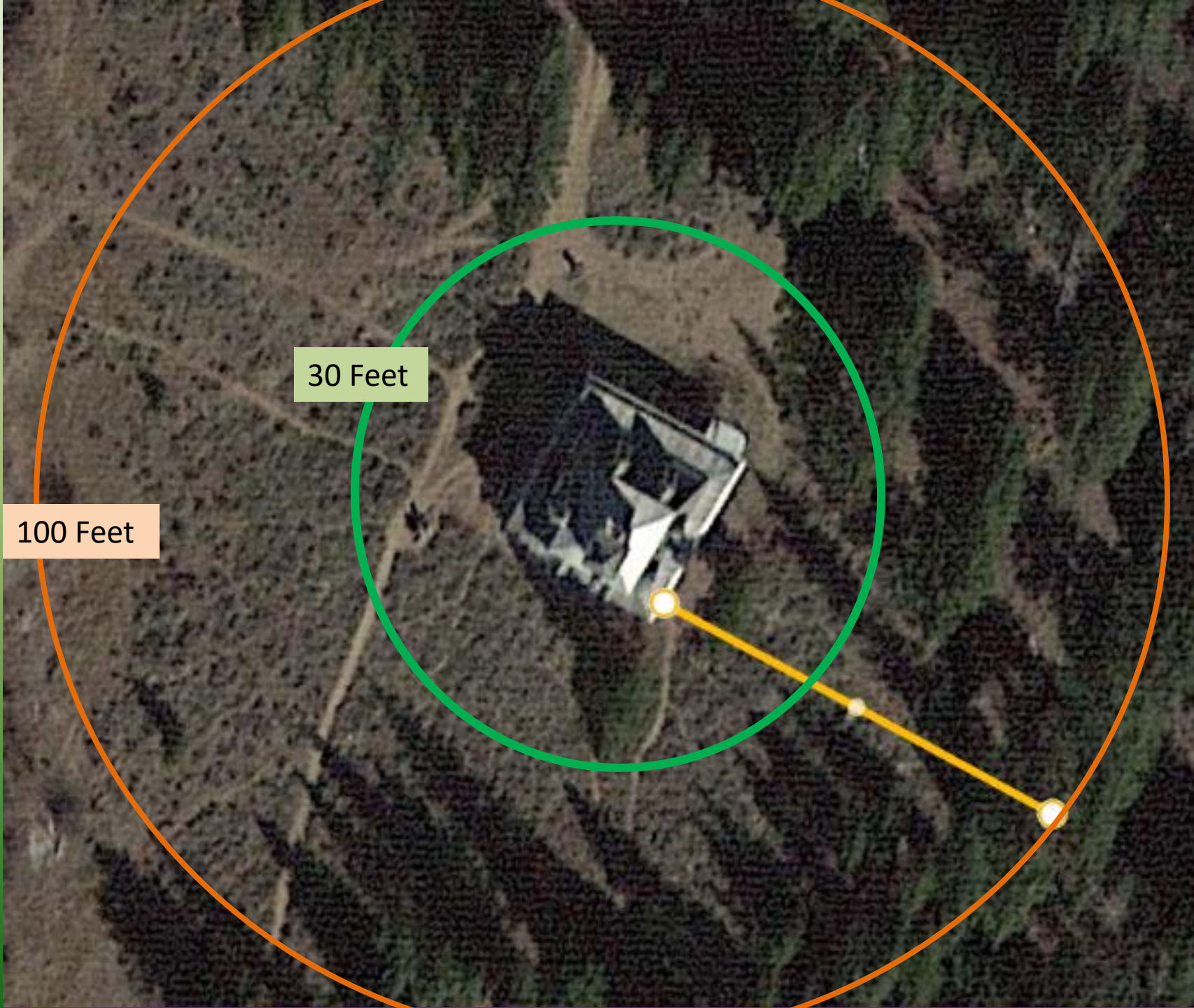
- Remove within 30 feet of your home



## Zone 2

Zone 1 boundary – 100 feet  
Transitional Zone

- Shrubs
  - Remove common ground juniper in zone 2
  - Clumps of shrubs can be left with 2.5 times their height between shrubs
  - Sage brush should be removed in clumps
- Keep grass mowed
- Reduce fuel accumulation: leaves, pine needles, wood chips keep under 4 inches thick



30 Feet

100 Feet



## ZONE 3

100ft from your home

### Forest Health

- Remove dead and diseased trees
- Thin areas to reduce competition for desired trees
- A healthy forest has multiple age classes of trees and species diversity.



### Wildlife Habitat

- Not all dead trees are bad, snags create wildlife habitat. Trees that provide nesting cavities or hollows should be kept.
- A thick forest doesn't allow sunlight to reach the forest floor resulting in little to no vegetation for animals.
- Thinning trees and patch clearing allows for understory grasses and brush to grow.
- Patch cutting creates habitat edges. A variety of wildlife enjoy the grass to eat in the clearing with a safe space to run and hide or to bed down in the shade nearby.

