

FIREWISE CONSTRUCTION

When constructing, renovating, or adding to your home, consider the following tips to **reduce your home's risk from wildfires:**

- Use construction materials that are fire-resistant like asphalt, slate, clay tile, metal, or concrete products for roof construction, and if possible, add a fire-resistant sub-roof.
- Use fire-resistant materials such as stucco or masonry exterior walls. These products are much better than vinyl, which can soften and melt. Also, consider window size and composition materials of windows; smaller panes and, insulated windows are better than larger non-insulated ones.
- Prevent sparks from entering your home through vents by covering exterior attic and underfloor vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 of an inch.
- Keep your gutters, eaves and roof clear of leaves and debris. Clear dead wood and dense vegetation within 30 feet from your house. During fire season (March—October), keep firewood away from your house or attachments like fences, porches and decks or any attached structure.
- Use nonflammable material when constructing a trellis and cover with high-moisture, fire-resistant vegetation.



www.dec.ny.gov

BEWARE & PREPARE

Firefighters need your help. Use these tips to PREPARE your home and PROTECT your family and pets. BEWARE of accidentally starting a wildfire!

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
www.dec.ny.gov

USDA Forest Service
www.fs.fed.us

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service**
www.doi.gov/bureaus.html

National Association of State Foresters
www.stateforesters.org

National Fire Protection Association
www.nfpa.org

U.S. Fire Administration
www.usfa.dhs.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

Firewise Communities USA
www.firewise.org



MAKE YOUR HOME FIREWISE



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FIREWISE LANDSCAPING

To create a landscape that makes your home less **vulnerable to wildfire, think of the area around your home in zones. Zone 1 would be closest to your home and attached structures and Zone 4 is the farthest away.**

ZONE 1 is the area within 30 feet of your house and any attachments. There should be no flammable materials or plants in this zone. Use decorative stones instead of mulch.

ZONE 2 is a radius of 31–50 feet on all sides of your home and attachments, and it should provide space for fire equipment in the event of an emergency. Keep this area clean of leaves and debris and decorate with fire resistant, low growing plants.

ZONE 3 is an area 51–100 feet beyond your home and all attachments. Consider low-growing, well spaced fire-resistant trees in this area.

ZONE 4 is the area 100 feet or more beyond your home and attached structures. Thin trees and shrubs in this area and remove highly flammable vegetation.

AND REMEMBER TO

- Carefully space the trees and shrubs.
- Take out 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.
- Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune all trees 6–10 feet from the ground.
- Mow dry grass and weeds and water and maintain your lawn.
- Dispose of cuttings and debris properly.
- Landscape with less-flammable plants (contact NYSDEC forester, county extension office or landscape specialist for plant information).

