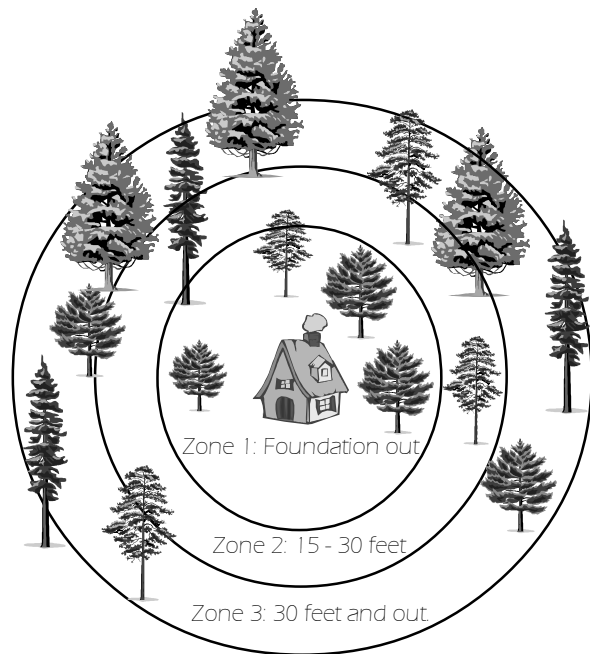


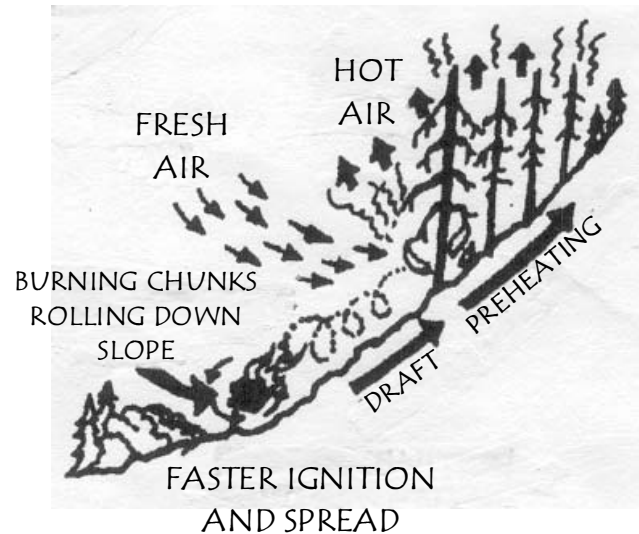
To Determine the Area of Defensible Space Surrounding the Home, Use the following formula:

$1.5 \times \text{height of the structure} + 30$  feet.

For example, this single story structure stands approximately 18 feet tall.  $1.5 \times 18 \text{ feet} = 27 \text{ feet}$ . Add an additional 30 feet for a total distance of 57 feet. This home should have approximately 57 feet of defensible space surrounding the entire structure to prevent a wildfire from being lured to the front door.



Because fire moves rapidly uphill, if your home is built on or near a slope of  $10^\circ$  or more, you should increase your defensible space by 1 foot for each additional degree of slope beyond  $10^\circ$ .



# SAFER LIVING IN THE WILD



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Living in the “wild” is often synonymous with living in the Urban Wildland Interface (UWI). The UWI is not a pre-determined geographical area. Rather, it is a set of conditions that exist when combustible homes are built in a combustible environment.

During the mid-80’s Texans began migrating from the hustle and bustle of living in the city, moving toward a more peaceful setting in the wild. While Texas’s wildland communities have begun to grow, the volunteer fire departments that serve these areas haven’t experienced such a growth and are often times under-equipped and under-staffed and, therefore, are unable to protect a large number of homes when threatened when a wildfire approaches.

By taking a few simple steps to create a defensible space around your home, you can greatly reduce the likelihood of a wildfire being lured to your dream home. Defensible space is an area surrounding a home where the vegetation, and sometimes the

structure itself, has been modified in order to separate the “fuels” which a wildfire feeds from.

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Defensible space is designed to achieve three benefits:

- 1) To allow firefighters the room to perform the task at hand.
- 2) To give the structure opportunity to survive a wildfire on it’s own when firefighters cannot safely attempt to defend it.
- 3) To stop a fire from spreading from the structure to surrounding vegetation.

To create a defensible space around your home, follow these guidelines:

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#### VEGETATION MODIFICATIONS

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- R Within the designated defensible space zone, thin trees and brush cover so that the widest portions of the tops are 10-15 feet apart.
- R Remove shrubs and smaller trees if they are underneath larger trees.
- R Prune branches of trees to the height of 10 feet.
- R Isolate flowerbeds and surround them with a non-flammable ground cover.

- R Keep grasses well irrigated and mowed to approximately 2” or less.
- R Clear needles and leaves from roofs and gutters.

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#### STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS

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- R Use fire resistive building materials, especially the roof.
- R Install chimney screens or spark arrestors.
- R Enclose porches, foundations and roof / attic openings to prevent debris from accumulating.
- R Post name and address in 3” letters.
- R Provide adequate driveway and turnaround space for emergency vehicles.
- R Protect windows and glass doors with fire resistant drapes or internal shutters.
- R Develop external water supplies such as cisterns, dry hydrants, ponds and swimming pools.
- R Store tools such as shovels, axes, rakes, hoes and especially connected garden hoses for emergency use.