Use the tips in this brochure to prepare your home and protect your family and animals from wildfires.

A healthy forest with growing space for trees will be healthier, more drought tolerant, and less susceptible to fire.

Wildfires do not respect property lines. Share this information with your neighbors and consider creating a neighborhood wildfire prevention and evacuation plan.

Firefighters need your help. Beware of accidentally starting a wildfire!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

King County
• Department of Permitting and Environmental Review
  www.kingcounty.gov/permitting
• Department of Natural Resources and Parks
  www.kingcounty.gov/forestry

Washington Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.wa.gov/search for fire information

Firewise
www.firewise.org

The Fire Safe Council
www.firesafecouncil.org/

Zone 1 Survivable Space. This area surrounds your home for at least 30 feet, reducing fuels and providing space for fire fighting equipment. Plants should be carefully spaced and fire resistant.

Zone 2 In the next 20 feet keep trees 10 feet apart. For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within 10 feet of the ground.

Zone 3 In the next 50 feet thin trees to a spacing that leaves plenty of room for canopy growth. Remove highly flammable vegetation such as dead or dying trees and shrubs.

Zone 4 This zone is furthest from structures. Thin selectively to maintain healthy tree growth.

NOTE: Clearing work may require a permit from the King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review. For more information call 206-296-6600.
SURVIVABLE SPACE
Maintain a LEAN, CLEAN, and GREEN safety zone of wildfire defense 30 feet around your home.

LEAN
- Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 feet of your chimney.
- Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune trees 6 to 10 feet from the ground while keeping live tree canopy around 1/2 of the total height of the tree.

CLEAN
- Remove all dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry vegetation, and even stacked firewood.
- Take out “ladder fuels,” vegetation between grass and tree tops. These fuels can carry fire between foliage and structures.
- Maintain your lawn. If brown, mow to 2 inches high. Mow dry grass and weeds.
- Remove dead or dying plant material. Dispose of cuttings and debris by recycling. For recycling locations see http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste.
- Remove flammable plants like ornamental junipers that contain resins, oils, or waxes; and that collect dead needles or leaves within the plant.
- Keep potentially flammable (dry) mulch and landscaping well away from structures. Use a 3-foot wide swath of crushed rock, gravel, or other non-combustible materials around structures.

GREEN
- Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year.
- Space the trees and shrubs you plant in small groupings or individually and leave enough room between them to reduce the spread of fire.
- Use native plants; they are adapted to our area, usually remain healthier, and are often more fire resistant. For more information see our native plant guide at http://green.kingcounty.gov/gonative.

To create your firewise structure, use non-flammable construction materials to reduce vulnerability to flames and blowing embers.

FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION
- Use fire-resistant roof construction materials, such as Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, tile, slate, and concrete products.
- Construct a fire resistant sub-roof for added protection.
- Keep your gutters, eaves, and roof clear of leaves and other debris.

FIRE-RESISTANT EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION
- Use exterior construction materials that are fire resistant or non-combustible when possible.
- Consider window size and materials. Smaller panes hold up better than larger ones; double pane and tempered glass are more effective against fire than single pane glass; and plastic skylights can melt.
- Cover exterior attic and underfloor vents with wire mesh to prevent sparks from entering your home through vents. Use 1/8 inch mesh or smaller.

FIRE-RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS
Attachments are structures connected to your home, such as decks, porches or fences. If an attachment to the home is not fire resistant, then your home is not firewise.
- If attaching a wood fence to your house, use masonry or metal as a protective barrier between fence and house.
- Use non-flammable metal when constructing a trellis and cover with high-moisture, fire resistant vegetation.
- Clear combustible materials and debris from under decks or porches. Screen areas below the deck or porch with 1/8 inch wire mesh.