



Anchorage Fire Department - Wildfire Mitigation Office

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www.muni.org/fire

GIRDWOOD Homeowner's Firewise Guide



Priority #1 ***Within 15 feet of structure (increase distance below structure if slope is >30%)***

- Remove **all** conifers (needle trees) and dry, downed woody fuels (increase distance to 20 ft if >30%)
 - Remove conifer limbs within 15 ft of combustible roofing material (cedar shakes and thatch)
 - Maintain groundcover: keep any grass mowed at 3 inches or less in height and keep well watered.
 - Trim shrubs to 2 feet in height, separate shrubs by 3 feet apart from one another and from house.
 - Edge the building with 2-3 feet width of small plants, flowers or gravel.
 - Dispose of flammable debris from your property.
 - Clean debris from under stairs and decking frequently
 - Clean the roof and gutters of needles, leaves, branches and other combustible debris.
 - Provide a 15 foot clearance between your chimney and nearest tree branches (20 ft if >30%)
 - Spruce trees should be pruned after August 1 to prevent bark beetle infestation.
- For additional information, see the spruce bark beetle reference guide at www.fs.fed.us/r10/spf/fhp

Priority #2 ***From 15 - 30 feet of structure***

- Remove spruce trees affected by the spruce bark beetle
- Prune limbs of mature conifers to ~8 feet, remove shrubs & small trees within dripline
- Thin regenerating conifers to ~10 feet and prune lower branches.
- Remove all dry, downed woody fuels.

Priority #3 ***From 30 - 100 feet of structure***

- Remove spruce trees affected by the spruce bark beetle
- Prune limbs of mature conifers to ~8 feet, remove shrubs & small trees within dripline
- Remove all dry, downed woody fuels.

Building Materials

- Make sure your chimney extends 3 ft above the roof, cap with spark arrester.
- Roof should be of fire resistant material. If not, keep clean from debris and mosses/lichens.
- Enclose space under decks and balconies with non-combustible screens.
- Screen vent openings for attic and basement.

Access and Signs

- Address marked with non-combustible, reflective numbers at least 4" high on house &/or driveway.
- Clear or thin vegetation alongside driveway and road edge.
- Driveway is 12 feet wide for emergency vehicles, with turnaround.

General

- Keep garden hoses and fire tools (shovels, rakes, or pulaskis) readily available.
- If you have a well, consider installing a pump and generator.
- Keep storage areas clean. Do not accumulate oily rags, flammable chemicals, newspapers.
- Check spark arresters on all motorized garden equipment, lawnmowers and chainsaws and store 30 feet away from structures or inside garage.

Hazardous Material

- Clear a 10 foot area around propane tank (dead grass, dry woody material).
- Non-combustible cribbing for propane, oil and LPG tanks
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet from house; clear 10 feet around pile.
- Do not stack firewood under trees or on downhill side of property.

Fire Plan Inside

- Locate nearest fire station and post emergency numbers by several home telephones.
- Smoke detectors tested monthly and batteries changed twice a year. Fire extinguisher current.
- Chimney and/or stovepipe cleaned regularly.
- Identify action plan for entire family & pets for emergencies.
- Identify Safety Zone where family meets in an emergency.
- Emergency supplies ready to transport (food, water, valuables and important documents)

