

Firewise Self-Assessment Checklist

From Your Doorsteps Outward

- Remove all conifers and dry or dead vegetation
- Edge the building with small plants, flowers or gravel
- Keep your roof and gutters clean. Remove needles, leaves, lichens, branches and debris
- Remove organic debris that collects in cracks
- Remove debris and combustible items from deck surfaces and underneath decks and stairs

From 15-30 Feet of Structure

- Thin or clump conifer trees to ~15 feet between extending branches
- Prune limbs of mature conifers to 6-8 feet
- Remove shrubs beneath trees
- Remove all dry or dead vegetation

From 30-100 Feet of Structure

(increase distance if slope is >30%)

- Thin conifers to 10-15 feet between extending branches
- Thin black spruce in clusters <10 feet in diameter with 15 feet between clusters
- Prune limbs of remaining conifers to 6-8 feet
- Remove shrubs beneath trees
- Remove all dry or dead vegetation

General Landscaping

- Maintain lawn at 3" or less and keep well-watered
- Keep trees healthy with frequent watering
- Dispose of flammable debris from your property
- Keep areas under stairs and decks free of debris; enclose with non-combustible screens
- Clean the roof and gutters of needles, leaves and branches
- Provide a 15-foot clearance between your chimney and nearest tree branches
- Prune trees in fall for best health

Building Materials

- Cap chimney with spark arrester
- Roof should be fire resistant; if not, keep clear of leaves, mosses and lichens
- Screen all exterior vents, such as attic openings

Access and Signs

- Address marked with reflective numbers at least 4" high on house and driveway
- Clear vegetation alongside driveway and road edge
- Driveway should be 12 feet wide with a turnaround for emergency vehicle access

General

- Stack firewood at least 30 feet from house and clear 10 feet around pile
- Do not stack firewood under trees or on downhill side of property
- Keep storage areas clean; do not accumulate combustibles such as oily rags and newspapers