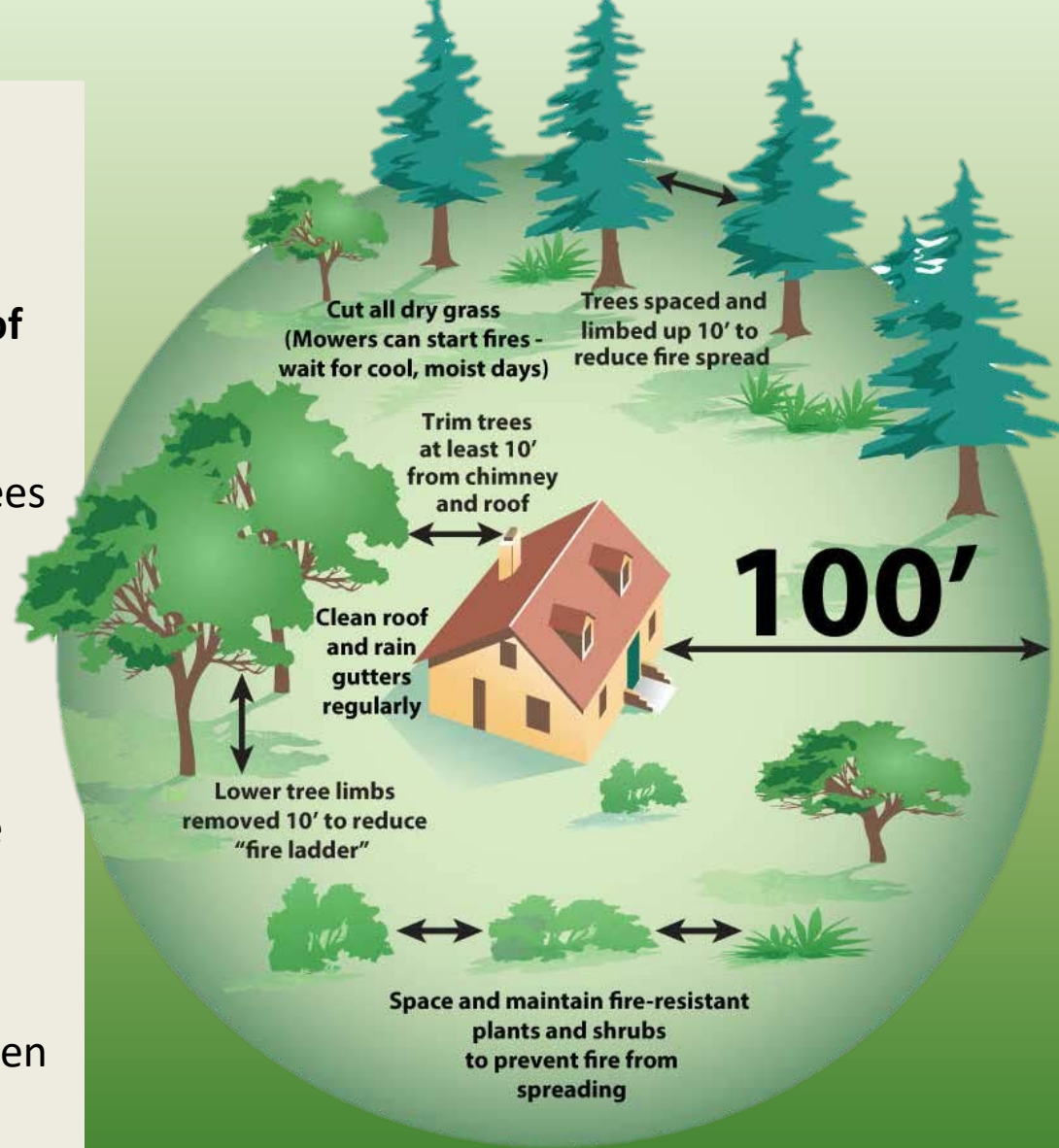


### Chipping Pile Guidelines

- 12" max diameter: small trees can be left whole
- No roots, root wads, weeds, lumber, or any wood with nails (*dirt, rocks, and metal will break our machine and can be dangerous*)
- Piles should be within 5 feet of the road or driveway
- Have all the cut ends facing the road
- Piles should be no more than 4 feet tall
- NO sagebrush or ground juniper

## Areas of focus before the chipping day:

- Limb all conifer trees within 100ft of your home** 1/3 of total height or 10 feet up (whichever is less)
- Remove all shrubs** under limbed trees drip line
- Thin conifer trees** with 10 feet between tree crowns
- Consider removing all trees 15 feet from your home**
- Remove logs and branches from the ground
- Remove all ground juniper
- Patch cut sage brush with 2.5 times height of sage brush spacing between clumps



# Chipping Day: October 18th