

# Fire Risk Rating for Homes in the Wildland/Urban Interface

This rating system was created by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) specifically for Alaskan residents. It is based on the National Fire Protection Association's *Standard for Protection from Wildland Fire* and has been adopted by the Anchorage Fire Department. Consider your home and its surroundings. Included in this survey is an area within a 1/2 mile radius of your home (unless otherwise noted). This short survey will determine your home's general fire risk.

**In a wildfire, your defensible space preparation will help you protect your home from ignition.**

Your home and all materials connected to your home may be fuel for fire. To protect your home from ignition, all flammable materials around your home must be considered.

**\*\*THE HIGHER THE NUMBER SCORED ON THE SURVEY, THE HIGHER THE RISK TO YOUR HOME IN THAT CATEGORY. (General suggestions for improvement on last page.)**

Section I. ROAD ACCESS	Points	Notes
Consideration of Fire Vehicle Access and Resident Evacuation		
<b>A. Ingress and egress</b>		
a. Multiple City / Borough roads	0	
b. Two City / Borough roads	1	
c. One City / Borough road	2	
d. Private road, more than one way in/out	3	
e. Private road, one way in/out	5	
<b>B. Road Width</b>		
a. More than 38' road - all weather surface	0	
b. 30-38' Road - all weather surface	1	
c. 16-30' Road - all weather surface	2	
d. Less than 16' road - all weather surface	4	
e. Less than 24' road - without all weather surface	5	
<b>C. Maximum Road Grade</b>		
a. 0 - 5%	0	
b. 6 - 9%	1	
c. 10 - 12%	2	
d. 13 - 15%	4	
e. Greater than 15%	5	
<b>D. Road Terminus</b>		
a. Loop road or cul-de-sac turnaround is 100' in diameter (or within 100' of the through street)	0	
b. Cul-de-sac turnaround diameter 80 - 100'	1	
c. Cul-de-sac turnaround diameter less than 80'	2	
e. Dead end (No turnaround)	4	
<b>E. Bridges</b>		
a. No bridges or 40-ton + limit on all routes	0	
b. 40-Ton + one route, less than 40-Ton on other routes	1	
c. 20 to 40-Ton limit on all routes	2	
d. One-lane bridge	3	
e. Less than 20-Ton limit on any bridge	4	
<b>F. Driveway</b>		
a. Accessible to Fire Vehicles	0	
b. Accessible clearance to Fire Vehicles (More than 200' long with turnaround)	2	
c. Accessible clearance to Fire Vehicles (More than 200' long without turnaround)	3	
d. Poor access for Fire/Emergency Vehicles	5	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		

**\*\*DRIVEWAY MUST BE 12 FEET IN WIDTH WITH 13.5 FEET CLEARANCE, LESS THAN 10% GRADE, AND 100 FOOT TURNAROUND.**

<b>Section II. TOPOGRAPHY</b>		<b>Points</b>	<b>Notes</b>
(Within 200 feet of dwelling. This effects the ability of a wildfire to spread in a given area)			
<b>A. Slope</b>			
a. 0 - 10%		0	
b. 11 - 20%		1	
c. 21 - 30%		3	
d. Greater than 30%		4	
e. Greater than 30% - ridge top home		5	
<b>B. Aspect</b> (How much sun exposure does your property get?)			
a. Level (evenly exposed to sun)		0	
b. NW - NE		1	
c. SE - NE		2	
d. W - SW		3	
e. SE - SW		4	
<b>C. Dangerous Topographic Features</b> (within 1/4 mile)			
a. None present		0	
b. Nearby steep slopes (30% or greater)		2	
c. Draws/ravines		3	
d. Chimney or close-by canyons		4	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
<b>Section III. FUELS</b>		<b>Points</b>	<b>Notes</b>
(Fuel types within 200 feet of dwelling. Consideration of what types of combustible materials surround home.)			
<b>A. Grass mowed and green or cultivated field</b>		0	
<b>B. Hardwood forest</b> (60% hardwood and conifers with limbs greater than 20' to ground)		1	
<b>C. Large conifers</b> (20' to lowest limbs)		2	
<b>D. Not mowed grass, brush, or conifers with limbs to ground.</b>		3	
<b>E. Slash or unburned piles</b> within 200' of residence or conifers with limbs to ground less than 20 feet apart.		5	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
<b>Section IV. ELECTRICAL UTILITIES</b>		<b>Points</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>A. Underground</b> (within 200' of residence)		0	
<b>B. Above ground, right of way maintained</b>		1	
<b>C. Within 200' of a major utilities right of way</b>		3	
<b>D. Above ground, poorly maintained</b> (vegetation within 10' of line)		4	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
<b>Section V. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION</b>		<b>Points</b>	<b>Notes</b>
(This measures how vulnerable your home may be to an encroaching fire.)			
<b>A. Roofing Material</b>			
a. Home has metal or tile roof		0	
b. Home has composition roof		1	
c. Home has composition roof covered with spruce needles, leaves, and/or moss.		2	
d. Home has wood shake or shingled roof, pressure treated with retardant.		4	
e. Home has untreated wood shake or shingle roof		5	
<b>B. Eaves, Balconies, Stilts</b>			
a. Home has enclosed eaves, decks, or stilts		1	
b. Home has enclosed eaves, but unenclosed balcony, deck, or stilts.		3	
c. Home has unenclosed eaves, balconies, decks, stilts		4	
<b>C. Building Density</b>			
a. Greater than 100' between structures		0	
b. 75 - 100' between structures		1	
c. 50 - 75' between structures		2	
d. Less than 50' between structures		3	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			

