BE FIREWISE

PLAN TO BE PREPARED

A DISASTER PLAN

Plan and practice for emergencies before the event. Discuss with your family what actions you will take. With fire, you may only have a moment's notice.

- ☐ Post local emergency telephone numbers in a visible place.
- ☐ Post directions to your home for emergency calls.
- ☐ Leave before it is too late. Decide where you will go and how you will get there. Plan at least two escape routes and meeting locations.
- ☐ Have tools available, such as a shovel, rake, axe, handsaw, or chain saw.
- ☐ Have a plan for your animals.
- ☐ Practice family fire drills.

Wildfires can occur without notice; be ready to take action and evacuate.

ASSISTANCE WITH PLANNING

For more help making your home firewise, contact the King County Forestry Program at 206-296-6519 or your local fire district.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS

When calling the fire department, speak clearly and use well-marked street names and house numbers so emergency vehicles can find your home.

Trim vegetation 15 feet above your driveway to allow emergency vehicles open access.

Alternate formats available

206-296-6519 TTY Relay: 711

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BE FIREWISE

BEWARE & PREPARE

Use the tips in this brochure to prepare your home and protect your family and animals from wildfires.

A healthy forest with growing space for trees will be healthier, more drought tolerant, and less susceptible to fire.

Wildfires do not respect property lines. Share this information with your neighbors and consider creating a neighborhood wildfire prevention and evacuation plan.

Firefighters need your help. Beware of accidentally starting a wildfire!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

King County

- Department of Permitting and Environmental Review
  www.kingcounty.gov/permitting
- Department of Natural Resources and Parks
  www.kingcounty.gov/forestry

Washington Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.wa.gov/ search for fire information

Firewise
www.firewise.org

The Fire Safe Council
www.firesafecouncil.org/

King County
Department of Permitting and Environmental Review
35030 SE Douglas, Suite 210
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
206-296-6600 TTY Relay:711

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division
201 S Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104
206-296-6519 TTY Relay:711

BE FIREWISE

Create the first zone of defense!

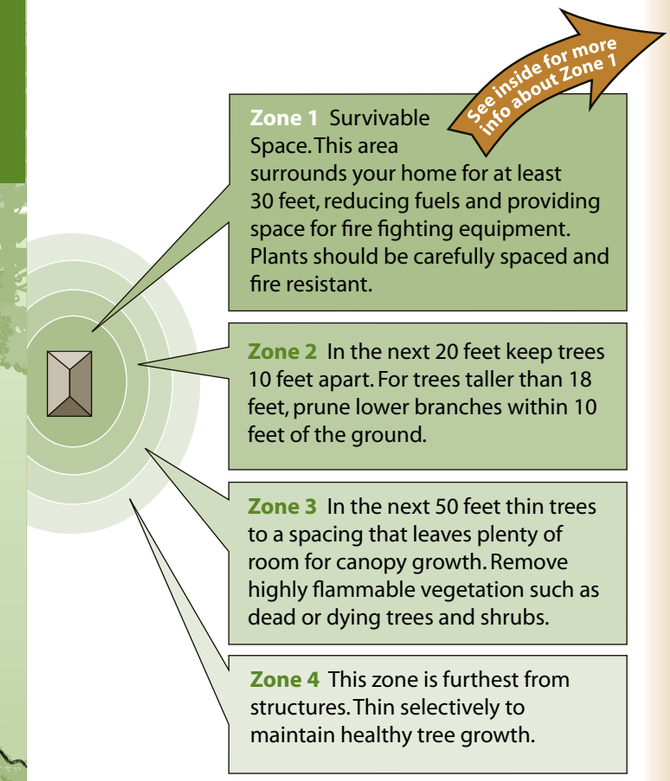
Fire safety tips for rural homeowners

King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Department of Permitting and Environmental Review

BE FIREWISE

SAFETY ZONES



NOTE: Clearing work may require a permit from the King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review. For more information call 206-296-6600.

FIRE-RESISTANT

LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN LANDSCAPING

SURVIVABLE SPACE

Maintain a LEAN, CLEAN, and GREEN safety zone of wildfire defense 30 feet around your home.

Reduce the wildfire threat to your home by managing flammable vegetation.

LEAN

- ☐ Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 feet of your chimney.
- ☐ Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune trees 6 to 10 feet from the ground while keeping live tree canopy around 1/2 of the total height of the tree.

