



MAKE YOUR HOME SWEET HOME A FIREWISE ONE

LOOK INSIDE!
for simple ways to prepare your home for a wildfire.

WILDFIRES ARE A FACT OF LIFE IN IDAHO KNOWING THE FACTS CAN HELP YOU LIVE SAFELY WITH FIRE.

Today, as more people build their homes in the forests and rangelands of Idaho, they become part of the ever-increasing landscape where the urban environment meets the wild. Being a resident of the wildland-urban interface has benefits as well as risks. One of those risks is the threat of wildfire. When we choose to live in or near a wildland environment, we take on the responsibility of protecting our families, property, pets, and livestock

should a wildfire occur. By taking the time to learn why the wildland-urban interface is prone to wildfire and what you can do to protect your loved ones and property, you can learn to live safely with fire.

Unlike other natural disasters, such as floods or tornadoes, loss from wildfire is preventable.



PROTECTING YOUR HOME MEANS PLANNING AHEAD

FLAMING BRANDS AND EMBERS CAN TRAVEL AS FAR AS 5 MILES AHEAD OF AN ACTIVE FRONT



It is a common misconception that wildland-urban interface (WUI) homes ignite because a giant wall of flames consumes everything in its path. In fact, most WUI home ignitions are caused by the burning brands and embers that travel ahead of a flaming front, sometimes called “red snow.” Much like real snow, these embers are prone to collecting in cracks and crevices around your home, and when they come into contact with flammable material, they cause an ignition.

Flaming brands and embers can travel as far as 5 miles ahead of an active front of a wildfire and can ignite homes well ahead of the flaming front. Once one home is ignited, flaming materials from that structure join in the blizzard of flaming embers. The proximity and flammability of structures in most neighborhoods can cause ignitions to increase, turning what started as a wildfire into an urban conflagration.

Refer to the interior poster for specific steps to protect your home.

YOUR LANDSCAPE CAN PROTECT YOU

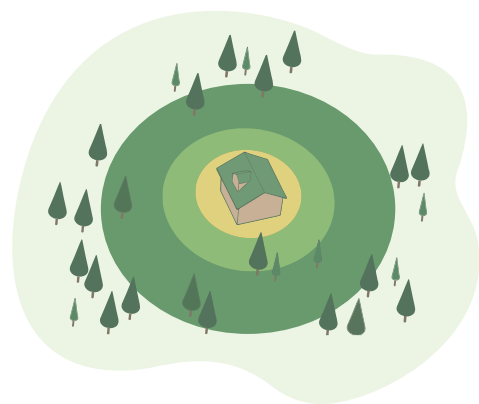
Protect your property by using defensible space. Defensible space is the natural and landscaped area around a structure that is designed and maintained to reduce fire danger.



LADDER FUELS

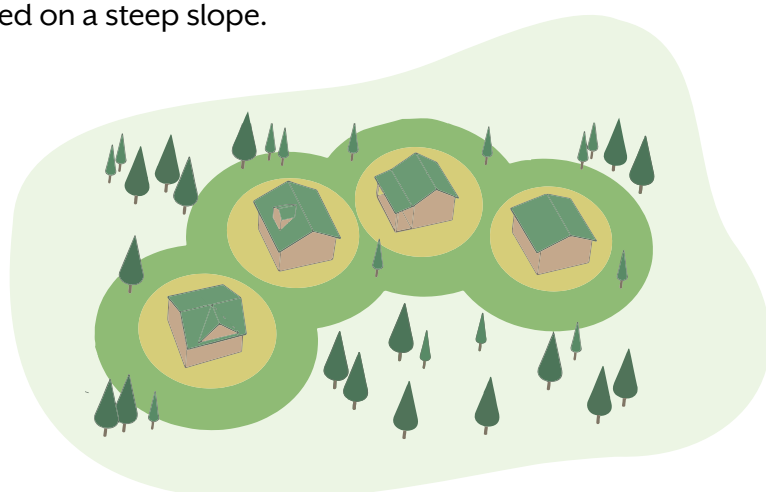
Reduce ladder fuels to protect your property. Ladder fuels enable fire to climb from ground fuels to the canopies of large trees via a step-like configuration (see figure). By removing low tree branches and shrubs under trees you prevent ground fires from becoming dangerous fast-moving crown fires. Provide adequate spacing between trees and shrubs. Limb trees from 6-10 feet from the ground or no more than 1/3 the total height.

Create space between trees and shrubs—a good rule of thumb is twice the height of what the plant will be at maturity. Remove tree limbs located within 15 feet of chimneys and power lines. Ensure there are no limbs or branches touching the house or any other structures.



DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Defensible space should be 30 feet or more from a structure on all sides. The distance should be increased to 100 feet (or to the property line) if your lot is situated on a steep slope.



OVERLAPPING DEFENSIBLE SPACE

DEFENSIBLE SPACE MEANS CREATING SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN FUELS SO THAT FIRES CANNOT EASILY JUMP FROM ONE FUEL SOURCE TO ANOTHER

IN THE EVENT OF A WILDFIRE



HAVE A PLAN.

Know where everyone in your household (including pets) will go if you have to leave or cannot return to your home. Make sure everyone in your household knows how they will get to the shelter location. Designate an off-site emergency contact that is accessible to everyone in your household. Prepare and maintain two escape routes in the event one is not passable.

READY YOUR HOUSEHOLD FOR EVACUATION.

Gather everyone and let them know you are evacuating. Park cars facing the direction you will be leaving and leave the keys in the ignition. Load pets and livestock into carriers and trailers. Place important documents and emergency kits into vehicles.

LEAVE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

If a wildfire threatens, DO NOT WAIT TO BE TOLD TO EVACUATE. If you are uncomfortable with the situation, leave. Over 60% of wildfire fatalities are people who waited too long and left too late.

DO NOT WAIT TO BE TOLD TO EVACUATE

IF YOU GET TRAPPED.

Should you get trapped, shelter in your most fire-safe structure and close ALL windows and doors. Remove window treatments and place wet towels under door and window openings. Stay in the center of the structure until the fire front passes. When it is safe to go outside, put out embers and spot fires using a wet mop or hose or shovel dirt on the fire.



READY YOUR HOUSE, TOO.

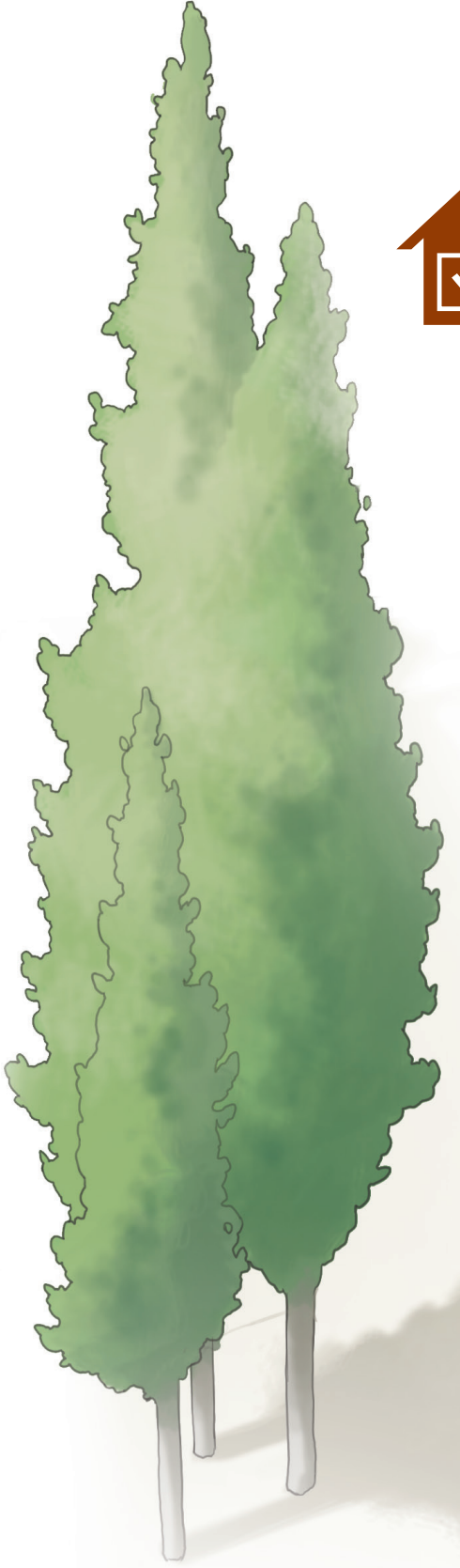
Close ALL doors and windows. Place flammable belongings into enclosed storage areas and move covered recreational vehicles away from structures. Open gates and install removable vent covers. Connect hoses and leave them where they can be easily found.

KEEP A FIRE EXTINGUISHER AND TOOLS ACCESSIBLE AT ALL TIMES.

A shovel, rake, ladder, and 100 feet of attached garden hose can be used to extinguish spot fires on and around your home. Protect yourself too. Wear leather gloves, sturdy boots and wool or cotton clothing.