**\*\*THE ROOF IS THE MOST VULNERABLE PART OF YOUR HOME!**

Section VI. WATER SUPPLY		Points	Notes
<b>A. Hydrants</b>			
a. 500 gpm hydrants within 500'		0	
b. 500 gpm hydrants within 1000'		1	
c. No hydrants		4	
<b>B. Draft Sources</b> <a href="http://gisweb.ci.anchorage.ak.us/website/afdwater/viewer.htm">http://gisweb.ci.anchorage.ak.us/website/afdwater/viewer.htm</a>			
a. 500 gpm hydrant within 1000'		0	
b. Draft source within 500'		1	
c. Draft source within 1000'		2	
d. Draft source within 1/2 mile		3	
e. No draft source available		4	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
Section VII. STRUCTURAL FIRE PROTECTION		Points	Notes
(Consideration of how quickly emergency vehicles can access your home)			
<b>A. Home Identification</b>			
a. House number and street name properly displayed		0	
b. House number properly displayed		1	
c. House number is not properly displayed		4	
<b>B. Location Within a Fire District</b>			
a. Within a fire district, less than 5 minutes average response time from a fire station		0	
b. Within a fire district, 6 - 10 minutes average response time from a fire station		1	
c. Within a fire district, 11 - 15 minutes average response time from a fire station		2	
d. Within a fire district, more than 15 minutes average response time from a fire station		3	
e. Not within a fire district		5	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
<b>**YOUR HOUSE NUMBER MUST BE SEEN EASILY FROM THE ROAD!</b>			
Section VIII. LANDSCAPING		Points	Notes
(Consideration of your home's exposure to vegetation)			
<b>A.</b> Home is set back $\geq$ 30' from slope of 30% or more and has $\geq$ 150' of defensible space landscaping. On 0 - 30% slope, maintain 100' of defensible space		1	
<b>B.</b> Home is set back $<$ 30' from slope of 30% or more and has 66 - 100' defensible space landscaping		2	
<b>C.</b> Home has 30 - 66' defensible space landscaping		3	
<b>D.</b> Home has 30' defensible space landscaping		4	
<b>E.</b> Home has no defensible space landscaping, vegetation is in contact with the structure		5	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
<b>**AT 30', YOUR HOME CAN STILL IGNITE FROM RADIANT HEAT IN EXTREME FIRE CONDITIONS!</b>			
Section IX. OUTDOOR BURNING		Points	Notes
(Resident outdoor burning greatly increases your fire risk)			
<b>A.</b> Never burn trash or yard debris		0	
<b>B.</b> Burn yard debris two times per year with AFD permit		1	
<b>C.</b> Burn yard debris 3 or more times per year, or without permit, or within 50' of dwelling		4	
<b>D.</b> Burn yard debris more than once per month		5	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
Section X. FIREWOOD STORAGE		Points	Notes
(Firewood piles are very flammable and difficult to extinguish once ignited)			
<b>A.</b> No firewood piles or woodsheds within 100' of structures		0	
<b>B.</b> Firewood piles or woodsheds within 100' from structures		2	
<b>C.</b> Firewood pile adjacent to home (less than 20')		4	
<b>D.</b> Firewood stored under eaves or on/or under deck		5	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>			

<b>Hazard Assessment Rating for your home</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
Low Fire Danger	0 - 20
Moderate Fire Danger	21 - 40
High Fire Danger	41 - 60
Extreme Fire Danger	61 - 80

### **\*\*REMINDER**

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 your home and its surroundings that could reduce the risk of fire to property and family.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

- 1 Make sure your road is properly marked with a street sign.
- 2 Keep driveway clear of overhanging branches and encroaching underbrush. For fire vehicles to pass unhindered, the driveway should be 12 feet wide and have a 13.5 foot vertical clearance.
- 3 Keep grass cut and watered.
- 4 Prune low limbs and/or remove small, unproductive trees.
- 5 Keep ladder fuels such as dry brush, etc. under control. (Any vegetation that will help a ground fire get into the upper tree branches is considered a ladder fuel and can be a potential fire risk.)
- 6 Thin trees in densely forested areas.
- 7 Take proper care of slash or unburned piles. Be sure to follow burning regulations.
- 8 Create a fire safety zone around your home. A 30 foot (or greater) strip between your home and the dense forest is recommended.
- 9 Have utility lines cleared of overhanging branches.
- 10 Attend to your roof by clearing it of all spruce needles, leaves, overhanging branches and limbs.
- 11 Properly display your home address. It should be at least 4 inches high, made of non-combustible material, and located at the entrance of your driveway.
- 12 Know where your closest water sources are located.
- 13 Have enough hose on hand to reach every part of your yard.
- 14 Store firewood away from existing structures (at least 30 feet from your home).
- 15 Follow correct outdoor burning procedures. Contact the Anchorage Fire Department if you have any questions. Be aware, you are not allowed to burn without a permit.
- 16 Sit down with your family and create an evacuation plan.

Visit [www.muni.org/fire1/index1.cfm](http://www.muni.org/fire1/index1.cfm) Anchorage Wildfire for more information.