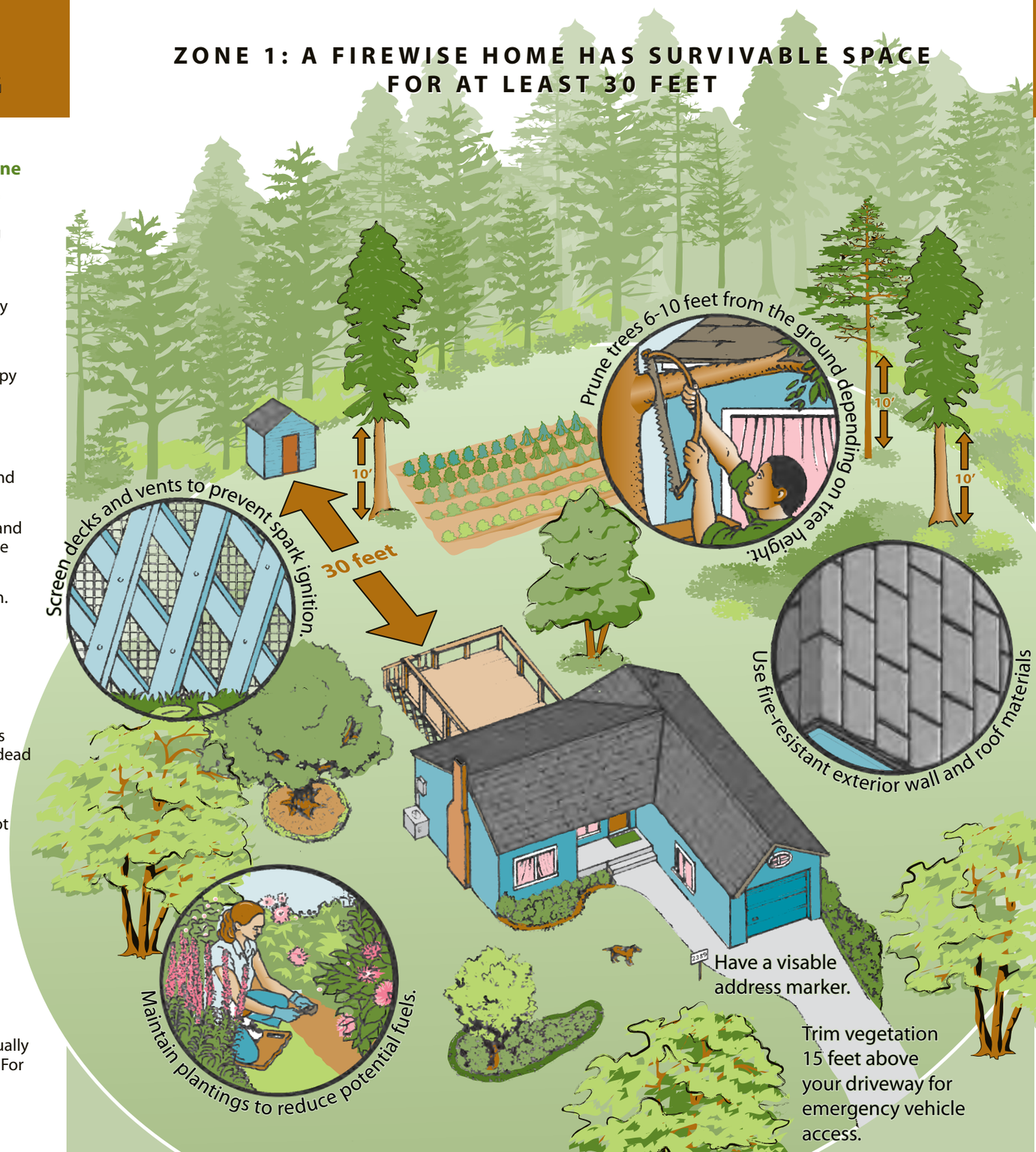
CLEAN

- ☐ Remove all dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry vegetation, and even stacked firewood.
- ☐ Take out "ladder fuels," vegetation between grass and tree tops. These fuels can carry fire between foliage and structures.
- ☐ Maintain your lawn. If brown, mow to 2 inches high. Mow dry grass and weeds.
- ☐ Remove dead or dying plant material. Dispose of cuttings and debris by recycling. For recycling locations see **http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste**.
- ☐ Remove flammable plants like ornamental junipers that contain resins, oils, or waxes; and that collect dead needles or leaves within the plant.
- ☐ Keep potentially flammable (dry) mulch and landscaping well away from structures. Use a 3-foot wide swath of crushed rock, gravel, or other non-combustible materials around structures.

GREEN

- ☐ Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year.
- ☐ Space the trees and shrubs you plant in small groupings or individually and leave enough room between them to reduce the spread of fire.
- ☐ Use native plants; they are adapted to our area, usually remain healthier, and are often more fire resistant. For more information see our native plant guide at **http://green.kingcounty.gov/gonative**.

ZONE 1: A FIREWISE HOME HAS SURVIVABLE SPACE FOR AT LEAST 30 FEET



FIRE – RESISTANT

CONSTRUCTION

To create your firewise structure, use non-flamable constrution materials to reduce vulnerability to flames and blowing embers.

FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION

- ☐ Use fire-resistant roof construction materials, such as Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, tile, slate, and concrete products.
- ☐ Construct a fire resistant sub-roof for added protection.
- ☐ Keep your gutters, eaves, and roof clear of leaves and other debris.

FIRE-RESISTANT EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION

- ☐ Use exterior construction materials that are fire resistant or non-combustible when possible.
- ☐ Consider window size and materials. Smaller panes hold up better than larger ones; double pane and tempered glass are more effective against fire than single pane glass; and plastic skylights can melt.
- ☐ Cover exterior attic and underfloor vents with wire mesh to prevent sparks from entering your home through vents. Use 1/8 inch mesh or smaller.

NOTE: *Although some vinyl will not burn, vinyl soffits can melt, allowing embers into the attic space.*

FIRE-RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS

Attachments are structures connected to your home, such as decks, porches or fences. If an attachment to the home is not fire resistant, then your home is not firewise.

- ☐ If attaching a wood fence to your house, use masonry or metal as a protective barrier between fence and house.
- ☐ Use non-flammable metal when constructing a trellis and cover with high-moisture, fire resistant vegetation.
- ☐ Clear combustible materials and debris from under decks or porches. Screen areas below the deck or porch with 1/8 inch wire mesh.