

Wildfire Readiness

Protect your home and property within the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ). The HIZ is a buffer of up to 200 feet around your house - a defensible space to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) divides the HIZ into three sections:

Immediate Zone (0-5 feet)

Make this zone non-combustible. It is the most vulnerable zone to embers.

- **Clean** roofs, gutters, and decks of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- **Move** any flammable material away from wall exteriors and under decks – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles. Remove branches that hang over roof and chimney. Replace bark with rock.
- **Screen** attic, roof, eaves, and foundation vents with 1/8 inch metal mesh to reduce the chance of embers entering your home.
- **Repair** or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- **Box-in** areas below patios and decks, or screen with 1/8 inch metal mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating. If not feasible, remove all combustible items.
- **Replace** or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration..

Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet)

Use Landscaping/hardscaping to create fire breaks in this zone

- **Clear** vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- **Create** fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- **Keep** lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches.
- **Remove** ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees six to ten feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- **Remove** vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings
- **Plan** tree placement to ensure mature canopy is no closer than 10 feet to the edge of structures. Space trees with a minimum of 18 feet between crowns.
- **Limit** tree and shrubs in this zone to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.



Extended Zone (30–100 feet)

Use Landscaping/hardscaping to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.

- **Dispose** of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris. Remove dead plant and tree material.
- **Remove** small conifers growing between mature trees.
- **Maintain** at least 12 feet between canopy tops of trees in this zone.



Additional Resources

- **King Conservation District Wildfire Preparedness Program**
www.kingcd.org/programs/better-forests/wildfire-resiliency
Wildfire preparedness information and assistance, wildfire risk assessments, mitigation project planning and cost-share, community enrollment in Firewise USA program.
- **Washington State Department of Natural Resources**
<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/wildfire/wildfire-preparedness>
Wildfire preparedness information, [Community Resilience Resource Library](#) including a fire-resistant plant guide, [Wildfire Ready Neighbors program page](#) to help landowners prevent damage from wildfire, [Service Forestry Program](#) to provide technical assistance and cost-share opportunities to small forest landowners.
- **South King Tool Library**
www.southkingtools.org
Provides access to tools and training for individuals to maintain their homes and spaces. Check out tools and equipment at either of the two locations: Auburn and Federal Way.
- **Firewise USA**
<https://www.nfpa.org/Education-and-Research/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>
A program designed to help neighborhoods reduce their wildfire risks
- **Yard Waste**
<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/waste-services/garbage-recycling-compost/services/food-yard-waste>
<https://www.wmnorthwest.com/auburn/>

For more information go to www.vrfa.org, and southkingtools.org

