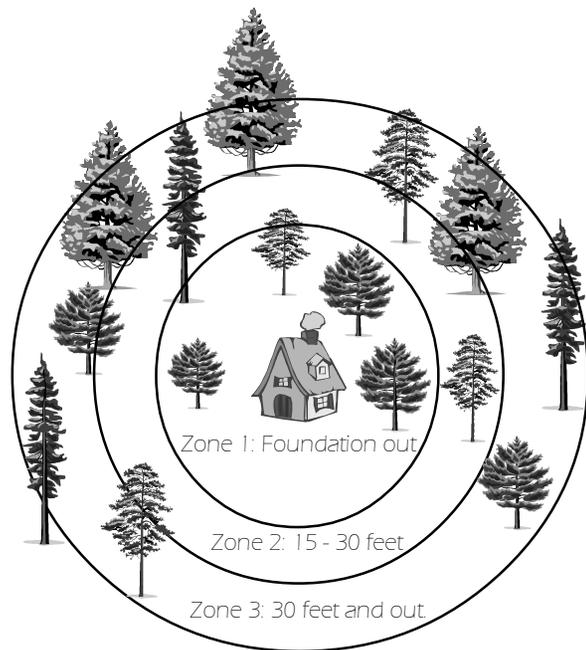


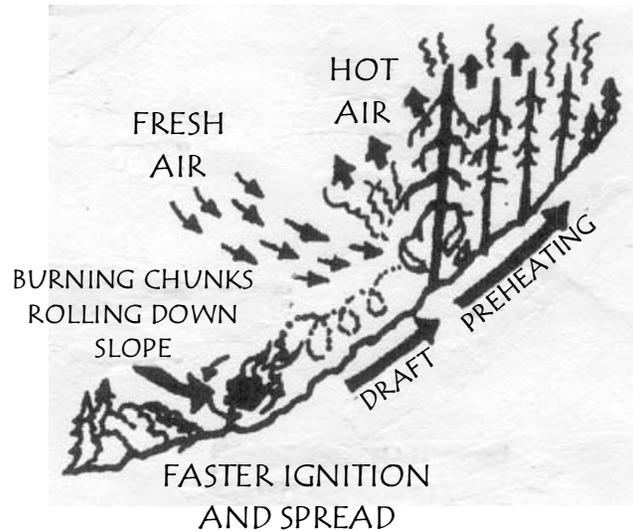
To Determine the Area of Defensible Space Surrounding the Home, Use the following formula:

1.5 X height of the structure + 30 feet.

For example, this single story structure stands approximately 18 feet tall. 1.5 X 18 feet = 27 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° or more, you should increase your defensible space by 1 foot for each additional degree of slope beyond 10°.



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# SAFER LIVING IN THE WILD



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

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

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#### STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS

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