

# Defensible Space Guide

The following are considerations when evaluating your defensible space

- **Home Ignition Zone**

- **0-5 Feet from house**
- Remove all dead vegetation touching your house
  - Gutters
  - Shingles
  - Eaves
  - Decks
  - Leaves and needles
- Keep tree limbs at least 8 feet away from your roof
- Fire resistant building material

- **ZONE 1**

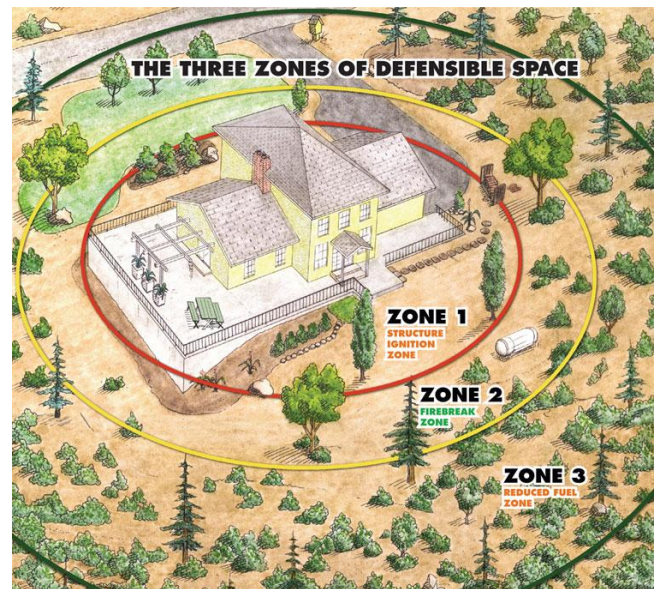
- **Lean, Clean and Green**
  - 5-30 feet from house
  - Keep grass watered and/or cut short (4inches or less) before fire season
- **Only watered and green vegetation should be in this zone**

- **ZONE 2**

- Break the fire!
- This area should not be able to carry fire. If you lit a fire along the yellow line, could it make it to your house?
  - Remove continuous fuel accumulation (Vertical and Horizontal)
    - Bushes under trees or tree limbs touching ground/grass?
      - Limb trees 8 feet from ground
    - Blackberry or Scotch broom? Remove.

- **ZONE 3**

- Put the fire back on the ground!
  - Remove dead vegetation
  - Remove Ladder fuels- “ramp” vegetation like storm damage that leads to the canopy
  - Thin Understory Vegetation (scotch broom, dead/dying fir trees)



## **STEPS TO BECOME A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FIREWISE COMMUNITY**

1. **Fill out the information** on the attached form
  - 1.1. Identify committee members
  - 1.2. Sign up at least 8 homes/housing units to participate
2. **Set appointment** with ODF representative to get a Wildfire Risk Assessment (WRA)
3. Use information from WRA to **develop a Community Action Plan**
  - 3.1. **Identify 3 Actions** that will improve community readiness
    - A. Examples:
      - removing dead and dying vegetation, improving defensible space around homes (cleaning gutters and roofs, screening overhangs and soffits) clearing access routes, thinning understory vegetation on community lands and many others
    - B. Write Action Plan
      - 1-2 pages regarding steps and timeline of actions community has agreed upon (ODF fire planning coordinator will help with this)
4. **Submit** Action Plan to ODF representative
5. Make minor changes if needed
6. Become a nationally recognized **Firewise Community!**

# FIREWISE COMMUNITY FORM

Oregon Department of Forestry Western Lane

Completing these forms is a major step towards a Firewise community!

## Step 1. Identify your community Leaders/Committee Members

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Planner

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*At Large: Committee Member 3

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*At Large: Committee Member 4

## Committee Information

Position	Printed Names	Phone # &/or Email	Accepted Duties
Chair			
Planner			
Education*			
Operations*			
EMT*			
Local Fire Liaison*	Alex Rahmlow	541.935.2283 x244 <a href="mailto:Alex.j.rahmlow@oregon.gov">Alex.j.rahmlow@oregon.gov</a>	Wildfire Risk Assessment(s)

\* Are not required, only examples of possible positions/duties a chair member might perform.

## Step 2. Identify your Community Participants

Minimum of 8 houses/units, the more the merrier and safer!

**Once completed:** contact ODF fire planning coordinator at 541.935.2283x244 to set up a time to conduct a community wildfire risk assessment.

Housing Unit	Name (Property Owner)	Address	Home Phone #
1 (Chair)			
2			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			

**After the Assessment**, the committee will need to put a **Community Action Plan** into writing (usually a page or two) detailing 3 action steps with a timeline; set a date for an education outreach event, and submit documents to become a nationally recognized community!