

## Ember Safety

Most homes lost during a wildfire are ignited by embers or firebrands landing on the roof, in gutters, on or under decks and porches, or in vents or other unprotected openings in the home.

- Your roof is the most vulnerable spot for embers that could cause initial ignition of the structure. Make sure you have a nonflammable roof covering and perform regular maintenance.



- Decks and other areas where leaves and needle litter accumulate are critical areas needing regular maintenance.



## Great Plains Fire Safe Council

### Landscaping Demonstration Sites

#### 1. SDGFP Outdoor Campus West

The Firewise demonstration landscape located at the SD Game, Fish, and Parks Outdoor Campus West at 4130 Adventure Trail in Rapid City is available to offer an example of fire-resistant building materials, native fire-resistant plants, and fire-resistant landscaping techniques. Visitors can walk through the landscape to see how various plants, mulches and building materials look.

#### 2. Rapid City Station #5

The Firewise demonstration landscape located at Rapid City Fire Department Station #5 at 2902 Park Drive was created in collaboration with the Rapid City Fire Department and SD Wildland Fire Division. This site provides example plantings of native, fire-resistant plants as well as fire-resistant landscaping techniques that can reduce the risk from uncontrolled wildland fire.

## Great Plains Fire Safe Council

Prevention through Education



#### **Mission Statement:**

*To preserve and enhance the Great Plain's manmade and natural resources by providing leadership and education that mobilizes all citizens to protect their homes, communities, and environment from wildfires.*

**Go to our website to learn more about what you can do to reduce your risk from uncontrolled wildland fire.**

[www.gpfiresafecouncil.com](http://www.gpfiresafecouncil.com)

**or email us at**

[gpfsc@gpfiresafecouncil.com](mailto:gpfsc@gpfiresafecouncil.com)

**for more information to help you better prepare for the next wildland fire.**

**It is not a matter of if it burns, but *when it burns.***

## Home Ignition Zone

### Survivable Space:

Survivable space is an area around your home in which the fuels such as trees, grass, and brush have been modified or removed to reduce the intensity of an uncontrolled wildland fire.



### Zone 1:

**From your home out to 30 feet!** Plants should be fire resistant, low growing, well watered, and spaced at least 3 ft. from the home. There should be very few trees, well-spaced from each other and your home. Brush, shrubs, and other plants should be removed or spaced to prevent fire spread to your home.

### Zone 2:

**Between 30 and 100 feet from your home!** Trees in this zone are spaced so fire will not spread between the canopies. Surface vegetation, ladder fuels, should be reduced to keep fire from spreading from the ground into the trees. A few small, maintained juniper and cedar bushes may be left. Firewood piles or propane tanks should be located in this zone.

### Zone 3:

**100 to 300 feet from your home or to the edge of your property!** Trees spaced similar to Zone 2. Your neighbor's home may pose a direct threat to the survivability of your home so work with your neighbors to ensure a community wide approach.

## Building Materials

**Use rated roofing material.** Roofing material with a Class A or B rating is fire resistant and will help keep the flames from spreading. Examples:

- Composition shingle
- Metal
- Clay
- Cement tile



**Use fire-resistant building material on exterior walls.** Examples include:

- Cement/fiber-cement
- Plaster
- Stucco
- Masonry - stone, brick, or block
- Whole log construction

**Use double-paned or tempered glass.** Double-pane glass can help reduce the risk of fracture or collapse during an extreme wildfire. Tempered glass is the most effective. For skylights, glass is a better choice than plastic or fiberglass.

**Enclose eaves, fascia, soffits, and vents.** Box in eaves, fascia, soffits, and vents, or enclose them with metal screens. Vent openings should be covered with 1/8" or smaller metal screen.

**Protect overhangs and other attachments.** Remove all vegetation and other fuels from around overhangs and other attachments (room additions, bay windows, deck, porches, carports, and fences.) Box in the undersides of overhangs, decks, and balconies with noncombustible or fire-resistant materials. Fences constructed of flammable materials should not be directly attached to the home.

## Maintaining Your Firewise Home

**Roof** – Routinely remove flammable debris such as pine needles, leaves and branches from your roof. Replace older building materials with a Class A fire rated material. Remove any branches within 10 feet of your roofline.

**Windows/Skylights** – Install double-pane glass and screen all openings with 1/8" or smaller metal screening. Keep the skylight and surrounding area free of pine needles, leaves and other debris.

**Chimneys** – Use an approved spark arrester on chimneys to prevent embers from entering or escaping. Branches should be trimmed at least 10 feet from chimneys.

**Gutters** – Maintain your gutters by routinely cleaning them of pine needles and any flammable debris. Consider using a gutter cover over areas where height makes cleaning gutters difficult.

**Vents** – Install 1/8" or smaller metal screening over all venting and consider replacing standard vents with commercially available fire-resistant vents.

**Siding** – Keep all areas where the siding meets the ground or decking clear of combustible debris which can be easily ignited by fire brands. Keep the grass around your home mowed to less than 4 inches.

**Decks/Patios** – Should be constructed of Class A fire rated material. The main structure frame can remain wood. Keep surface fuels cut back at least 30 feet from the deck.

**Firewood/Propane Tanks** – Keep wood piles, propane tanks, and other fuel sources at least 30 feet from the structure.