

# HOME PROTECTION

Removing fire fuels and maintaining soil and plant moisture can make a home more fire-safe.

## IF A FIRE APPROACHES YOUR HOUSE

■ **Evacuate** your pets and all family members who are not essential to preparing the home. Anyone with medical or physical limitations and the young and the elderly should be evacuated immediately.

■ Wear protective clothing.

■ **Remove Combustibles.** Clear items that will burn from around the house, including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills, tarp coverings, etc. Move them outside of your defensible space.

■ **Close/Protect Openings.** Close outside attic, eaves and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds or heavy non-combustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat.

■ **Close Inside Doors/Open Damper.** Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft. Open the damper on your fireplace, but close the fireplace screen.

■ **Shut Off Gas.** Shut off any natural gas,

propane or fuel oil supplies at the source.

■ **Water.** Connect garden hoses. Fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water.

■ **Pumps.** If you have gas-powered pumps for water, make sure they are fueled and ready.

■ **Ladder.** Place a ladder against the house in clear view.

■ **Car.** Back your car into the driveway

and roll up the windows.

■ **Garage Doors.** Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.

■ **Valuables.** Place valuable papers, mementos and anything "you can't live without" inside the car in the garage, ready for quick departure. Any pets still with you should also be put in the car.

### Preparing to Leave

■ **Lights.** Turn on outside lights and leave a light on in every room to make the house more visible in heavy smoke.

■ **Don't Lock Up.** Leave doors and windows closed but unlocked. It may be necessary for firefighters to gain quick entry into your home to fight fire. The entire area will be isolated and patrolled by sheriff's deputies or police.

## FIREPROOFING YOUR HOME

Some safety strategies to protect your home:

### Yard

■ Dispose of dead branches and grasses on all sides of the house

■ Space trees, mow lawn

■ Prune branches 15-20 ft. (4.5-6 m) from ground; consider low-flammability vegetation, especially on slopes

### Roofing

■ Avoid wood shingles

■ Cover chimney with mesh to contain embers

■ Keep roofs, eaves, awnings and rain gutters free of needles, leaves and debris

### Slope

■ Home should be set back from hill's crest.

■ Decks and dry vegetation are at risk.

