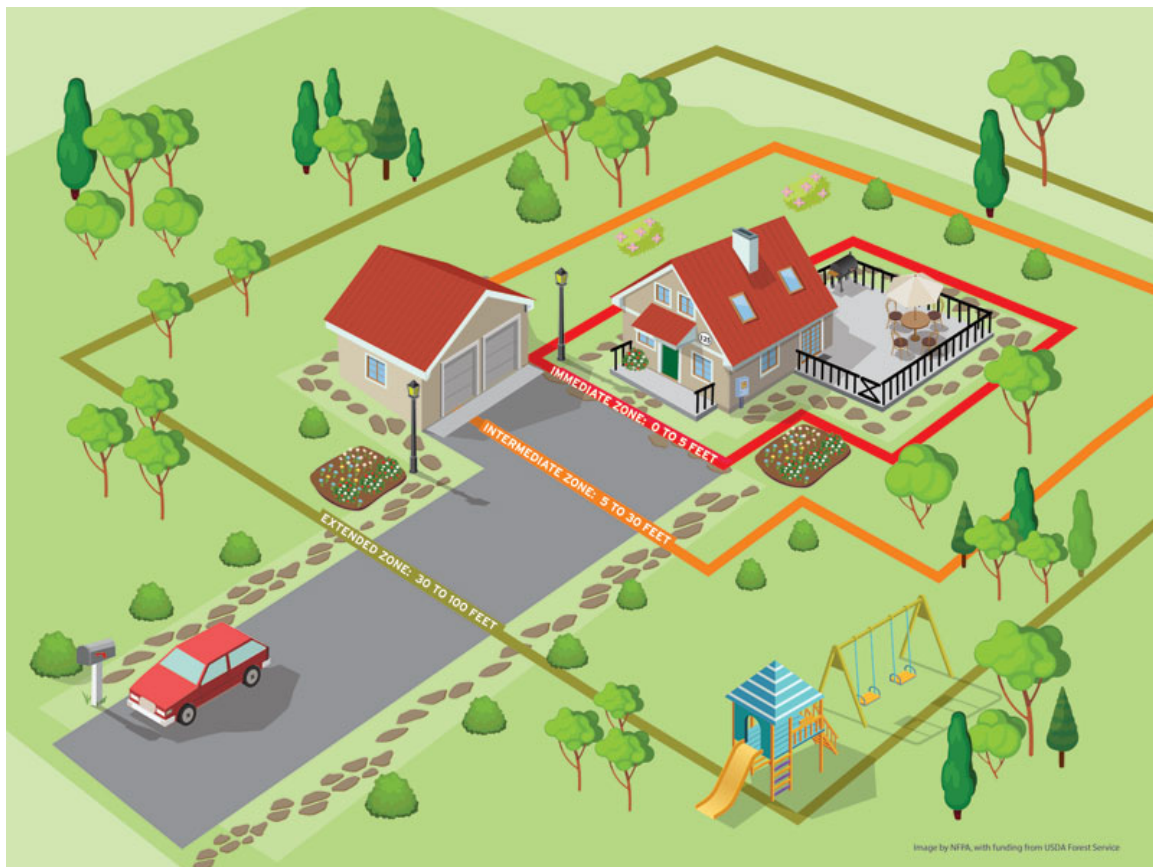


# Preparing your Stagecoach Estates home for wildfire

As you look around your 10-acre lot, the thought of reducing your fire risk can be overwhelming. This information circular highlights the ways that you can reduce wildfire risk and protect your building structures. Click on the link below to watch a 13-minute educational video on what you can do to protect your home.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL\\_syp1ZScM&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL_syp1ZScM&t=3s)



## What are the primary threats to homes during a wildfire?

Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile by the wind. They cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris and other objects.

Homeowners need to prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or attachments. Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it, up to 200 feet from the foundation. This is called the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ).

## What is the Home Ignition Zone?

The concept of the home ignition zone was developed by retired USDA Forest Service fire scientist Jack Cohen in the late 1990s, following some breakthrough experimental research into how homes ignite due to the effects of radiant heat. The HIZ is divided into three zones.

### Immediate zone

The home and the area 0 to 5 feet from the furthest attached exterior point of the home is the Immediate Zone. Only non-combustible materials should reside in this zone. Science tells us this area is the most vulnerable to embers is the zone on which homeowners need to take immediate action. **START WITH THE HOUSE ITSELF, then move into the landscaping section of the Immediate Zone.**

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8-inch metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8-inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows. Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

## Intermediate zone

The Intermediate Zone is 5 to 30 feet from the furthest exterior point of the home. Employing careful landscaping/hardscaping and/or creating breaks that can help influence and decrease fire behavior

- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of 4 inches.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up 6 to 10 feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not prune more than 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Space trees to have a minimum of 18 feet between crowns, farther on steeper slopes.
- Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than 10 feet to the edge of the structure.
- Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

## Extended zone

The Extended Zone is 30 to 100 feet, and out to 200 feet on steep slopes. The goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.

- Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.
- Remove dead plant and tree material.
- Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.
- Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.
- Trees 30 to 60 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops.
- Trees 60 to 100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops.

# HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

## SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT

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- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

**VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](https://www.firewise.org) FOR MORE DETAILS**

Image by NFPA, with funding from USDA Forest Service