

Why we visited your neighborhood

Your neighborhood was identified as having the potential to be at risk to wildfire. This was solely based on finding homes in close proximity to wooded areas by looking at aerial photos of your community. We are visiting your neighborhood to see if the homes just have a lot of trees nearby, or are truly at risk to wildfire.

Wildfire in Minnesota

Each year hundreds of people build their dream homes away from the city. These homes are tucked in the woods or abut picturesque wild land. Unfortunately, in all their serene beauty, these homes may be vulnerable to wildfire. Fire is not just a threat to homes in western states. In 2000, eight homes were lost to wildfire in Minnesota.

Be A FIREWISE Advocate

Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety. Discuss how your neighborhood can work together to prevent a wildfire disaster.

For More Information

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources—Forestry Division is working in cooperation with your local Fire Department and other partners in your community to identify areas at risk to wildfire and develop strategies to reduce this risk. If you would like more information on wildfire risk or this community project, contact the following:



Helping You Protect Your Home From Wildfire

How does your home rank?

We are sorry we missed you. We did a quick look at your property and found:



LOW FIRE RISK

The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are GOOD. There's not much you need to do to improve your situation.



MODERATE FIRE RISK

The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are FAIR. Minor improvements will make it even more fire resistant.



HIGH FIRE RISK

The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are NOT GOOD. You need to make some improvement to improve the chance of your home's survival.



EXTREME FIRE RISK

Your home may not survive if a wildfire passes through the area. Take a serious look at your property and make improvements.



ACCESS ALERT

Your driveway is not up to standards. It is unlikely that an ambulance or fire truck could reach your home in an emergency.



©2002, State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources

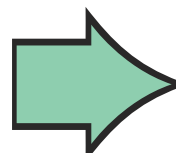
Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age, sexual orientation, membership or activity in a local commission, or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to MN-DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

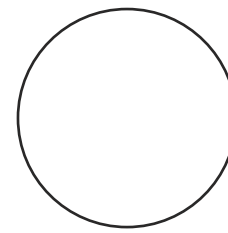
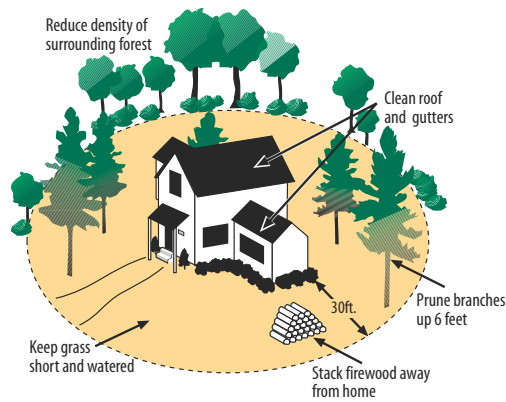
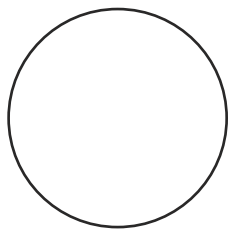
This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling (651) 296-6157 (Metro Area) or 1-888-MINNDNR (MN Toll Free) or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf TTY: (651) 296-5484 (Metro Area) or 1-800-657-3929 (Toll Free TTY).

Printed on recycled paper containing a minimum of 10% post-consumer waste and soy-based ink.

Look INSIDE

For ways to make your home FIREWISE





Determining Your Home's Risk

Homes at risk to wildfire have three common factors:

1. **ACCESS**—the emergency vehicles can't find or safely get to your home.
2. **VEGETATION**—the vegetation around your home allows a fire to enlarge and overrun your home.
3. **STRUCTURE**—the design and building materials of your home allow burning embers to easily ignite the structure.

Checked below are some of the actions you could take to lower your wildfire risk.

ACCESS: Improve the access to your home so emergency vehicles can protect your home.

- Provide a turnaround at your home at least 30 feet in diameter.
- Cut back trees and brush from the shoulder of the driveway to maintain a minimum driveway width of 12 feet.
- Trim overhanging branches up 14 feet above your driveway.
- Post your address so it can be easily seen from the street. Use reflective numerals.

VEGETATION CLEARANCES: Create a 30 to 50 foot SAFETY ZONE around your home.

- Rake leaves, dead branches and twigs in the yard.
- Remove leaves and needles from gutters and roof.
- Mow and water grass regularly.
- Remove leaves and rubbish from under decks and other exposed parts of buildings.
- Remove conifer trees and dense wild brush within 10 feet of structures.
- Thin conifer trees to create a 10-foot space between tree crowns (tops), and prune off limbs within 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Clear a 10-foot area around propane tanks and the barbecue or fire ring.

- Stack firewood, and other flammable materials, at least 20 feet away and uphill from your home or outbuildings.

STRUCTURE: Any structures attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences, and out buildings should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuses or fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials. Therefore consider the following:

- Items attached to the structure such as fences and trellises should be non-flammable, or insulated from the house by a metal or masonry barrier.
- Wood Shingles should be treated with fire resistant coating or replaced with class A roofing.
- Soffits & attic vents should be enclosed with a fine metal mesh screening
- If residing, consider metal, stucco or brick siding materials.
- Enclose under your deck with solid skirting or a fine mesh.
- Enclose foundations on all buildings with brick, stone or metal.
- A fire resistant cap on your chimney will keep your fireplace from starting a wildfire

FIRE PREVENTION: Prevention of wildfires in your neighborhood will reduce your home's risk. Consider these fire prevention tips:

- Place stove, fireplace and grill ashes in a metal bucket, soak in water for two days, then dispose of the cold ashes.
- Use alternatives to burning such as composting.
- Stay with all fires until they are completely out.

On the Web

For more information, check out the Firewise web site at www.firewise.org. Browse through the online publications and find tips on landscaping, maintenance and construction.