



## A Message from the Governor of Arizona

*The condition of our forests is a serious threat to forest health and public safety. In the past two years alone, hundreds of thousands of acres were burned and many homes were destroyed or damaged by wildfires in Arizona.*

*With continuing drought conditions and the damage caused by bark beetles, it's important that we all recognize that there is a real threat of wildfires again this year.*

*Acknowledging the threat to our forests and the forest communities, I established the Forest Health Oversight and Advisory Councils.*

*The members of these councils have made a number of recommendations to protect Arizona's forests and communities.*

*Key among the recommendations is to encourage residents of Arizona's forest communities to implement the principles of FIREWISE.*

*If you own property in an area at risk from wildfire, I encourage you to take the simple steps outlined in this brochure. I also encourage you to visit the Arizona FIREWISE Web site to learn more about the program and investigate how you can organize your community in an effort to protect your homes and the surrounding forests.*

*When you visit Arizona's forests, please follow posted regulations. Remember, a carelessly tossed cigarette or an abandoned campfire can destroy thousands of acres of our forests and the lives of those who live there.*

**Governor Janet Napolitano**

Wildland fire risks have increased across Arizona because of drought conditions, bark beetle infestation, and an increase in the wildland-urban interface – that area where residential development meets our forests.

**So, NOW is the time to be more FIREWISE!**

The following are key points to remember :

- Protecting your home from wildfires is **YOUR** responsibility.
- The risk of wildfire is real.
- If you live in the foothills, grasslands, or mountains of Arizona, you live in a fire-prone environment and your home is at risk!
- Your first defense against wildfire is to create and maintain a defensible space around your home.
- Properly protecting your property using the FIREWISE concepts protects our forests.

**Remember, the effectiveness of a fire department or firefighters in stopping a wildfire starts with **YOU!****

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# The Seven things that you can do to help protect your home from wildfire



## IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

presented by



**Protecting your home from wildfire starts with YOU. Please look around your home and see which of these FIREWISE fundamentals apply to you.**

- 1. Create defensible space around your house.** Remove leaf and pine needle accumulation along with other flammables within at least 30 feet of the house.
- 2. Cut down trees to create open space around your house.** By ensuring that trees or clumps of trees are properly spaced (suggested 20 feet apart at the canopy), you can help prevent flames from traveling from tree to tree in a solid front — or crown fire. Properly thinning trees within 125 feet of your home and eliminating those branches that overhang the roof can improve the chances of protecting your home from an advancing wildfire.

- 3. Remove tall, dry grasses from the surrounding property.** Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.
- 4. Remove leaves and pine needles from your roof and gutters.** During a fire, debris on the roof and/or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.

- 5. Remove “ladder fuels.”** Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6'-10' from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree with relative ease.
- 6. Check your gas-powered equipment and garden hoses to be sure they are in good repair.** Yard equipment needs annual maintenance and proper fueling. During wildland fire season, fuel your lawn mower properly — away from dry, flammable grasses. Hoses develop leaks and deteriorate with age and exposure.

- 7. Prune bushes and shrubs regularly.** Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability, and the threat they could pose during a wildland fire.

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FIREWISE