

# How To Protect Your Home From Fire

One of the most important fire prevention steps is to establish defensible space—at least 30 feet of space surrounding your home that is lean, clean and green. The objective of defensible space is to reduce the wildfire threat to your home by changing characteristics of the surrounding vegetation. Here's what we mean:

**Lean**—Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 feet of your chimney.

**Clean**—Remove all dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry grass and stacked firewood.

**Green**—Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year.

Additionally, remove the “ladder fuels”—vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops. These fuels can carry fire from vegetation to a structure or from a structure to vegetation.

Another important step is to identify your home and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers so emergency vehicles can rapidly find the location of a critical situation. Include a driveway that is at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet to provide access to emergency apparatus.

Below is a list of other suggested measures to help keep your home safe from fire. For more information, contact the Boise Fire Department Fire Prevention Division at 570-6500.

- Remove roof debris
- Remove branches that overhang the structure
- Clean rain gutters of debris
- Clean chimneys annually
- Install ½" (or less) spark arrestor on chimney
- Cover exterior attic and under floor vents with wire mesh
- Clean out non-combustible groundcover/flower beds; keep mulch wet
- Clean debris from under decks, elevated porches and under homes
- Move firewood away from homes
- Water and maintain lawns; mow dry grass and weeds
- Place hoses at all outdoor hose bibs