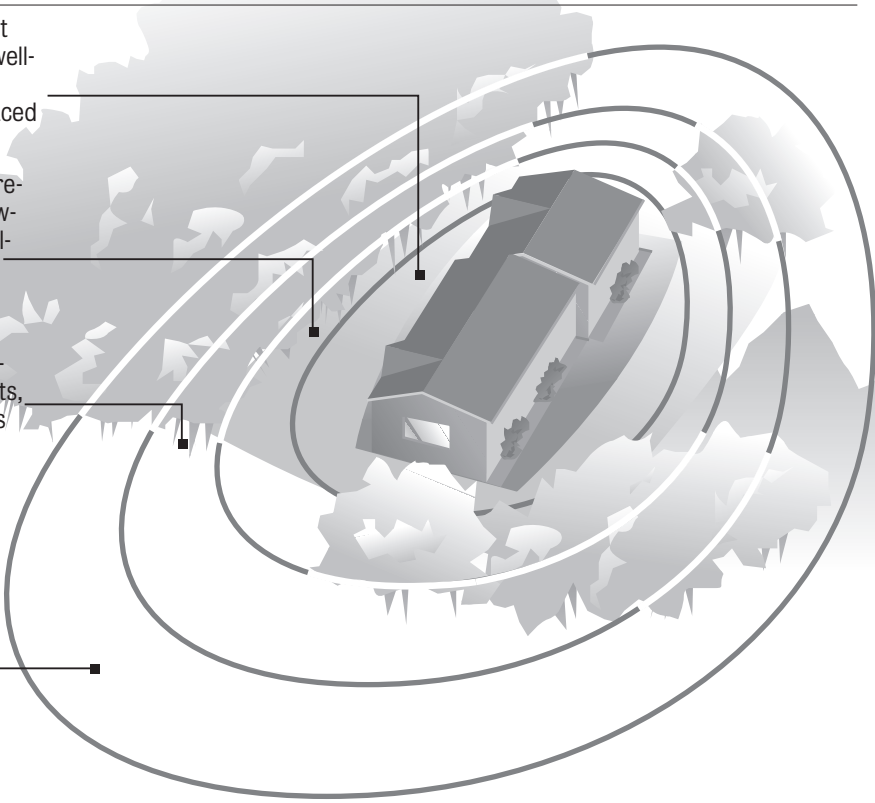
## ZONES

1 Fire-resistant vegetation, well-watered, carefully spaced

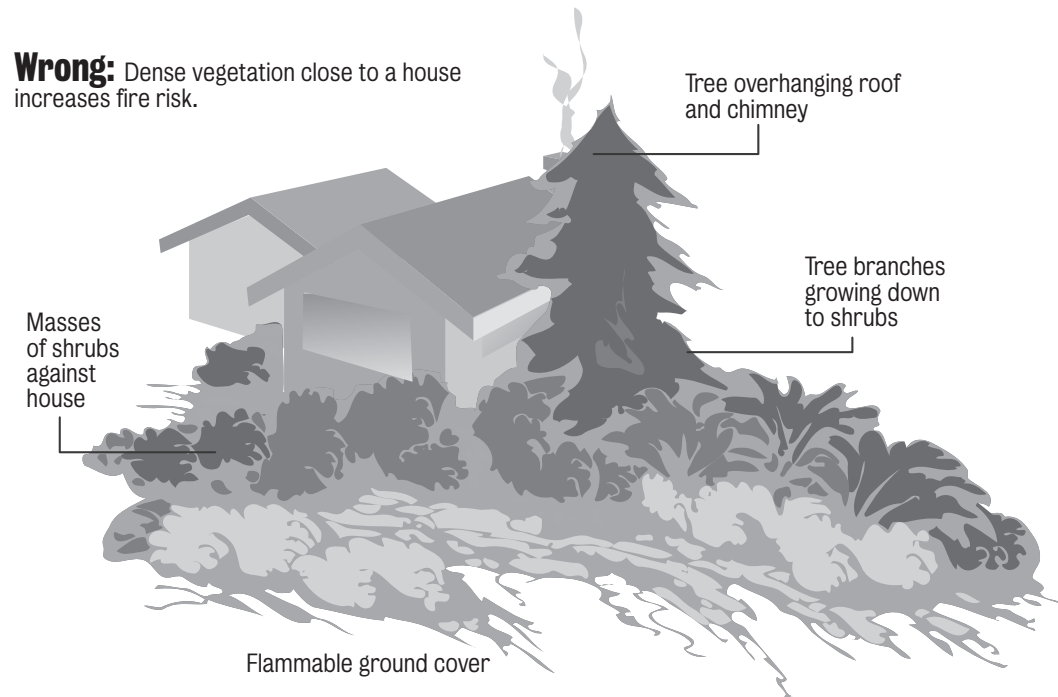
2 Plants are fire-resistant, low-growing, well-irrigated

3 Selective planting, low-growing plants, spaced trees

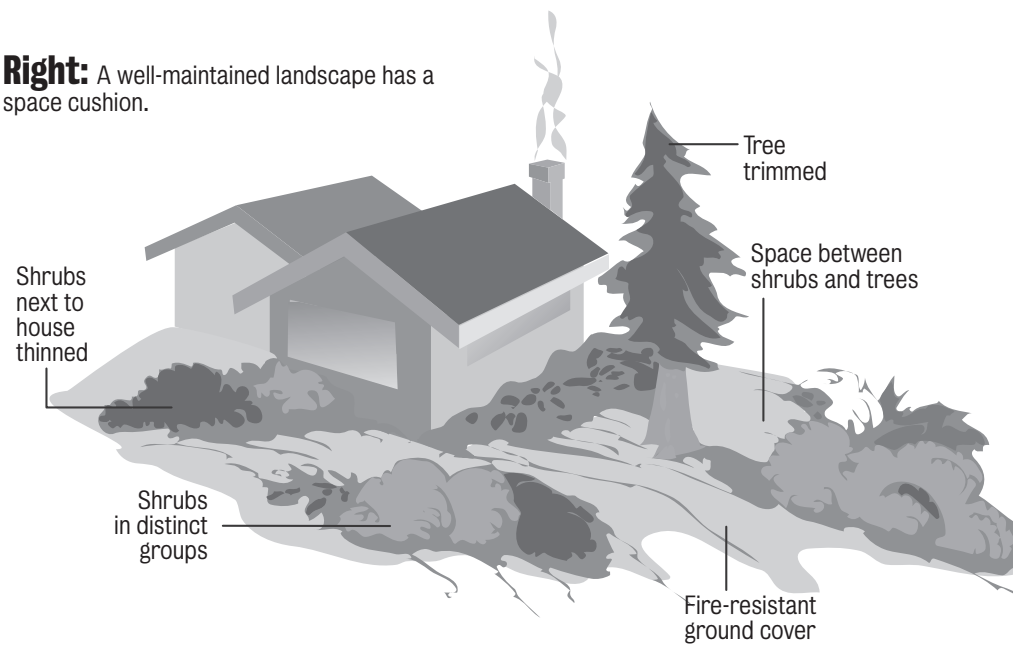
4 Native or naturalized vegetation, selective thinning, removal of flammable species



**Wrong:** Dense vegetation close to a house increases fire risk.



**Right:** A well-maintained landscape has a space cushion.



## INSIDE THE HOME

■ Windows and doors must be easy to open from the inside

■ Consider escape ladders for second-floor bedrooms.

■ Have your chimney inspected yearly

■ Keep combustibles, children and pets at least three feet away from heat sources

■ Avoid using extension cords. These should only be used temporarily.

■ Cords shouldn't be run under the carpet, where wear and tear can't be seen.

■ Candles or any open flame should not be left unattended.

■ Install smoke alarms outside all sleeping areas

■ Sleep with bedroom doors closed to prevent a faster spread of fire

■ Never smoke in bed.

■ Use at least one smoke detector on every floor of the home and one outside every sleeping area

■ Replace smoke detector batteries when changing between daylight and standard time

**LIVING/FAMILY AREAS**

**BEDROOMS**

**KITCHEN**

■ Keep curtains and towels at least three feet away from the stove.

■ Keep all cooking surfaces clean.  
■ Use only UL-listed appliances

■ Replace shake roof with fire-resistant roofing

■ Clear all debris from roof and gutters