

# 50 *FIREWISE* Things You Can Do ...to protect your home

## No Cost, Just A Little Time.

- Contact someone to perform a FireWise assessment of your home.
- Contact your local VFD
- Clean your roof/gutters of leaves/needles.
- Clear the view of your house number so it can be easily seen from the street.
- Put a hose (at least 100' long) on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.
- Trim all tree branches overhanging your house.
- Trim all tree branches within 15ft. of chimney.
- Rake debris accumulation away from house 15ft. or more.
- Cut back trees/shrubs from shoulder of driveway.
- Trim tree branches overhanging the driveway to a 14ft. vertical clearance for emergency vehicles.
- In fall mow dry grasses to less than 6in. for 30ft. around the house.
- Cut lower branches of trees 7-10ft off the ground within the defensible space.
- Clear deadwood and dense flammable vegetation within the defensible space.
- Remove any wood/flammable materials from underneath decks/balconies.
- Relocate woodpiles at least 30ft. from structures.
- Clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.
- Compost leaves, etc.
- Use cut trees/branches for firewood.
- Discuss/plan an escape route with your family.

- Have practice drills. Include all family and pets.
- Check fire extinguishers. Are they charged? Accessible? Does everyone know where they are kept and how to use them?
- Get involved with community mitigation efforts.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage.
- Talk to children about fire and matches.
- Post toll free number to report a wildfire on your refrigerator.**
- Mississippi Forestry Commission website [www.mfc.state.ms.us](http://www.mfc.state.ms.us)**

## Minimal Cost Actions \$

- Install visible house numbers on your home (at least 4 inches tall).
- Post house numbers at end of long driveways using non-flammable material.
- Install a spark arrestor or non-flammable screen with mesh less than 1/2 inch on chimneys.
- Cover exterior attic, soffit and underfloor vents using non-flammable screen with mesh less than 1/8 inch.
- Install fire extinguishers in the kitchen and garage.
- Host a neighborhood meeting to talk about mitigation and fire safety.
- Separate an attached wood fence from your house with a metal shield, block pillar or other non-flammable material.

## Moderate Cost Actions \$\$

- Build a turn around in your driveway big enough to accommodate an emergency vehicle.
- Modify driveway gates to allow emergency vehicle access. They should be at least 10ft. wide, set back 30ft. from road, accessed easily or lock should be able to be broken if necessary.
- Enclose decks/balconies with fire-resistive materials.
- Replace vinyl gutters/downspouts with non-flammable metal gutters/downspouts.
- Enclose foundations with concrete block or other fire-resistive building material.
- Use fire resistant plants and materials for home landscaping

## High Cost Actions \$\$\$

- Replace your roof with fire-resistive materials such as Class A shingles.
- Install a roof irrigation or sprinkler system to protect your home's roof.
- Replace siding or outside walls with fire-resistive or non-combustible materials.
- Replace single-paned windows with double or triple-paned glass.
- Improve road, driveways, and bridges to carry at least 45,000 lbs.
- Relocate propane tanks at least 30ft. from structures, preferably on the same contour.
- Improve your driveway by widening, straightening sharp curves and filling in dips.