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1. HOME IGNITION ZONE

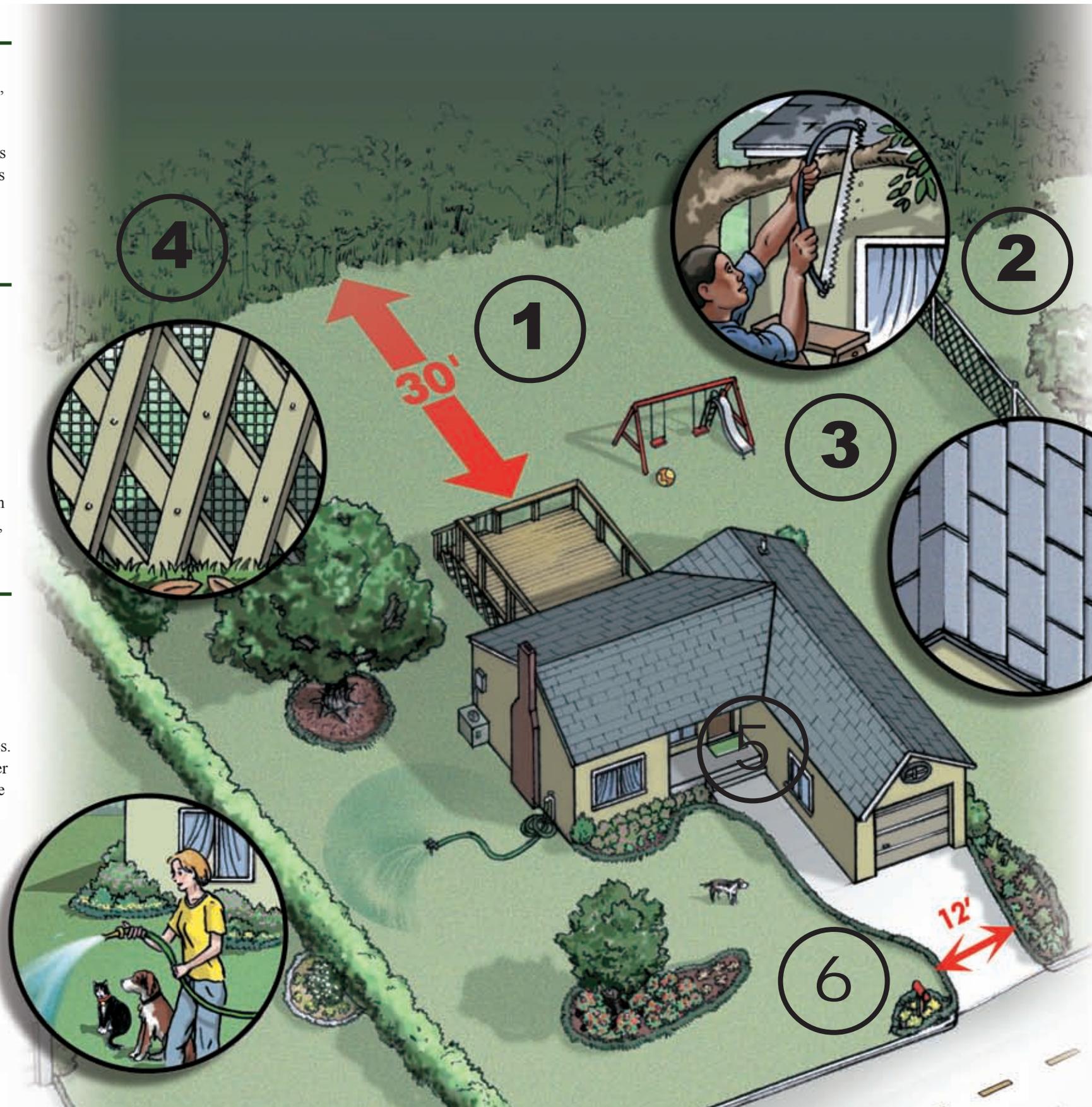
The Home Ignition Zone is the distance from your home, and any attached structures, to surrounding forested or grassland areas. It should be at least 30 feet but can extend as far as 200 feet, depending on the characteristics of your property. By thinning, spacing, and pruning trees and shrubs, and removing dead leaves and needles, you can reduce the likelihood of these things igniting in a forest fire and carrying the fire to your home.

2. LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN LANDSCAPING

With Firewise landscaping, you can create survivable space around your home to reduce wildfire threat. Prune large trees so that the lowest branches are at least 6 - 10 feet high to prevent a fire on the ground from spreading to the tree tops. Within the Home Ignition Zone, remove flammable plants that contain resins, oils, and wax that burn readily: ornamental junipers, rhododendron, red cedar, and young pine. A list of less flammable plants can be obtained from your NYSDEC forester, forestry office, county extension office, or landscape specialist.

3. FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Firewise roof construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, slate or clay tile, and concrete products. The inclusion of a fire-resistant sub-roof adds extra protection. Make a periodic inspection looking for deterioration such as breaks and spaces between roof tiles. Keep the roof, gutters, and eaves clear of leaves and other debris. Make sure under eave and soffit vents are as close as possible to the roof line. Box in eaves, but be sure to provide adequate ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew.



4. FIRE-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION AND ATTACHMENTS

Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco, and concrete masonry. Tempered and double-pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames. Attachments include any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches, or fences. If these items are attached to a home and are not fire-resistant, then the home as a whole is vulnerable to ignition. Prevent combustible materials and debris from accumulating beneath decks or elevated porches with 1/8 inch screen. For more information, see the Firewise construction and landscape tips on the other side.

5. EMERGENCY PLAN

The time to plan for any emergency is prior to the event. Take time to discuss with your family what actions you will take. Post emergency telephone numbers in a visible place. Leave before it is too late. Decide where you will go and how you will get there. Have tools available (shovel, rake, axe, handsaw, or chain saw). Maintain an emergency water source. Have a plan for your pets. Practice family fire drills.

6. EMERGENCY ACCESS

Identify your home with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Include a driveway that is at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet and a slope of less than 5 percent to provide access to emergency vehicles.