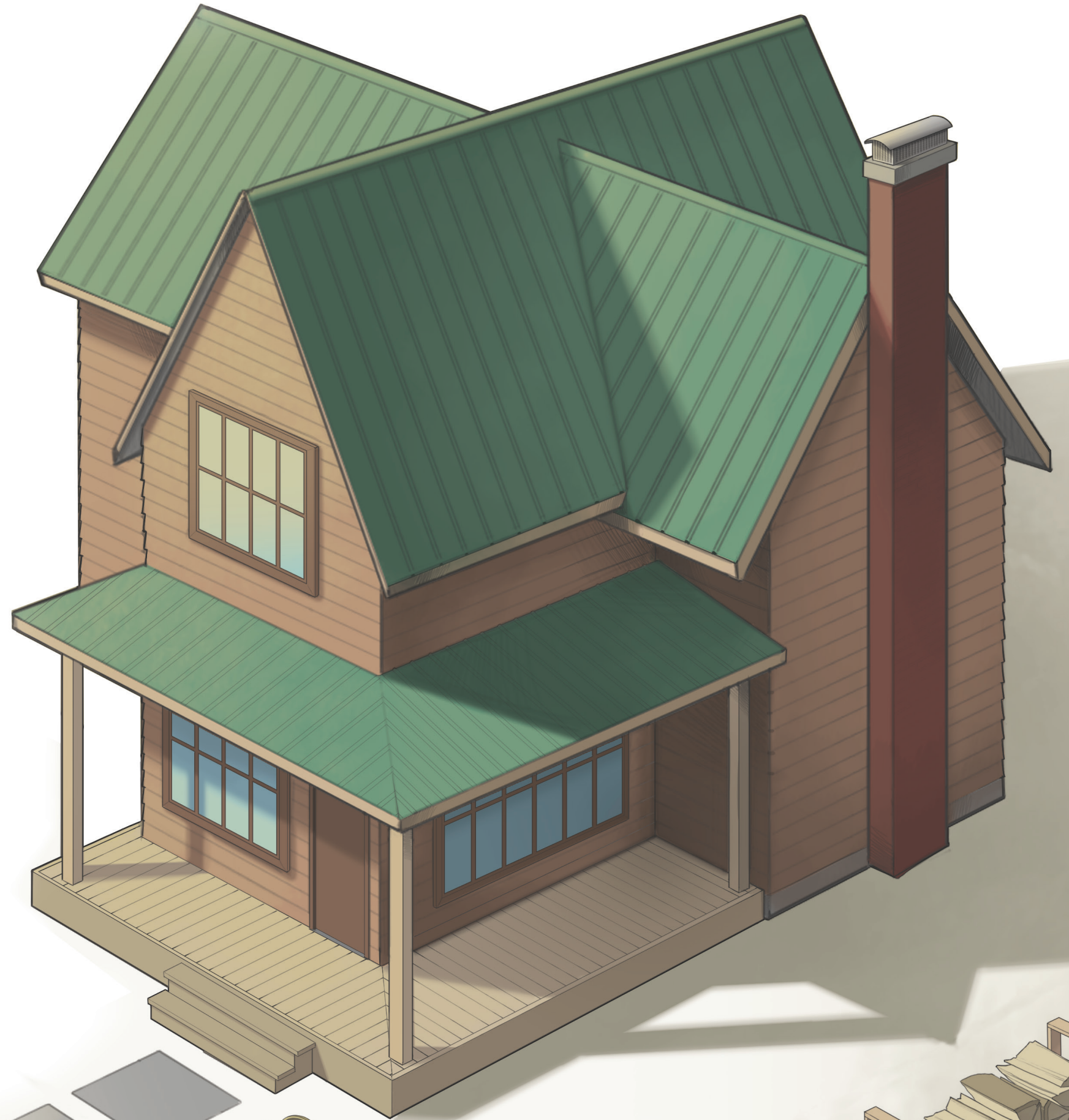


KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE. KEEP YOUR HOME FIREWISE.



PROTECT YOUR HOME PLAN AHEAD

- Make sure your roof, siding and deck are fire-resistant
- Make sure your chimney has an approved spark arrestor
- Double-paned tempered glass windows are best
- Screen vents and other small openings with 1/8" metal screen
- Move firewood at least 30 feet away from homes and structures
- Help emergency responders to find you, by ensuring your address is visible



STATISTICS SHOW

Recovering from a wildfire is 15 times more expensive than preparing for one. Protecting your home from a wildfire is a matter of planning and taking the steps outlined here. While no home is fireproof, these precautions will greatly increase the chances that your property will escape serious damage in the event of a wildfire.



MAINTAIN YOUR LANDSCAPE

- Lawn furniture is often flammable and can fuel a fire
- Create a 5-foot non-flammable area immediately adjacent to your home
- Use non-flammable hardscaping
- Replace hazardous vegetation with fire-resistant plant materials
- Keep your lawn well-watered